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# 401 S. East St. - Garbage Collection Takes More than a Magic Wand

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Poster Presentation PE

401 S. EAST ST—  
GARBAGE COLLECTION TAKES MORE THAN A MAGIC WAND

Chad R. Maxwell and Rebecca Gearhart\*  
Department of Anthropology, Illinois Wesleyan University

How would you feel if your garbage sat in your backyard for a week? How would you feel if everyday at 5:00AM you had to open a can from which maggots, roaches, and rats explode? Well everyday of the week, every grueling season of the year, through every nasty element mother nature conjures Kent Sigler picks up one to sometimes 100 pound bags full of everything from rotten food and kitty litter to broken glass and office waste. Kent Sigler is a garbage man. His work is undeniably some of the hardest and most intense labor one can be involved with today. Although many think that once they take their refuse to the curb the garbage fairy magically waves its wand and the garbage disappears the next morning, the process is neither that simple nor that magical. Kent Sigler knows better than anyone else that trash collection is about more than tossing some bags into a truck. It's about fitness, strength, and endurance. It's about service, organization, and precision; and, above all else, it's about the occupation found at 401 S. East St.