

**Week 16 - Day 5**

Wierd report on WTVN News today ...



"Upper Arlington Trash Issue Closer to November Ballot,"  
talking about Mike turning in the signatures today.

But what's strange is the sub-title,  
"Private trash hauler talking about terminating contract."

Either this is old news, or new news.

I don't know which.

**Week 16 - Day 4**

Signature gathering is officially over!  
Mike turns in the petitions tomorrow afternoon.

**Time to celebrate!**

Thank you to everyone who circulated, signed, and supported this process!

We should know by late August whether we have enough valid signatures to make the ballot.

**Week 16 - Day 2**

Well, well, well.



Interesting article in the *Dispatch* today ...  
"Two fair applicants fail checks."

Two weeks ago, the *Dispatch* had reported that Marysville City Council had passed an ordinance requiring background checks of its Union County fair workers.

Well, lo and behold ... **one of them turned out to be a registered sex offender, and one turned out to be a felony warrant.**

We're going to say it yet one more time ...

**We were promised by our Mayor that background checks were required in the contract ... which, as it turns out, they're not.**

**Oh, and the City Manager and City Attorney, both signatories on the contract, sat there in silence when he made this statement to 300 residents.**

It's been five weeks since we found this out, and **no one from the city has made a peep** regarding what they're going to do to remedy this.

In the meanwhile, we just sit here, impotent to do anything because our elected and appointed officials are hoping that all of this will go away, and we'll forget all about it.

Sorry.

Time to bring out the "Credibility Meter."



(Note that it's on zero.)

And an article about how our **tipping fees** are going to go up ... that will be an additional cost of \$15,000 +/- in 2009. Not a lot, but it all adds up.

**Week 16 - Day 1**

**The petition signatures will be turned in this week.**

If you haven't already signed, please **call Mike Schadek (554-5607)** to do so.



## Upper Arlington Trash Issue Closer To November Ballot

### Private trash hauler talking about terminating contract.

By WTVN Newsroom  
Friday, July 25, 2008

Petitions to place Upper Arlington's trash issue on the November ballot will be turned in Friday afternoon by Michael Schadek, the leader of the effort.

About two dozen workers lost their jobs after City Council voted in December to go with Texas-based Inland Services to pick up trash. Since then, there have been complaints about poor service and workers hired with no background checks. And Schadek says Inland has yet to hire any of the ex-city workers.

He's hoping if voters get the chance, they'll decide to void the contract with Inland and return to a city-run trash collection service.

But it may not have to go that far. Inland is talking with Upper Arlington leaders about a no-fault termination of its contract with the city.

The company says its workers are wasting time, as not all residents are abiding by a deadline of setting out their trash at 7 a.m. What's more, Inland says its deal with Upper Arlington isn't turning out to be as lucrative as it thought it would be, since only a small percentage of residents are paying higher fees for at-the-door trash pickup, as opposed to taking it to the curbside.

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## Two fair applicants fail checks Union County finds sex offender, suspect

Tuesday, July 22, 2008 3:02 AM

BY SARAH PULLIAM

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Background checks of carnival workers uncovered one sex offender and a felony warrant for another potential employee before the Union County Fair opened yesterday.

Earlier this month, Marysville City Council approved an ordinance that requires companies that work at carnivals or fairs to provide police with names, Social Security numbers and birth dates of employees.

Marysville Police Chief Floyd Golden said the sex offender had applied for a job at Kissel Bros. Shows, a Cincinnati-based company that operates rides at the fair. But company officials did not hire him once Golden notified them.

Golden did not know whether the man with a warrant for felony theft from Butler County will show up to work at the fair.

Golden said his office checked 46 employees from Kissel and 10 from John Stevens, a Springfield-based company that will run midway games. As fair workers come and go this week, police will continue to run them through a sex-offender registry and check for outstanding felony warrants.

Kissel's business manager Dwayne Macek said the company runs background checks on employees before hiring them. He declined to detail what the company's checks involve. He said the Union County Fair is only the third of 22 events employing the company that require background checks.

Although the police will not keep a registered sex offender off the fairgrounds, Golden said it makes it less likely that the company will send the employee.

He said that throughout the fair, plainclothes police officers will approach ride and game workers to verify identification and make sure they have gone through background checks. Food and drink vendors will not be checked.

"Background checks are required of teachers, day-care providers, anyone who deals with children," Golden said. "This isn't directed at any individuals, but we want parents to be satisfied that if someone helps little Sally onto the ride, it should be perfectly OK."

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## Dumping trash likely to cost more

### Landfill fees may rise to offset drop in waste, rise in fuel costs

Tuesday, July 22, 2008 3:08 AM

BY BARBARA CARMEN

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Franklin County landfill fees will likely jump nearly 12 percent over the next three years because the economy is down in the dump.

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio is being hit by higher fuel costs, lower interest earnings on investments and more frugal customers. Business is down 3 percent at the landfill because people are holding onto old items --- or buying fewer new items encased in packaging that becomes trash.

Haulers pay SWACO \$33.50 for each ton of trash they dump at the landfill near Grove City. Less trash means less income for the waste authority.

The landfill had expected 850,000 tons of trash to arrive in 2008; instead, it is on course to get 825,000 to 830,000 tons.

Compounding the problem is that the authority's budget lacks wiggle room. Its board pinched and whacked its 2008 budget late last year after city, suburban and private customers complained they couldn't handle a fee increase on short notice.

The authority is operating in the red and is dipping into its \$6 million rainy-day fund. Next year, SWACO faces a \$3 million deficit.

"The proposed rate increases over the next three years are intended to stop the bleeding," Executive Director Ron Mills said.

Heftier tipping fees would be shouldered by Columbus, which pays to dump trash using city income-tax money. Homeowners in suburbs that charge households for collection, and businesses that hire private haulers also would pay more.

SWACO's nine-member board is expected to approve the increases on Aug. 5, raising tipping fees \$2 a ton in 2009, and \$1 a ton in 2010 and again in 2011.

Dumping a ton of trash would ultimately increase to \$37.50. This would buy the board time to make other cuts or find a better way to pay for operations, Mills said.

On one hand, less trash is good news: It will extend the life of the landfill and postpone the bill to build a new one. But SWACO's equipment and environmental-compliance costs are fixed. This year's budget was drawn up based on income expected from a steady stream of trash.

"We're committed to reducing the flow of trash through recycling," Mills said. "The difference is when

we're able to plan for it. It's when we're surprised that it's a problem."

Mills didn't rule out layoffs; SWACO employs 128 people.

"Everything is on the table," he said.

The authority's biggest customer, Columbus, would pay about \$650,000 more in 2009.

The fee increase was anticipated, said Mary Carran-Webster, assistant public service director.

"We will have to find the money to pay the additional fee," she said. "The city code requires that we pick up trash once a week."

City Finance Director Joel S. Taylor said the rate increase would cut into Columbus' ability to pay for other projects, such as new fire trucks, police stations and street resurfacing.

But Taylor, who sits on SWACO's board, called the proposed increase "about as cautious as it could be. ... In my own belief, we're in a situation where we don't have much choice."

Some won't be affected immediately. Jefferson Township, for example, locked its tipping fees into a three-year contract with a private hauler last year, Administrator Ellen Walker said.

SWACO raised fees at its landfill \$1.50 a ton in 2006 and \$1.25 a ton in 2007.

The authority has a \$36 million operating budget this year; a \$3 million deficit would be a 8 percent shortfall.

Mills said other landfills are also seeing their waste stream wither.

"This is very odd. This is the first time in SWACO's history that we've seen this kind of sustained decline," he said. "Some parts of the country, the decline is as much as 20 percent."

Raising prices won't drive trash to private landfills, Mills said. "SWACO is \$8 to \$10 a ton below (local) market rate."

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