

**NOTICE: The New Haven Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, January 16, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.**



### Feature Why coupons?

*Those little booklets actually serve a purpose!*

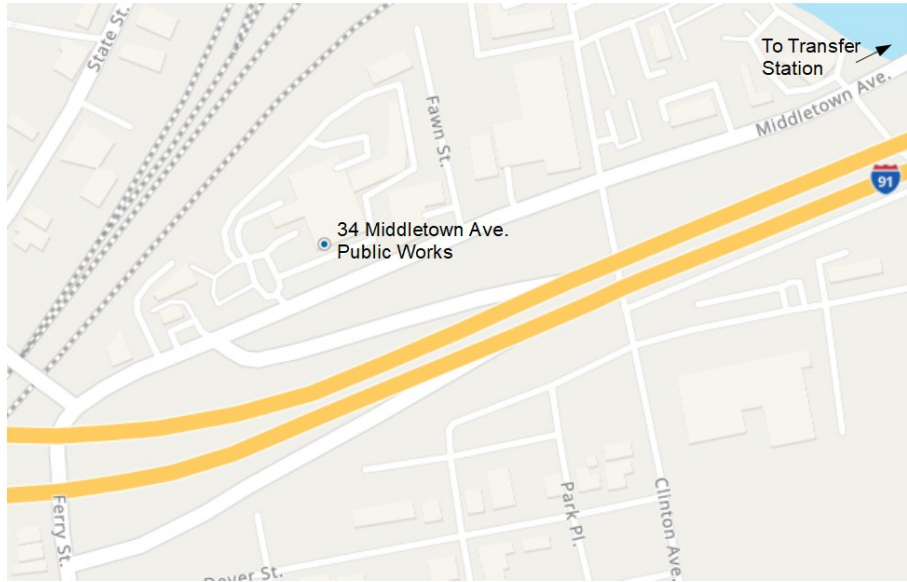
So you come to the New Haven Transfer Station as a resident of New Haven and you have your picture I.D. to prove it. You roll up to the attendant who asks to see your coupons, and you exclaim “what are you talking about?!” This is a typical conversation for many who are not aware that we *do* indeed use coupons to gain access to the Transfer Station. Some may not be aware that we use coupons at all, others may think that we are not using them any more (yes, there was a period where they were not necessary during the initial period of Covid.)

Coupons (also known as 'vouchers') are free for residents of New Haven, valid for a year from the date they are printed, and are each good for one load of material, as long as it qualifies as residential (it can't be demolition, construction, liquid, or household hazardous waste.) Each residence is entitled to 8 coupons per year – 4 bulky waste and 4 for yard waste.

Now let's answer that question – *why coupons?* Why would a resident require a coupon when she already has proof of residency in the form of a picture I.D.? Coupons are issued by the City of New Haven through New Haven Department of Parks & Public Works, to its residents, and the City property taxes that the residents pay can only cover the cost of disposal for a certain amount of goods per year. That amount has been determined by the City to be 8 car, pick up truck or van loads (the amount of coupons in your yearly booklet) In addition, the Transfer Station, though an entity of the City, falls under the jurisdiction of the New Haven Solid Waste & Recycling Authority (the publisher of this Newsletter) which is *separate* from Public Works, and must account to the City of New Haven for the materials taken in by residents. The coupons are the means by which the City gauges that the material is coming from the residents and in the correct amount. So you see, coupons are a vital part of keeping costs down for the City, as well as a means to keep the NHSWRA accountable.

So, even though you may find it somewhat of an inconvenience, do yourself a favor and locate that coupon book, check that the dates are still valid on the individual coupons (lower right hand corner), and bring it with you on your next Transfer Station run. If you have yet to pick up a booklet, or your coupons have expired, then, on your way to the Transfer Station, stop at the **Public Works Central Station, 34 Middletown Avenue** (five minutes from the Transfer Station – see map below) during regular business hours, walk in the main entrance and step up to the Resident Services window with

your picture I.D. The person at the counter will be glad to print up a booklet of 8 coupons for the year for you on the spot! Oh, and here's a tip: Don't lose that booklet because you can't get a replacement! Below is a guide to where the coupons are located.



## **Feature** More Than Meets the Eye

*Alex Covell and waste ordinance compliance in New Haven*

There is a consultant behind the scenes at the NHSWRA working hard at making sure the trash haulers and Landlords in the City are in compliance with cleanliness, access and safety regulations established by the City of New Haven. His focus is primarily on commercial properties and residential dwellings with more than 6 units. Unlike the municipal buildings, public schools and residences with 6 units or less, which are serviced by the New Haven Department of Parks & Public works (the white garbage trucks with the Public Works emblem on the side), the trash and recycling in *these* establishments is collected by commercial haulers which must be duly licensed and permitted by the NHSWRA.

Enter Alex Covell. Alex, who has a background in mechanical engineering and waste management, is charged by the Authority with the task (among others) of ensuring that the landlords and commercial haulers in New Haven are in compliance with the waste flow laws. He has assiduously compiled a virtual map of all locations that fall in this category.



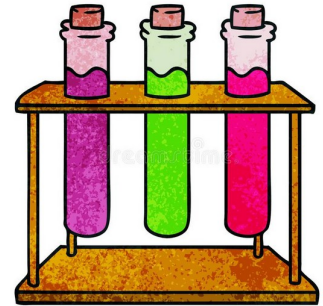
Typically, the Authority will send a request for a site-cleanliness plan to be filled out by the landlord of a particular property, which includes questions about the name and address of the hauler and contact information for the landlord, the size and placement of the receptacles for trash *and* recycling, collection frequency, and management contact numbers, etc. Alex monitors this process and follows up on those that are slow to comply.

What does this mean for the residents of the City? First and foremost, there is a path to redress any acts of non-compliance with the statutes ensuring safety and proper disposal at commercial sites and residential complexes. By law, all residences must have provision for regular collection of trash and recycling. If you, as a resident of one of these properties, have reason to believe that the law is not being adhered to, you should address your concerns to the property management where you live. If the situation remains unmitigated, please alert the NHSWRA through [info@nhswra.com](mailto:info@nhswra.com) or by phone at 203-691-5374, and leave a return phone number. We will investigate and address any non-compliance.



## Opinion Looking for the magic formula

*In 1492 the magic formula was finding a quick route to the far east. We all know how that worked out. Today, new recycling technology seems to be the silver bullet that we all count on...*



Processes are being researched, prototyped, and put into commercial practice which will chemically deconstruct plastic into simpler molecules, allowing polymers to be rebuilt if not from scratch, at least from a more basic starting point. The resultant material, called “plaxx.” is a saleable commodity. Further reduction through “depolymerization” breaks plastic down into basic oils. This process results in a more versatile base product. This is all good, right? Not exactly. The cost of these processes exceeds the cost of producing new plastic from virgin material. In the case of depolymerization, the process far exceeds the cost of production from fresh material. So yes, sustainability is achievable in plastic recycling, with plants for these processes springing up in Germany and U.S., but it is not market-friendly, hence, no “magic formula.”

Not to despair! There are other materials that are more cost-effectively recycled than plastics: Cardboard, aluminum cans, electronics, to name a few. And in the case of aluminum, there is very little to no degradation of material, making it highly sustainable.

It's just that plastic is the thorn in our side – it is ubiquitous, there is an insatiable desire for it in the marketplace, and it tends to last for a very long time past its use-life.

There is no magic formula for material sustainability when it comes to plastic, but that does not mean we shouldn't utilize new technology to search for one. As processes get streamlined and cheaper

(which they will), and virgin raw materials get depleted (which they also will), the market-driven economy will provide a demand for more facilities and infrastructure, thus tipping the scale in favor of viability for such technologies as depolymerization. In the meantime, a little encouragement from regulatory agencies, and an enlightened approach to extended producer responsibility programs by industry, will help facilitate the transition.

Europe didn't find a quick route to the far east in 1492, but the Suez Canal was built in 1869 and that helped! In the words of Cheryl Crow, "every day is a winding road.... [we] get a little bit closer..."

## City of New Haven meeting schedule:

<https://newhaven-ct.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

## New Haven Parks and Public Works info:

### **A Message from Parks and Public Works Resident Services:**

Happy New Year from Parks and Public Works Department! We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season!

Christmas trees should be placed on the curb the night before your trash and recycling pick-up day. Do not place the Christmas tree inside a plastic bag. The tree should be free of tinsel and any Christmas decorations. Last day of Christmas tree pick up will be Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Christmas trees can also be brought to the Residential Drop-Off Center at 260 Middletown Ave. New Haven residents should stop by our office at 34 Middletown Ave for free vouchers if you don't have a current coupon booklet.

Wrapping paper, colored tissue papers, decorative gift boxes, ribbons and bows should be placed in the trash. These items are not recyclable. All boxes should be broken down, nicely folded and placed inside the recycling bin. Please place your trash and recycling totes curbside the night before your scheduled trash pick-up day.

In observance of Martin Luther King's Day, our office at 34 Middletown Ave will be closed Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. The Residential Drop-Station located at 260 Middletown Ave will also be closed. Please note that trash and recycling pick-up will be a day delayed.

As always, if you have any questions, give Parks and Public Works Resident Services a call at (203) 946-7700. We have been experiencing heavy call volume but if you leave your name and phone number with a question we will get back to you.

Remember you can always report Public Works issues at **See Click Fix** found on the New Haven City website (see "Links," below).

**Links:**

New Haven Public Works-

<https://www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/pw/>

Public Works paving schedule-

<https://www.newhavenct.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/15028/637903861608081376>

See Click Fix-

<https://seeclickfix.com/new-haven>

**NHSWRA contact info and link:**



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