

Letter to the Editor

I read Shirley Law's letter (Feb. 4, 2010) with interest. I completely agree with her in that Manitou is a place of diversity, eccentricity and free spirits. Most folks I know here are wonderfully artistic, beautifully alternative, have good attitude and work to live in harmony with the town and the natural world.

Twenty-six years I've been here and, like Shirley, I chose Manitou as the town for me to raise my children, manage business and be part of the larger community.

Having said that, I totally disagree with her from then on ... I have been with Bestway (one of the other waste services) for at least 20 years and have never had complaint; the guys are all friendly, on time, they recycle and recycle the glass too!

Bestway is also a locally-owned company, serving the area for 50 years. WHO is doing this service is not as important as WHY we are making this change.

Like most Americans, I have a sore spot about being "mandated" to do anything. But, in this case, I realized that the proposed solution is the very best appropriate approach to the larger problem. (The larger issue is the waste of energy and environmental impact - multiple trucks, multiple trips impacting the roads, multiple uses of fuel and pollution for each company to drive up and down the road to service clients.) That could be solved with using only one company. It would only require that I be open to changing companies. I decided that, for the good of the town and the environment, I could rise above it, say goodbye to Bestway and embrace whichever company that steps up to it. Would I miss the guys and the good service? Perhaps'. (Or perhaps find equal or better service with the new system AND make some environmental headway on issues that are not going to go away!)

The Manitou I know was the first town in Southern Colorado to initiate an Open Space program and the first to jump on board with Cities for Climate Protection. The Manitou I know cares about the environment deeply, witness to the Fountain Creek Restoration Project. This event with the garbage service is another first... And reducing our town's environmental footprint is a wonderful way for us to continue progress to the future. Change is made in baby steps and this is a good step to take.

**For all that is wild.
Becky Elder**

[Return to Article Index](#)