

Retiring Old Glory



Wheelabrator to dispose of flags properly

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

The symbol of our country's honor should be retired with honor, agree Wheelabrator Saugus and the Cpl. Scott J. Procopio American Legion Post 210.

Wheelabrator has stepped up to donate a large bin for Saugus residents to dispose of tattered or worn American flags. Post member Bill Diotte is organizing collection efforts, in hopes of discouraging individuals from disposing of flags with their trash. The bin will be located at Saugus Town Hall. Individuals can also drop off flags at George's Barbershop on Jackson Street in Cliftdale Square, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The collection will be ongoing, with a ceremonial disposal at the Wheelabrator plant on Flag Day, June 14.

"Wheelabrator has been good to us

Saugus American Legion members, from left, Commander Rich Milligan, Past Commander Doug Cooper, Eboard Chair Jack Klecker and Bill Diotte pose with a container for recycling flags.

PHOTO: REBA SALDANHA/THE DAILY ITEM

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Heroes among us

The Saugus Business Education Collaborative presented its 2010 Unsung Heroes awards to nine deserving students, including Michael Joseph of Saugus High, who is pictured with, clockwise from left: Wheelabrator Saugus Plant Manager John O'Rourke, xxxxxxxx, Saugus High Principal Joseph Diorio and Wheelabrator Community Relations Specialist Heidi Choate. See Pages 4-5.



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Giving back is our business



JOHN O'ROURKE

In this edition of *Wheelabrator Saugus News*, you may notice a common theme of giving back.

At Wheelabrator, we recognize it is our job to be a responsible corporate neighbor. We are happy to lend a hand; whether it be in support of Saugus Public Schools, Kasabuski Arena or the American Legion, to name a few.

It's always enjoyable to attend events in the Saugus community such as the recent Taste for Education, organized by the Saugus Business Education Collaborative. The outpouring of this town's support for its youth is inspiring. It's important to remember we can only become stronger by joining together as a community.

Another inspirational night organized by SBEC was the Unsung Heroes Awards ceremony. Listening to their stories, it was easy to see just how deserving each and every recipient was. I was proud Wheelabrator sponsored the event.

I look forward to seeing the fruits of the American Legion's efforts to

collect retired U.S. flags and hold a ceremony to dispose of them here at the plant. As my colleagues in Broward County, Fla. have told me, it can be a very moving event. I encourage all of you to take advantage of the collection bin at Saugus Town Hall to make sure your flags are retired with honor.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to highlight the men and women who energize this facility on a daily basis. It is the dedication of employees such as Dave and Chuck Cole who define Wheelabrator. Of course, if it weren't for the pioneers of this industry, especially the late Martin DeMatteo Jr., none of us would be where we are today. To Martin, I say, thank you. You will always be remembered.

Thank you all for your continued support. Best wishes for a happy and healthy spring and summer.

John O'Rourke is plant manager at Wheelabrator Saugus.

Open-door policy

Have you ever wondered what happens to your trash after it is collected from the curb?

We invite you to tour our Saugus plant and witness firsthand the journey waste takes as it is converted into electricity.

To set up a tour, please contact:

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IN MEMORIAM

Wheelabrator was his vision

DeMatteo pioneered waste-to-energy industry in U.S.

Wheelabrator Saugus lost one of its pioneers when Martin DeMatteo Jr. passed away March 3.

"RESCO (Wheelabrator Saugus) was Martin's idea," said Bruce Manning, Wheelabrator regional vice president. "Thanks to his vision, we built the first waste-to-energy plant in the country (in 1975)."

In the last 35 years, Wheelabrator plants have processed more than 165 million tons of municipal solid waste and generated 86 billion kilowatts of energy. That all started in Saugus, and it all started with DeMatteo.

Manning said the first few years in Saugus were difficult financially. The

plant would have shut down if not for an additional investment from DeMatteo.

"He believed in the technology and he was willing to assume financial risk in order to see it through. As it turns out, his confidence was justified, and the plant is still going strong 35 years later," Manning said.

Manning said one of his favorite memories of DeMatteo was when Mike Dingman of Wheelabrator-Frye took DeMatteo to Wall Street to explain his concept for RESCO to the power brokers in New York. After Dingman talked for a half-hour, Martin captivated his audience for three hours, explaining in great detail his vision and plan.

Needless to say, the deal was done at that point.

DeMatteo went on to build three more power plants for Wheelabrator, all of which are still operating today.

"Our company owes him a tremendous debt of gratitude for the intellectual, financial and physical resources he brought to each project," Manning said. "He will be sorely missed not only by his wife, Rose, and their family, but also by the Wheelabrator family. His passing leaves a void to everyone at Wheelabrator who has been fortunate enough to follow in his footsteps and, hopefully, honor his legacy."



Martin DeMatteo

Wheelabrator Saugus Quick Facts

In more than three decades of operating waste-to-energy plants, Wheelabrator has: processed more than 165 million tons of municipal solid waste; generated 86 billion kilowatts of clean, renewable electricity, avoiding the use of 165 million barrels of oil or 43 million tons of coal that would have been used to produce that amount of electricity.

Keeping youth safe

Wheelabrator Saugus funds drug-prevention efforts in schools

Thanks to a donation from Wheelabrator Saugus, students in town are learning the importance of staying away from drugs at an earlier age.

Wheelabrator donated \$5,000 to the Saugus Youth and Recreation Commission to use as part of its drug-prevention efforts in Saugus Public Schools. Greg Nickolas, director of youth and recreation for the town, said the money is being used to fund a pilot program aimed at students in fourth and fifth grades.

“We needed to get into the younger grades,” Nickolas said. “The program is about helping kids make good choices. This donation allows us to work with fourth- and fifth-graders at all four

elementary schools. It’s critical in developing our program with the schools.”

Saugus Youth and Recreation Commission staffers Chris Tarantino and Caryn Williamson are implementing the program, with one of them visiting one

elementary school a day.

“The principals have been great to work with,” Nickolas said. “We’re collaborating with the schools and augmenting what they were already doing.”

Nickolas said launching the pilot program in the elementary schools would not have been possible without the support of Wheelabrator Saugus.

“We’re grateful to Wheelabrator — they have been a great partner,” he said, noting the company has also funded Saugus Speaks Out’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey in the past. “Everyone knows the financial times we are in. Every penny counts. Community collaborations like this keep me optimistic.”

“When Greg asked for help with this program, we were happy to support him,” said Wheelabrator Saugus Plant Manager John O’Rourke. “Preventing drug use and other behavior that puts youth at risk is obviously a priority for all of us.”

Heidi Choate, second from right, and John O’Rourke, center, present a check to Donna Gould, Saugus Recreation Director Greg Nickolas and Ellen Faiella of Saugus Speaks Out.





Heidi Choate of Wheelabrator drops the ceremonial first puck at the Kasabuski Holiday Classic.

Wheelabrator takes center ice

Kasabuski Holiday Classic a success

The 21st annual Kasabuski Holiday Classic high school hockey tournament was played December 29-30, 2009 with a big assist from Wheelabrator Saugus, which served as the primary sponsor.

The tournament featured eight teams in two divisions. Saugus High joined Danvers, Lynnfield and Boston Latin in

Division 2, while Division 1 consisted of Malden Catholic, Wakefield, Austin Prep and St. Mary's (Lynn).

Malden Catholic captured the Division 1 championship, defeating Austin Prep, 3-2 in the final. Lynnfield took the Division 2 crown with a 3-1 win over Danvers. Saugus High lost to

Lynnfield and Boston Latin in its two games.

An awards banquet was hosted by Prince Pizza on December 31. Trophies for the winning teams, MVPs and best offensive and defensive players in each division were presented, sponsored by the Saugus Federal Credit Union.



Captains and coaches enjoyed an awards breakfast at Prince Pizza the day after the tournament concluded. Shown are James Perkins and Corey Bartlett of St. Mary's.



Heidi Choate accepts an appreciation plaque from John Smolinsky of Saugus Federal Credit Union, which sponsored the awards, and XXXXXXXXXXXX.



All in the FAMILY

Cole brothers have dedicated over 75 years to Wheelabrator

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

It's a family affair for Wheelabrator Saugus maintenance mechanics Dave and Chuck Cole – the brothers of Artie Cole, vice president of technical services for Wheelabrator Technologies.

Dave, who was hired in September 1981, is approaching his 30th year at Wheelabrator Saugus. His brother, Artie, had been working as a mechanic at the plant since its startup in 1977 and was serving as lead maintenance mechanic at the time of Dave's hire.

"I was just a kid at the time," said Dave. "It was a different environment back then. We didn't even have turbine generators and [OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program] wasn't on the radar. Since then, we've gone to 100 percent, in terms of safety."

"This industry is always evolving," said Chuck. "We didn't have a lot of equipment and technology to move forward in the old days. Thanks to people like Artie, everything's more efficient, cleaner and more cost-effective."

Chuck was hired in May 1997, nearly a decade after Artie was promoted to work at the company's headquarters in Hampton, N.H. Artie served as New England regional manager for maintenance from 1988-93, when he was named director of plant engineering. He was appointed vice president of maintenance and plant services in 2001 and again promoted in 2007.



Artie Cole

Artie Cole's efforts have led to seven U.S. patents for improvements in refuse-combustion techniques and air-pollution control. His son, Artie Jr., is following in his footsteps, working as a maintenance mechanic at Wheelabrator North Andover.

Growing up on the North Shore, the Cole brothers attended Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute and worked on farms in Peabody and Rowley. "Artie and I would collect food waste and feed it to the pigs on the farm," said Chuck. "You could say we were in the rubbish industry before Waste Management was a force around here."

Chuck and Dave are often scheduled to work the same shifts, laboring side by side. Artie occasionally visits the Saugus plant, as does Chuck's son, who is employed by a company that performs the refractory work on the boilers.

"We enjoy it; It's like a family reunion in here some days," said Chuck.

Chuck and his wife, Mary – a nurse at the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea – reside in Peabody. They have four children, including three daughters pursuing the nursing profession. Dave and his wife, Kathy – a project manager at the Bank of New York Mellon, Corp. – live in Middleton and have five children.



Dave Cole



Chuck Cole