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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BELOIT PUBLIC WORKS ANNOUNCES NEW

AUTOMATED TRASH COLLECTION PROGRAM TO BEGIN JUNE 6, 2016

March 14, 2016 – “Beloit, We’re On a Roll” is the theme of the new Automated Solid Waste Collection Program that begins on June 6, 2016. This theme is inspired not only by the new wheeled carts used in the program, but also reflects the forward thinking and innovative approach the Beloit Department of Public Works department staff took in addressing the changing needs of Beloit’s solid waste program.

Automated collection is a widely-used system where garbage and recycling carts are emptied utilizing a mechanical arm attached to the truck, instead of workers lifting and emptying containers and bags by hand. This program will reduce Beloit’s carbon footprint, reduce employee injury and increase the diversion of recycling out of the landfill and improve the aesthetics of our neighborhoods by placing materials in City-provided containers.

“The solid waste team has been planning for a year to transition to this program, and they are excited to provide Beloit residents with automated trash and recycling collection. Residents will receive full-service trash and recycling curbside collection with automated technology, allowing the crew to become more efficient and customer friendly,” says Christine Walsh, City of Beloit Public Works Director of Operations. “Automated collection allows the crew to quickly and safely collect more garbage and recycling, while at the same time reducing our fleet of trucks from 11 trucks to 7, thereby reducing our carbon footprint.”

Between May 23 and June 3, 2016 each residence will be supplied with two 96-gallon wheeled carts. The garbage cart has a black lid, and the recycling cart has a gray lid. A packet of information will be included with a collection map and calendar, and instructions on how to use the new carts. When the program begins on June 6, recycling will be picked up every other week, and trash will continue to be picked up weekly. It will be important to review the calendar and map to find your recycling week. Only the carts provided by the city can be used for curbside collection and all trash must be inside the carts in order to be picked up by the automated truck. One additional recycle cart can be requested at no

additional charge, and one additional trash cart can be requested for a monthly \$14 fee that will be on your sewer bill.

Residents are encouraged to visit the new Solid Waste website at www.automatebeloit.com to watch a video about the program and find other useful information and tips. It is recommended residents continue to return to the website as the program launch day draws near to find updates and instructions. The information on the website can be translated from English to Spanish with a click of a button.

The public is invited to attend informational presentations about the Automated Collection Program and other solid waste changes. A full schedule is available at www.automatebeloit.com and will continue to be updated. If you represent a group that would like to have a presentation about the program, you can inquire about scheduling at 608-364-2929 or email info@automatebeloit.com.

“We’re always looking for new and creative ways to meet the needs of our residents and inform them of our solid waste program. These new tools offer the quickest way for residents to do that, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Visit the website to sign up to receive collection reminders, report problems, find schedules and learn how to dispose of hundreds of items,” says Walsh.

- Use the “Waste Wizard” to enter a search term to quickly learn how to dispose of an item properly.
- Search for your address to find your recycle week, and trash collection day.
- Sign up to receive automated reminders and service changes by phone call, text or email.
- Download the new mobile app for smart phones and tablets called “Beloit Recycles. This free service can notify customers of trash and recycle collection days and any changes in service.
- Submit a question to the contact form to ask Public Works staff about the Solid Waste program.

In addition to automated collection there are other changes to the solid waste program. Please visit the website to learn the details of these changes.

- As of June 6, 2016, bulky items & appliances must be prepaid and prescheduled for curbside pickup.
- For move-outs and removal of high volume trash, you may contract a private hauler, take it to the landfill, take it to the recycling drop off or rent a dumpster from the city. Dumpsters must be prepaid and prescheduled.
- As of January 1, 2016 televisions dropped off at the recycling center will cost \$5 per unit.
- As of June 6, 2016 the City of Beloit will no longer be participating in the sharps collection and disposal program. Please check with your local pharmacy, health care provider, veterinarian, drug company, or search the internet for safe sharps disposal methods.

“I would ask that residents take time to learn about this program and the changes it entails,” adds Walsh. “With changes, come challenges, so we hope that with your patience and cooperation we can satisfy your needs as a community.”

For more information visit www.automatebeloit.com. Citizens can also call 608-364-2929 or email info@automatebeloit.com with questions.

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For Media reference only!

The email attachments include:

- Photo of Christine Walsh, Director of Operations, City of Beloit Department of Public Works
- Photo of wheeled recycle cart with blonde model
- Photo of cart with Beloit Resident Mary Ann Seidel
- 2 Photos of the type of truck Beloit will be using for Automated Collection.
- Photo showing the footprint of 2 carts next to the typical containers needed for a family of 4
- “Beloit, We’re On A Roll” image