

## FRIEND OF F.R.I.E.N.D.S

### Wheelabrator saddles up

By MEAGHAN CASEY

Meet Brownie and Sureshot. Brownie is a 14-year-old, tri-colored paint gelding miniature horse, trained to pull a cart. Sureshot is a five-year-old buckskin miniature, standing at 26 inches tall.

Both are infected with Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), a blood disease similar to hepatitis in humans. Sadly, Florida law requires EIA-positive horses to be quarantined or destroyed. Due to lack of stable space and manpower, many of these horses' lives are prematurely cut short.

For Brownie and Sureshot, however, the ending is a happy one.

Thanks in part to Wheelabrator, both minis are thriving at the Florida Research Institute for Equine Nurturing, Development and Safety, Inc. (F.R.I.E.N.D.S.). F.R.I.E.N.D.S. is a quarantine ranch located in Pembroke Pines that has become a haven for 10 minis and 40 horses who were either abandoned or have tested positive for EIA.

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F.R.I.E.N.D.S. volunteer Briana, right, and her sister, Tsaylan Clendenning, tend to Sureshot, a miniature horse sponsored by Wheelabrator.  
PHOTO: REBA SALDANHA

### Open-door policy

Have you ever wondered what happens to your trash after it is collected from the curb? We invite you to tour one of our Broward County plants and witness firsthand the journey waste takes as it is converted into electricity.

To set up a tour, please contact:

**Wheelabrator North Broward**  
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2600 Northwest 48th  
Pompano Beach, FL 33073  
954-971-8701 x 219  
salvarez@wm.com

**Wheelabrator South Broward**  
Joyce Tate  
4400 South State Road 7  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314  
954-581-6606  
jtate1@wm.com



Sally Alvarez chats with North Broward's Robert Stallard.

## Right at home

### Alvarez embraces Wheelabrator family

By MEAGHAN CASEY

A native of Medfield, Mass., Sally Alvarez graduated from Boston University with a bachelor's degree in English literature and a minor in business administration before moving to Fort Lauderdale in 1990. Not yet planting her roots, she worked in human resources and office management for a variety of different companies.

In October of 1999, she found her home when accepting the position of plant administrative coordinator for the

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## Wheelabrator Broward News

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# Thank you for the warm welcome



**Scott McIlvaine**

As the new plant manager at Wheelabrator North Broward, I thank you for your warm welcome and support. Since taking the helm in April, I have been impressed by the level of dedication among the employees and the smooth transition. I believe it is a great credit to former plant manager Gary Collette and the team-focused work environment he fostered throughout the years. Gary, we wish you the best of luck as you continue your Wheelabrator career working at company headquarters in Hampton, N.H.

Broward County is a vibrant and active community, and I am proud to work with civic-minded employees such as Sally Alvarez, who has led many of our community outreach projects. It was also wonderful to interact with Broward County's students this spring at the Environmental Symposium. I was extremely impressed by their poise as they presented their projects, and I applaud them for their dedication to making the community a better and more environmentally friendly place to live.

Sally, along with Joyce Tate at the

South Broward plant, has also put many hours into planning public tours for groups and individuals. I would encourage you all to take advantage of this opportunity and come and see what's going on at our plant. I guarantee you will walk away surprised and excited by what you saw.

I thank you all for your continued interest in Wheelabrator's Broward County plants. It is a pleasure to call each one of you a neighbor.

*Scott McIlvaine is plant manager of Wheelabrator North Broward.*

## Fall: an exciting time in Broward County



**Jairaj Gosine**

Welcome to the fall edition of *Wheelabrator Broward News*. Autumn is an exciting time. The new school year ushers in a new year of learning. I look forward to seeing what issues our students choose to tackle as part of this year's Symposium for Environment and Education.

In this edition, you will read about the 2008 symposium, which was held in May. I am always in awe at the skill and composure these middle school students have when they deliver their presentations. I can only imagine what the future holds for these talented young men and women.

This is also a time of new beginnings as we welcome a new plant manager to

**Broward County certainly is a wonderful place to work and live, and I thank you all for your interest and support.**

the North Broward facility. Scott McIlvaine has been with the North plant for seven years. He served as operations manager before taking over for Gary Collette as plant manager. I look forward to working with Scott.

Also in this issue, you will read about the Florida Research Institute for Equine Nurturing, Development and Safety, Inc. (F.R.I.E.N.D.S.). Located just a few miles from our plant, F.R.I.E.N.D.S. is an organization we are proud to support. The work the volunteers do is commendable, and we are thrilled to know the two horses we sponsor – and all the horses at the ranch – are given such wonderful care.

Broward County certainly is a wonderful place to work and live, and I thank you all for your interest and support.

*Jairaj Gosine is plant manager of Wheelabrator South Broward.*

### BY MEAGHAN CASEY

In his new role as plant manager at Wheelabrator North Broward, Scott McIlvaine is confident in the facility's present and future standing.

"My goal is to help this plant maintain the high level of performance it's been operating at," he said. "To operate, and operate efficiently, it's up to the individuals running it. The employees continue to strive beyond my expectations. This plant runs at 92 percent available, if not better, year after year. That just shows if you have good employees, you'll have good results."

McIlvaine joined Wheelabrator seven years ago as maintenance manager at the North Broward plant. He also served as operations manager before taking over as plant manager on April 1. He replaced Gary Collette, who accepted a position at Wheelabrator Technologies' headquarters in Hampton, N.H.

McIlvaine has more than two decades of experience in waste-to-energy, working for Westinghouse Electric Company in Pittsburgh, Penn. and Foster Wheeler Corp. in Camden, NJ. He appreciates that Wheelabrator's primary focus is to produce clean energy from waste fuels.

"Wheelabrator is in the business to provide clean, renewable energy from trash," said McIlvaine. "It's the company's main purpose,

## Great Scott

### McIlvaine aims to maintain top performance



Wheelabrator North Broward Plant Manager Scott McIlvaine chats with Laborer Caple Malcolm.

not a side job."

He also adds that safety is one of the company's greatest strengths, as well as the collaborative relationship among the plant managers.

"The breadth of the safety program here and the employees' commitment to safety really impresses me," said McIlvaine. "Everyone's really involved in wanting to be safe, and that reflects in their actions."

"The sharing of information among all 21 of our plants is very valuable," he continued. "We have quarterly meetings and constant communication, so we're all learning from each other."

He praises new, company-wide policies and programs such as Breakthrough Performance Leadership (which strengthens the communication between management and employees) and Safety on Purpose (which stresses the importance of individual employee safety).

"Both are very well-received at this plant," McIlvaine said. "The rewarding part is seeing the results, and also knowing that our efforts are being recognized by the industry."

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, McIlvaine worked for Westinghouse in Pittsburgh for 25 years.

"I never ever imagined myself here [in Broward County]," he said. "I thought I would have lived and died in Pittsburgh."

McIlvaine and his wife Anita, also a Pittsburgh native, now live in Pompano Beach. The couple has been married for 33 years. In addition to the professional opportunities Broward offered, the warm climate was another major factor in McIlvaine's move. "I love it here," he said. A Coast Guard licensed captain, he enjoys fishing and boating when he is away from the plant.



# Not so usual

Wheelabrator processes a lot of waste – from the mundane to the unusual

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Every day, Wheelabrator's North and South Broward plants each process up to 2,250 tons of municipal solid waste. What is processed ranges from the mundane – Publix bags, fast food wrappers, soda cans – to the unusual – jet skis, boats, car frames.

"You can tell a lot about people's habits by watching what comes in," said crane operator Dan Dubinski, who has worked at the North Broward plant since 1992. "Americans eat a lot of pizza," he added, laughing.

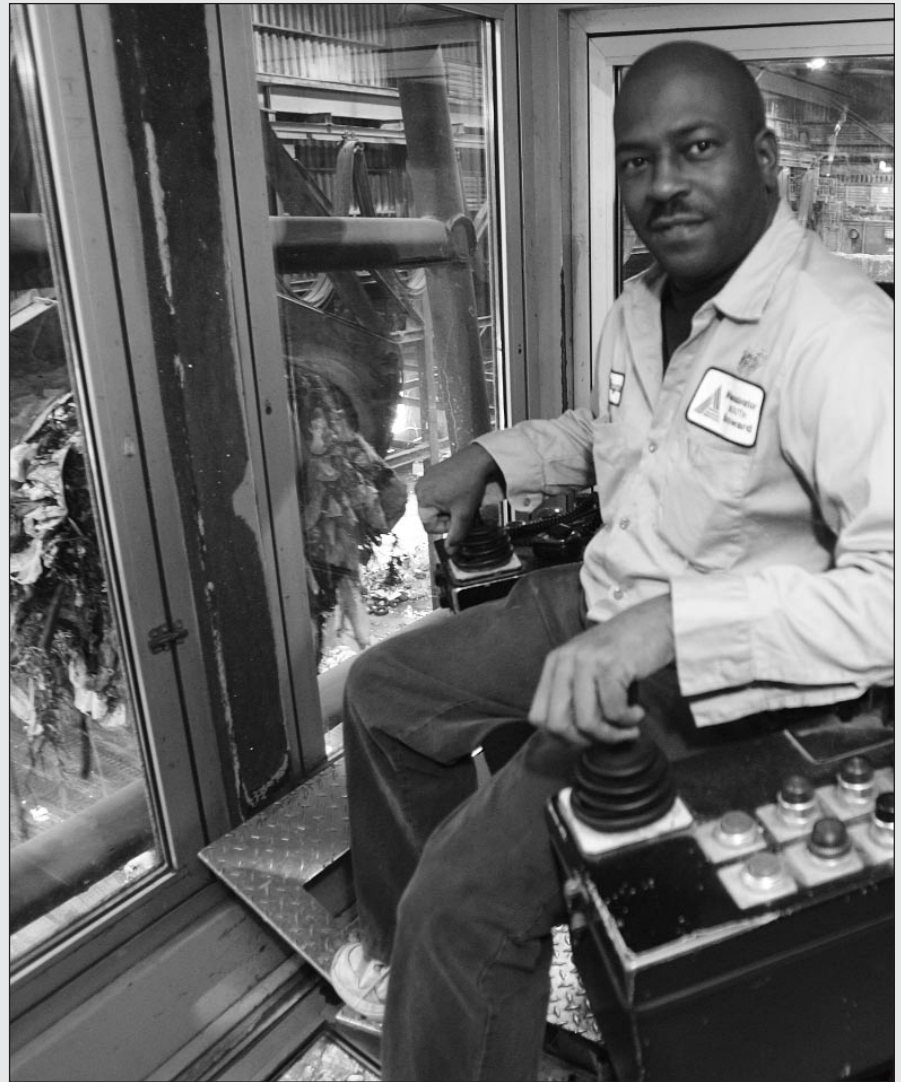
"Some things are more noticeable than others," said crane operator Wayne Young, who began his Wheelabrator career at the South plant in 1994. "Like rescue rafts – those will actually inflate in the pit. That's always fun to watch."

The plants also work with the local police and fire departments for special burns. In February of 2007, the South Broward facility was responsible for destroying the hotel mattress of Anna Nicole Smith, immediately following her death in nearby Hollywood.

"It was a big deal," said Young. "The detectives brought in the mattress and



Wheelabrator North Broward crane operator Daniel Dubinski.



Wheelabrator South Broward crane operator Wayne Young.

watched as it went into the hopper, making sure it burned properly.

Young recently hosted representatives from the History Channel, who were visiting the plant to film a feature on what Waste Management, Inc. (the parent company of Wheelabrator) does. He guided them through the techniques of feeding the hopper and how the crane operates.

On a day-to-day basis, the major challenge for the crane operators is in making certain the boilers burn as consistently as possible.

"It takes a little bit of chemistry," said Dubinski. "The pit can't be wet or too dry. With experience, you gain an eye for it and learn how to mix the different sections to compensate for what the boilers are asking for."

The key is in recognizing the materials they're working with and formulating the perfect mix.

"You have to have a good understanding of the variants," said Dubinski. "You can't have too much plastic or too many tires at one time. At the same time, you can't just feed cardboard. It'll disintegrate like dry leaves. You learn to find the balance."

"The older trash that's been sitting

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"It takes a little bit of chemistry. The pit can't be wet or too dry. With experience, you gain an eye for it and learn how to mix the different sections to compensate for what the boilers are asking for."

**Dan Dubinski**  
North Broward Crane Operator

there for a few days is very dense and wet," Young said. "We have 11 bays we're working out of, so we definitely have to level them off and combine."

Young and Dubinski agreed it is the challenge that makes the job interesting.

"I enjoy accomplishing my goal at the end of each day," said Young. "If you mentally set a goal in the morning and try to accomplish it, it keeps your mind pretty occupied."

"The plant can't run without the cranes, so you have to stay on top of it," said Dubinski. "I enjoy each day. One thing I'm most proud of is in all 16 years I've been here, the plant has never had to operate on gas. We've always been able to feed enough trash."

As for the prospect of giving up his seat at the crane, Dubinski adamantly shook his head in refusal.

"As far as I'm concerned, there are tremendous opportunities for everyone at Wheelabrator," said Dubinski. "I've been offered other positions within the plant, but working the crane is my profession. It's what I've been doing for almost 30 years. It's what I enjoy."



# Environment and Education

## Wheelabrator's student symposium fosters environmental and social awareness in Broward County middle-schoolers

By MEAGHAN CASEY

Endangered butterflies, exotic invasive wildlife and clean waterways are just some of the issues on the minds of Broward County youth.

As part of the Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education, students from Sawgrass Springs, New River and Westglades middle schools immersed themselves in a six-month learning project, addressing those issues and developing action plans for their respective communities.

The symposium, held annually in May, tasks the students with identifying an environmental challenge in their community and establish a long-term solution. The goal of the symposium is to foster environmental and social awareness in the youth.

Students at Sawgrass Springs Middle School in Coral Springs focused on the prevalence of invasive exotic species in South Florida, and the problems the region is experiencing because these animals and plants have few, if any, predators. Team members discovered the exotic species are beginning to push the native species to the brink of extinction and set out to educate the public about exotic pet

ownership. They were presented with the award for environmental activism at a recognition dinner held at the conclusion of the symposium presentations.

Concerned area boat owners are unaware of the harm certain cleaning products and other chemicals can have on the New River and surrounding waterways, students at New River Middle School in Fort Lauderdale created an awareness plan to help educate the boating community on alternative, natural products that are not harmful. The team received the urban environmental awareness award.

The team from Westglades Middle School in Parkland, was presented with the award for habitat awareness for its work in attracting an endangered butterfly — the Atala — to the school. To do so, the students added host plants and specific nectar plants to draw in and support a colony of Atala.

In total, 10 schools, representing Florida, New England and the mid-Atlantic region, traveled to Sunrise for the three-day symposium event sponsored by Wheelabrator. Each school sent a team of 10 students who were required to present their topics, using

“The amount of effort that goes into it is incredible. I give the kids a lot of credit.”  
**Scott McIlvaine**  
North Broward Plant Manager

computer graphics and other visuals, in front of a VIP panel of educators, elected officials and community volunteers.

Applying lessons learned in the classroom to real-life issues, the students showed tremendous insight and poise.

“I’m always amazed,” said Sally Alvarez, plant administrative coordinator for Wheelabrator Broward. “They work so hard in the months leading up to the event, and then stand up there in front of everyone. They just have tremendous presence, and they do it all on their own.”

The first day, each team presented to the VIP panel who asked questions and gave advice to each team. This year’s panel included Kids Ecology Corps Executive Director Emily Lagerquist, Broward Marine Biologist Patrick Quinn and Miami

MetroZoo’s Ron Magill.

Immediately following all the presentations, Wheelabrator hosted an awards and recognition ceremony honoring each school team. The schools each received a \$1,000 donation.

“I was very impressed,” said Wheelabrator North Broward’s new Plant Manager Scott McIlvaine. “I’ve heard about the symposium for six years, but this was the first time I attended. The amount of effort that goes into it is incredible. I give the kids a lot of credit.”

The second day of the symposium was dedicated to fun. With the presentations behind them, the students spent the day learning and having a relaxing time at the Miami Seaquarium.

In addition to the positive experiences the students take away from the event, symposium participants are eligible to earn a four-year scholarship through Wheelabrator’s partnership with Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn. Those interested should speak with their teachers and advisors for more details.



At right, Sawgrass Springs Middle School's Molly Schulson presents at the environmental symposium. Below, Westglades Middle School symposium students, from left, Genevieve Rosier, Ashley Anderson, and Fareen Hossain sit on stage while a fellow classmate presents the team project.



New River Middle School symposium team, standing from left, Devin Ellis, Jamie Klaity, Chelsea Lopez, teacher Jim Sanderson, Tyler Deighton, Ian Goyco, teacher Barbara Rapoza. Seated from left are Lisa Lago, Brittany Guitar, Cassandra Alfonso, Alex Perkins, and Gabrielle Diaz.



Westglades Middle School environmental symposium students, seated from left, Jamie Luft, Olivia Namie, Ashley Abaunza, Ashley Anderson, Juliet Belovich. Standing from left Miderland Alexis, Fareen Hossain, Genevieve Rosier, teacher Ray Haneski, Hunter Whitmore, and teacher Stella Shelby.



Sawgrass Springs symposium team members, standing from left, are Robert Sutton, Molly Schulson, Kirsten Coleman, Olivi Burley, Marco Colmenares, and advisor Linda DeCarlo; seated from left are Alanna Browdy, Emily Forlenza, Maddie Flager, Melissa Sandler, and Kendall Knoll.



# Wheelabrator is a true friend of F.R.I.E.N.D.S.

**F.R.I.E.N.D.S.:** from Page 1

Through the organization's Sponsor-a-Horse program, Wheelabrator has sponsored Brownie and Sureshot since the beginning of 2008, providing them with feed, shelter and full care.

"We are so grateful for Wheelabrator's support and contributions to both F.R.I.E.N.D.S. and our community," reads the plaque above the horses' stables.

"Some individuals and families who normally would not be able to own and board a horse come here specifically for the riding experience," explained Lynne Mandry, F.R.I.E.N.D.S. ranch manager and president. "Minis are harder to sponsor because you can't ride them."

In addition to daily operations, the ranch provides children and families of Broward County the opportunity to interact with horses and learn about them through special events and arranged outings.

"We invite the community to come out and visit us," said Mandry. "We do a lot with the Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, urban leagues and other groups and organizations. The community is very good to us, and we try to be good to them in return. It's so rewarding to watch kids who have never seen horses before. Their eyes get so big."

The quarantine ranch was established in 1970 and F.R.I.E.N.D.S. became a nonprofit organization in 1987. It receives no state, government or local funding. It is staffed by volunteers and operates solely through the generosity of its supporters.

"All the work — the grooming, feeding, maintenance — is done through the volunteers and sponsors," said Mandry. "It's like a big family. Everyone pitches in and every penny goes toward the upkeep of the horses."

Wheelabrator is one of two corporate sponsors involved with F.R.I.E.N.D.S. The other is Finish Line Feed, Inc. The Make-a-Wish Foundation has also sponsored a horse on behalf of a child. The remaining supporters are local families and individuals.

"We appreciate everything Wheelabrator and our other sponsors do," said Mandry. "It's a great opportunity for us and for them."

Mandry, who sponsors five horses herself, spends six to seven days per week caring for all of the resident equines.

"Throughout my entire life, I've always loved horses," said Mandry. "I decided to get involved with an organization devoted to saving them. There's no reason these horses can't be perfectly happy and healthy. It's extremely rewarding knowing we're making a difference."

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. is the only public rescue ranch for EIA-positive horses. It also allows researchers to draw blood samples from the horses in attempt to find a vaccine or cure for EIA.

For more information about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit [www.eiahorses.org](http://www.eiahorses.org) or call (954) 492-0168.



At left, Wheelabrator-sponsored mini horses Sureshot and Brownie get some exercise at F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Below, F.R.I.E.N.D.S. ranch manager Lynne Mandry, left, with board member Michelle McLean and her daughters, Brieana and Tsylan Chendenning.



## Alvarez feels right at home at Wheelabrator

**ALVAREZ:** from Page 1

Wheelabrator Broward County plants.

"My philosophy is if it weren't for the employees, I wouldn't be here," she said. "They are my customers and they come first. It's easy, though, because we're such a tight-knit group."

As plant administrative coordinator for both the North and South Broward plants, Alvarez is responsible for payroll and benefits of 140 employees. She is the only Wheelabrator administrative coordinator hired for the same position at two different plants.

In addition to human resources, her job function also entails creating newsletters and presentations, organizing tours at the North plant once a month and working with local charity organizations and schools. Most importantly, Alvarez plays a large part in the annual Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education.

"You could say I'm a jack of all trades," said Alvarez.

Following a varied career, ranging from positions at a construction company to a personnel staffing office, Alvarez was immediately impressed by what she saw in Wheelabrator.

"Wheelabrator is part of an industry that has always been needed," said Alvarez. "Especially now, with energy being a

critical issue."

She continues to be impressed with the company's impact on the community — an aspect of the business she has witnessed first-hand.

"Wheelabrator is one of the best companies when it comes to giving back," she said. "Whether it's supporting S.O.S. Children's Village, Young at Art Children's Museum, Clueless on Las Olas (an annual event benefiting Partners in Education) or the Symposium, the focus is really on the kids. The company recognizes the importance of helping future generations learn about and practice environmental stewardship."



# Mercury must be disposed of properly

By PAUL HALLORAN

When it comes to mercury and the environment, the message is clear: Keep out.

As consumers respond to the need to save energy by replacing traditional light bulbs with more energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), they need to be aware that the newer bulbs contain mercury and require proper disposal.

"Mercury is toxic to the environment and hazardous to human health," said Odette Reza-Brown, public education manager for Broward County Waste and Recycling Services. "It is critical Broward County residents do everything in their power to keep mercury out of the wastestream and out of the environment."

Fluorescent bulbs and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) should not be disposed of with the regular trash, Reza-Brown said, while noting there are definite advantages to using CFLs in favor of regular light bulbs.

"CFL bulbs use 75 percent less energy than regular incandescent bulbs," Reza-

Brown said. "Using them can save people money and help to reduce global warming."

An average incandescent bulb lasts about 800 to 1,500 hours, while a spiral fluorescent bulb can last as long as 10,000 hours, Reza-Brown said, noting the popularity of CFLs has skyrocketed, with almost 300 million being sold in the U.S. last year.

Broward County Waste and Recycling Services offers free disposal of CFLs through the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program.

The items should be brought to one of the following dropoff locations: in Pompano at 2780 N. Powerline Road; in West Park at 5601 W. Hallandale Beach Blvd.; and in Davie at 5490 Reese Road. The Pompano and West Park locations are open Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; the Davie location is open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Other mercury-containing products include batteries, electronics such as computers and television sets, thermometers and thermostats. These materials are also accepted at the disposal sites.

## FAQs about CFLs:

### What precautions should I take when using CFLs in my home?

CFLs are made of glass and can break if dropped or roughly handled. Be careful when removing the bulb from its packaging, installing it or replacing it. Always screw and unscrew the light bulb by its base (not the glass), and never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket. If a CFL breaks in your home, follow the clean-up recommendations below.

### How should I clean up a broken fluorescent bulb?

Because CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, the EPA recommends the following clean-up and disposal guidelines:

#### 1. Before clean-up: Air out the room

- Have people and pets leave the room and don't walk through the breakage area.
- Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.
- Shut off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning system, if you have one.

#### 2. Clean-up steps for hard surfaces

- Carefully scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a glass jar with a metal lid (such as a canning jar) or in a sealed plastic bag.
- Use tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass pieces and powder.
- Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place towels in the glass jar or plastic bag. Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb.

#### 3. Clean-up steps for carpeting or rug

- Pick up fragments and place them in a glass jar with metal lid or in a sealed plastic bag.
- Use tape to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder.
- If vacuuming is needed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken.
- Remove the vacuum bag and put the bag or vacuum debris in a sealed plastic bag

#### 4. Disposal of clean-up materials

- Immediately double bag and place all clean-up materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area for the next normal trash pickup or bag and bring to nearest HHW facility.
- Wash your hands after disposing of the jars or plastic bags containing clean-up materials.

## Fashion goes green

Wheelabrator Broward was a sponsor of this year's Recycled Fashion Show, which benefitted the Young At Art Children's Museum in Davie.



## Wheelabrator energizes employees



Wheelabrator North Broward Plant Manager Scott McIlvaine congratulates the Assistant Plant Operator Patrick Patterson on a year's employment at the company luncheon this summer.



**Wheelabrator Technologies Inc.**

A Waste Management Company





EMPLOYEE PROFILE

# Loving life... and her job

After 20 years, Tate still looks forward to going to work at Wheelabrator

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

As one of Wheelabrator South Broward's original employees during the start-up of the plant, scale house operator Joyce Tate describes her job in one word: "fascinating."

"I love my work; I never thought I would like trash," she said with a laugh. "I really enjoy it, even after 20 years. There's always something new and exciting."

Tate started her career with Waste Management (the parent company of Wheelabrator), for a division in Pompano, Fla. She transferred to Wheelabrator South Broward in August of 1989 for the plant's opening, taking over as secretary and dispatcher. She then went on to manage the scale house at both the South and North plants. Today, she operates the South Broward scale house from inside the administrative building, and also performs reception duties. The scale house was automated about four years ago, allowing her greater flexibility.

"Before, everything was manual," she said. "We had to weigh the trucks in and the drivers had to sign for every ticket. There were no security gates, so it was important someone be there. When we automated the trucks with an ID system and installed security gates, it increased both safety and productivity. And now, with the automated scale house, we can access everything from the office computers. That in itself frees up a lot of hours."

On a day-to-day basis, Tate is an expert in multi-tasking. She is responsible for monitoring the scale house and security gates; handling all special waste scheduling; setting up conferences, meetings and luncheons; performing general administrative duties; and coordinating tours of the plant.

On average, the South Broward plant

offers three tours a week. Each hour-long tour consists of an informational video, guided tour and question-and-answer session. Regular tour groups include high school or college environmental classes, Cub Scouts, elementary school students, community groups, engineers, international groups and state agencies. Recently, the Kids Ecology Corps – a Fort Lauderdale-based non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire young people to make environmental action part of their everyday lives – sent 110 children to tour the plant over the course of a few weeks.

While many organized groups call for tours, Tate encourages anyone interested in learning more about Wheelabrator and waste-to-energy to call and schedule a tour. "When we get six or seven interested people who call, we'll organize a date for them all to come in."

The response from tour-goers is always positive, Tate said. "Everyone who takes a tour is extremely interested and really excited about what they saw. That's what makes it fun."

Tate enjoys sharing with the public what makes Wheelabrator special.

"The focus has always been on safety, customers and the environment," she said. "And that's only grown more intense. I'm very proud to work here."

She credits the employee base as a major factor in the plant's success.

"We respect each other; we work well together; we rely on each other," she said. [Plant Manager] Jairaj Gosine has an open-door policy and really values everyone's input. It's his positive attitude that filters down."

Born in Ohio, Tate moved to Florida to live with her grandparents during her high school years. She settled in Orlando with her children and later moved to Southwest Ranches. She has three sons, two daughters and 16 grandchildren.

Joyce Tate has been working at Wheelabrator for 20 years.

PHOTO: REBA SALDANHA