

# LIVENFK: AN INTERNS PERSPECTIVE

## Riding Along



### Week 4

Week four has been a ride. Which is a perfect segue into talking about my ride-along at waste management! I met one of the female refuse collectors, Tracey, and got to ride on her route for a little. She shared some insight on being a female refuse collector in a male dominated field. Her experience has been positive. She added that it helps to be tough! Bruce Ming, Refuse Inspector, showed me his crew in action and the different trucks they use. Karen

Cookson, Assit. Superintendent, gave the facility tour. I found the most interesting part of Waste Management to be underground!

### Waste Management's Underground Work

I think most people would be surprised by the, almost literally, underground aspects of Waste Management. Such as; The water run-off testing. Reporting to the Department of Environmental Quality(DEQ) twice per year. The engineering both above and below ground to control water runoff. Storm drain liners preventing sediment and vehicle fluid from entering Broad Creek. The retention pond water filtration system used by Storm Water. Part of Karen's responsibility is tracking all this information and testing. In a nut shell, they are required, and work hard to, prevent their work from contaminating our water. Thank goodness!

### Comradery

Bruce said, "It's all about teamwork, [because] you'll be that person one day [whose truck breaks down and needs help.]" Mutual respect among collectors makes it easier on the team as well as the residents. Residents generally expect trash to be picked up everyday barring some apocalyptic weather event, or snow. It is not as though Norfolk has a hundred collectors driving around. Currently, there's only around 50 a day, for all of Norfolk. That standard of teamwork supports the collectors and gets our trash picked up. Which is quite nice!

### To Your Health

Our personal health and wellbeing is directly affected by the hard work of Waste Management and their team of collectors. So as residents we should try to make it easier on them. Don't leave hazardous waste to wash down a storm drain and into our beautiful waterways. Put your garbage bin where it is easy to get to. And give WM plenty of notice when you have large items or special pick up needs. We all like a heads up. Even more, we all like a clean city.

