

Seeking a glass market

Brookhaven starts trial with recycler

BY CARL MACGOWAN
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Brookhaven officials have launched a pilot project with a New Jersey company that could land the town its first deal to sell recyclable glass in about two decades.

The town, which stopped curbside collection of glass late last year and now receives glass at seven deposit centers, has shipped two truckloads of glass over the past two weeks to Jersey City-based Pace Glass Recycling, Supervisor Edward P. Romaine said in an interview. The town was not able to provide any other details about the trial.

Brookhaven and Smithtown last year stopped curbside glass collection while switching from single-stream recycling programs to dual-stream recycling. Both towns established locations where residents can

leave glass in receptacles.

Currently, Brookhaven uses crushed glass as landfill cover or as sand used in road projects because it has struggled to find buyers.

"There's really no market for glass," Romaine said. "We're trying to create a market."

Huntington and Southold also discontinued single-stream amid a worldwide recycling crisis exacerbated by China's decision to curtail purchases of U.S. recyclables.

Huntington continues to collect glass with plastics and cans in curbside pickups at least twice a month, officials said. The town sells glass together with plastic and aluminum to a recycler, Huntington spokeswoman Lauren Lembo said.

Southold's solid waste collection center in Cutchogue includes a separate area where residents can deposit glass. Smithtown and Southold sell their glass to Brookhaven.

Officials have said glass has proved to be perhaps the most difficult material to recycle, both because few companies pur-

chase it and because broken glass damages other recyclables such as paper and plastic.

Collecting glass separate from other recyclables should make it easier to sell, said Susan Collins, president of the Container Recycling Institute in Culver City, California. Glass collected separately is less likely to be contaminated by other material, she said.

"That's exactly the kind of glass that the processor would love to have," she said.

Brookhaven and Smithtown officials said they were surprised by the amount of glass deposited so far. At some of Brookhaven's glass recycling centers last month, glass spilled out of stuffed bins and fell to the ground.

The town last week installed new glass receptacles several times larger than the old ones. Bins are marked to receive either green, brown or clear glass.

Smithtown spokeswoman Nicole Garguilo said the town is expecting to install larger containers, and officials are considering creating additional locations.

"We're pretty surprised with the amount of glass that people are delivering to the three locations," she said.

Brookhaven should have more glass collection facilities to accommodate its population of about 486,000, Collins said, adding that successful U.S. glass recycling programs have at least one receptacle for every 20,000 people.

Romaine said Brookhaven also plans to add locations.

"I would like to see by the end of the year 20 to 25 sites in the Town of Brookhaven," he said. "I want it so no one is more than 10 minutes away from a recycling [center]."

Towns that scrapped single-stream recycling last year have seen mixed results so far.

Brookhaven collected 718.75 tons of paper and cardboard on Jan. 2, compared to 695.64 tons of glass, plastic, aluminum, paper and cardboard in the first week of January last year, officials said. Officials did not have an immediate explanation for the increase.

With Sophia Chang and Nicholas Spangler

Police radios gone missing

Several portable officers' radios disappeared from the Nassau County Police Department in the middle of last year, and investigators have been trying to track them down, authorities said.

The department's Internal Affairs section has started a probe, Nassau Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder told News 12 Long Island, and the district attorney's office will also join if "corruption issues" crop up.

"There are current ongoing investigations to recover them, and we think we're going to get them all back," Ryder said in the interview.

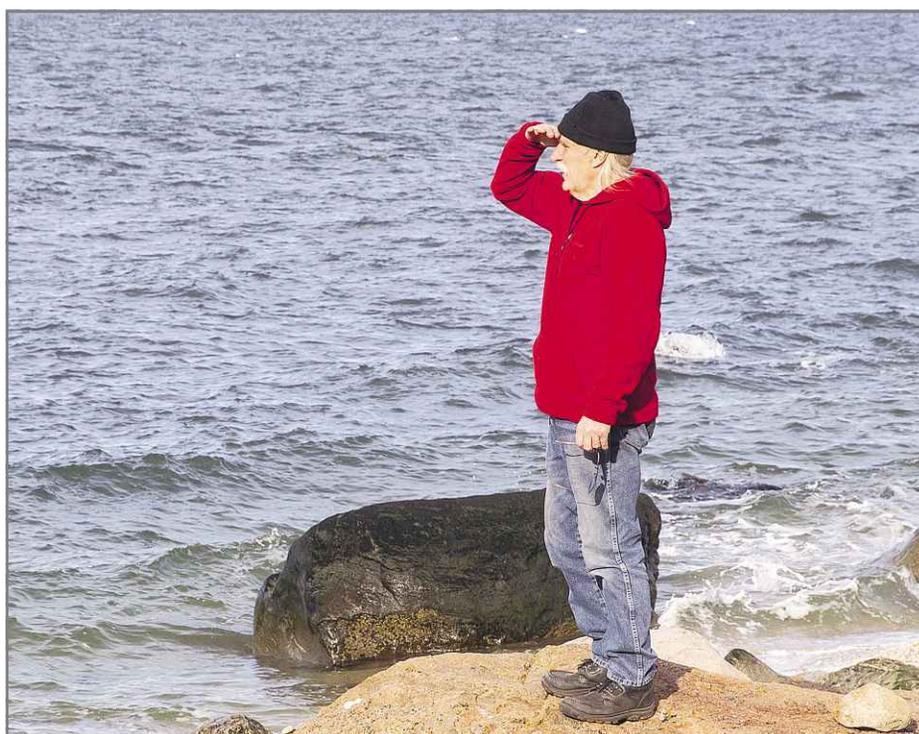
Nassau police use a radio frequency that can no longer be heard on scanners available to the public.

The commissioner said the portable radios are encrypted and can be disabled. "We can physically shut them down, but we need the radio back," he said. "That's a \$4,000 radio."

The head of the Nassau County Police Benevolent Association told News 12 he is "very, very concerned" about active radios falling into the hands of criminals.

"They can know where we are and where we aren't," PBA president James McDermott said. "Not a good situation at all."

— NEWSDAY STAFF



RAHDEE DADDONA

A feast for the eyes

From a chilly beach in East Marion, Charlie Benjamin of Greenport watches as shore birds fish for their meals in Long Island Sound on Tuesday.

Newsday

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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1865 Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman decreed that 400,000 acres of land in the South would be divided into 40-acre lots and given to former slaves. (The order, revoked later by President Andrew Johnson, is believed to have inspired the expression, "Forty acres and a mule.")
1920 Prohibition began in the United States as the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution took effect, one year to the day after its ratification. (It was repealed later by the 21st Amendment.)
1942 Actress Carole Lombard, 33, her mother, Elizabeth, and 20 other people were killed when their plane crashed near Las Vegas while en route to California from a war-bond promotion tour.
1991 The White House announced the start of Operation Desert Storm to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. (Allied forces prevailed on Feb. 28, 1991.)
1992 Officials of the government of El Salvador and rebel leaders signed a pact in Mexico City ending 12 years of civil war that had left at least 75,000 people dead.
2009 Painter Andrew Wyeth died in Chadds Ford, Pa., at 91.