

County Connection for Week of 11/28/2018
By David Smitherman
Pittsylvania County Administrator

“Expand, repair, replace”

Those who visited our Brosville, Ringgold and Banister River Convenience Centers may have noticed that there was quite a lot of garbage in the compactors. That would be because the compactors broke down, as machines tend to do. On Monday, November 26, 2018, we had 3 compactors that were experiencing mechanical issues. All three have been repaired, but this is a sign of their age and the need to renovate a majority of the units.

Of course, it didn't help that these breakdowns happened on our second busiest time of the year - Thanksgiving. Number one is Christmas; we'll be ready! We will have our site supervisors visit much more often to make sure that the sites are as clean as we can keep them over the week of Christmas.

The compactors at our convenience centers are all 20 to 30 years old. When you realize that they run every day of the year for those 20 to 30 years, the fact that they haven't broken more often is a little more surprising.

As you might imagine, these machines are expensive. We are currently seeking bids for the price of a new compactor to install at one of our convenience centers. Once we have an extra compactor, we will be able to remove that current one from service and evaluate it to see if it can be repaired or rebuilt. Some of them may be too old and dilapidated to rebuild, but we believe most of them can be repaired at a fraction of the cost for a new one and used for several more years before they need to be replaced.

We intend to get the most bang for our buck with these purchases as we go refresh county's convenience centers over the next few years. It will be a slow but cost-effective process that we believe will make a better service for our citizens.

The repairs and replacement of these compactors falls under the capital costs portion of the fee that we talked about in last week's trash talk, meaning it will be paid for entirely by the solid waste fee.

We've already repaired the compactor at the Brosville Convenience Center, and the other two are being evaluated to be repaired as quickly as possible. If you see a compactor or open box overflowing with trash, please call the landfill and tell us which site needs to be tended to. If it's not during landfill business hours, leave a message and we'll get someone out there in the wee hours of the morning. You can reach Vicky at (434) 432-7980 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Remember, homeowners can start paying towards their solid waste bill at any time at the Pittsylvania County Treasurer's Office, but the full \$120 must be paid by June 20 in order to be considered current. After June 20, this bill will come in two \$60 increments twice a year in order to make it easier on our citizens.

As always, I'm ending with a question for you, the reader. Is there a way that these attendants could help you when you go to the convenience centers? Is there something you'd like to see us change? Do you have suggestions for what we should add to our convenience centers to make your experience better? Share them with us!