

September 2008

**City Recycling/Trash Board Hard at Work
By City Manager Kathy Sexton**

Mayor Dion Avello, Council member Jim Meidinger, Assistant City Manager Stephanie Knebel, and I participated this past Saturday in Sedgwick County's Summit on Franchising Trash Collection. The County invited elected officials and administrators to learn from each other's experiences and to hear tips and advice from Constance Hornig, Esq., a self-described garbage lawyer.

We heard how the volume of trash produced in Cheney has gone down since the city contracted for curbside recycling to be available to residents. We learned that in the City of Sedgwick, even though only 10% of families participated in recycling when the curbside service began, some years later now 70% participate. In Park City, bills were cut in half, and recycling at the curb was an added benefit.

The County's guest speaker, Constance Hornig, specializes in advising cities how best to contract for trash and recycling services. We learned a lot from her.

In addition to reducing residential bills, she explained that the community benefits from contracting with one hauler in reduced emissions, noise, and damage to streets. She relayed ideas for structuring our Request for Proposals to encourage competition and get the best price and terms for the community. She suggested some ideas for customer service to build into the contract to ensure consistently high quality service.

The City of Derby's Recycling/Trash Advisory Board met for the third time on September 16, hearing more details about the learnings from the County's Summit. The goals of the Advisory Board are to help determine the level of service desired by the community, craft the specifics of the Request for Proposals, evaluate proposals received from businesses, and make recommendations to the City Council.

Realizing that some Homeowners Associations in Derby have worked out special rates with trash haulers, we contacted all the Homeowners Associations and are gathering information from them. Most everyone we've talked with so far has been encouraged to hear the City is making a proactive effort with trash collection. Fewer trash trucks on residential streets, reduced rates, and the ease of curbside recycling are clear benefits for residents.