

PRESS RELEASE

June 8, 2004

MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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TO: KMAS, KRXV, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: Mason County Cleans Up

The Solid Waste Program of the Mason County Department of Health Services has been busy working to clean up some unsightly properties in Mason County. The Department has resolved 49 cases in the first three months of this year. Most property owners work with Environmental Health to clean the site once they have been informed of a violation of the solid waste regulations. In some cases a civil infraction (ticket) may have to be issued to get the clean up done. In extreme cases the property owner is brought before the Hearing Examiner in an effort to gain compliance with the solid waste regulations.

Solid waste violations range from household garbage to hulk vehicles to piles of tires or other debris. Sometimes violations are minor and other times it is hard to believe that the sites can accumulate so much "junk". The sites can provide home for pests such as rats or mosquitoes or they can pose chemical or physical hazards.

One of the sites recently cleaned up is on Cloquallum Road. The property has been the focus of enforcement because of solid waste violations for over three years. It has changed owners at least twice during that time and the case ended up in the Hearing Examiner process. The property that once housed over 50 junk vehicles, hundreds of tires and other assorted junk is now clean.

A site at Lake Cushman that had been in violation for over four years is now cleaned up as well. The owner abandoned the property and was not available to work with the Health Department on a clean up plan. This property was cleaned as soon as the title owner could legally enter and do the work.

Another highly visible site was a business on North Shore Road, outside of Belfair. The property owner was ticketed, but did not clean up the site. The case was then moved to the Hearing Examiner process. The owner eventually lost the property and the new owner cleaned it up. Residents of the area have commented on how nice the property now looks. For some extraordinary before and after photos click on to the Mason County web site, Environmental Health, solid waste, clean up results.

For further information about solid waste clean up activities in Mason County please contact the solid waste enforcement staff at 427-9670 ext. 555 or 584. To learn more, please go to www.co.mason.wa.us and view the solid waste clean up results on the Environmental Health section of the County's web site.

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