

# Too Many Garbage Trucks?

Are you troubled by the number of garbage trucks driving through our neighborhood and alley? Would you like to do something about it?

**Some Mac-Groveland residents have organized the neighbors on their alley to sign on with a single garbage hauler.** A growing group of neighbors on the Wellesley/Stanford/Berkeley/Jefferson and Hamline/Albert/Pascal blocks have met and decided that we would like to diminish the number of haulers we as a neighborhood use. Although we aren't aiming to use only one, we would like to make it fewer than the 10 or more different services currently used.

## **Benefits include:**

- Reduced wear and tear on the alleys (Did you know that one garbage truck driving through the alley is the same as 50 cars driving through?)
- Less gas use—better for the environment
- Less noise
- Less congestion
- Increased safety, in particular for children
- Less air pollution
- Potentially lower pick-up rate. (In some cases you may discover a collector with a lower rate or the hauler offers a reduction if enough neighbors sign on.)

**We encourage those with small, local companies to keep their services.** This includes Coolidge, Pete's, Highland, and Berquist. Each of these services are based in the Twin Cities and are family-owned. A few of us attended the trash haulers meeting at Edgumbe and learned that Aspen, BFI, Waste Management, and Veolia (used to be Eagle, Superior and before that Onyx) are all large chains that are based outside of the Twin Cities. Rebecca, block leader, had this to say: "Of course you can get any bigger company to match a local hauler's price, but we want to keep small business going strong. My husband and I switched from a big hauler to a local hauler. I spent 15 minutes 'breaking up' with our old hauler. They were offering me deal after deal. Since I knew it wasn't about the *deals*, I held strong and said, 'It's not you, it's me. We will keep you in mind for the future,' (or not). They accepted that and we got a local hauler for our trash pick-up."

Read the attached article about one neighbor who rallied forth his neighborhood. He spoke at the garbage hauler's meeting at Edgumbe and said as of today, 23 of the 24 neighbors all use Berquist. They get a discount and feel good about their efforts to help the environment. Since Berquist, which is a local, family-owned company, is the hauler used by more of our neighbors than any other, we are recommending you consider switching to Berquist.

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**Feel free to call Rebecca Skally, block leader on Wellesley, with any questions. Phone: 651-695-9728.**