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Republic Services Hosts Open House

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Dexter, Missouri - As area residents drive between Dexter and Bloomfield on Highway 25, travelers often see the signage of area businesses, but often are not fully aware of what takes place just past the tree line or over the hillside.

Republic Services pulled back the curtains this past Friday as they hosted an informative, educational open house, complete with tours of their Dexter facilities. Guests were also treated to a BBQ lunch prior to being offered a tour.

More than 50 area business leaders, local residence and neighbors attended the open house and were offered a complete look into the past, a view of the present, and glimpse of the future of the Republic Services refuse collection operations. Kristie Greer, Marketing and Retention Vice President for Republic Services, was on hand to welcome guests and make introductions to Republic team members on hand for the event.

David Vasbinder, an environmental manager for Republic, was one of several tour guides outlining the current and future plans for the landfill. His in-depth knowledge was delivered in a very understandable discussion including long-term management strategies.

Republic Services is not a "new kid" on the block. The company is recognized nationally as an industry leader in the refuse collection and recycling arena. They are a very large company that holds true to their mission of being a local company staffed with a dedicated team of professionals.

After announcing their purchase of Allied Waste in June of 2008 for \$6.07 billion stock deal, Republic has continued to quietly and effectively execute a business model that embraces the local area. Originating as Lemons' Landfill and Hauling, the business was purchased by Allied Waste in 1993 and first issued the first "Subtitle D" landfill permit in April of 1994 by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Republic is equally an industry leader nationally bringing unlimited resources, capabilities and expertise. The science and planning found in the company's resource management was outlined to guests during the tour.

The obvious question is 'how long will this facility be able to collect refuse before it becomes completely filled?' According to Mr. Vasbinder, the current area of the operation is nearing capacity. However, the company began seeking approval more than six years ago to open another area of the landfill for the future.

"This expansion should provide us with an additional 45 years of collection," noted David. "We are really proud of the progress that we have made over the past months to develop the roadways and begin to see the new area develop."

The critical importance of refuse collection is often taken for granted, or ignored, by area residents. The open house offered attendees the opportunity to board tour vans and travel the grounds of the facilities, seeing first hand the science and business model involved with the operational systems for the company.



Vasbinder outlined the dedicated effort

made by the company to return the land to an aesthetically pleasing property. Areas where the land had been terraced and grass seed was recently sown, returning it to an open grass field.

So what ever becomes of the land that has been previously used as a landfill? Vasbinder gave examples of many community level possibilities that could exist in the future for these properties.

The economic impact is another important mission to Republic's investment into the local communities. The Industrial Development Authority of Stoddard County (IDASC) is the beneficiary of State statute requiring a tipping fee of \$1.50 per ton of refuse. The funding is a significant revenue source allowing IDASC to attract new business and industry to

Stoddard County.

The IDASC is organized to develop, advance and encourage economic development through the promotion of commercial, industrial, agricultural and manufacturing facilities and tourism in Stoddard County, Missouri. They provide low interest loans to new businesses to generate additional jobs throughout the county.

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