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By GRETCHEN METZ, Staff Writer

Trash Talkin' Ladies are looking to clean up in Chester County.

The two-woman operation launched a few months ago is committed to putting customer satisfaction into trash collecting with door-to-dump service.

Lesley Sebastian and Heidi Brinton, dressed in hot pink and neon green jumpsuits, pull a dump truck up clients' driveways, collect the trash and recyclables from outside the garage, or off the front porch, toss it in the back of the truck and head off to the next customer.

On driveways where the dump truck doesn't fit, they use a Land Rover.

"We laughed so hard, we almost wet our pants the first time out," Sebastian said, about the first day on the job with business partner and longtime friend, Brinton.

The two women have a third partner of sorts in Tank, Sebastian's 108-pound Rottweiler. Tank wears a pink scarf in keeping with the Trash Talkin' uniform.

"Nobody gets near us," said Sebastian, who is all about personal protection and trained to use the .45-caliber Smith & Wesson revolver she carries on the job.

Trash Talkin' Ladies has 60 customers in Chester and Delaware counties and uses three landfills, but does most of its business with Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority, or SECCRA, Sebastian said.

It was there that they picked up the nicknames, Lucy and Ethel, from a member of the landfill staff, Sebastian said.

"They came a couple of months ago for a tour and learned the operation that way," said Cate Dapena, weight master at SECCRA in London Grove. "They seemed very excited, very enthusiastic."

Dapena said they've been back a few times since to dump the contents of their truck.

Everything went fine. They were just as enthusiastic when they left as they were when they came in, Dapena said.

Sebastian said she and Brinton, who works in real estate, hope to have 200 clients by spring. They are currently marketing their service at local 55-and-up communities to get the contract for the entire community. They intend to expand to New Castle County, Del., in the spring.

Many of their clients are elderly and 95 percent are women, Sebastian said.

"It's nice to help people," Brinton said.

Cost of the service is \$125 a quarter. Senior citizens get a discount.

"I treat everyone like they are my grandma," Sebastian said.

Customer Frances Millen of Kennett likes the door-to-dump service.

"I'm 81, and in bad weather, getting the trash to the end of the driveway is difficult," Mullen said. "It's very nice and very, very convenient."

Sebastian, 42, and Brinton, 44, grew up as friends in Chadds Ford.

Sebastian is married with three daughters and lives in East Marlborough.

Brinton is married with two sons and lives in Birmingham.

Sebastian said she got the idea for the business after she returned to the area with her family and could not find a trash hauler that would make pickups at the house like the service she had in Georgia and California. Everyone she talked to, she said, wanted her to put her trash curbside.

Sebastian, who lives in a house with a long driveway that loops around a pond, said she offered to sign waivers, pay the haulers three times what they were asking but there were no takers.

That's when she got the idea to start a trash service herself. Her first call was to Brinton to see if her friend wanted to become an entrepreneur.

Now Sebastian's first stop on her rounds is garage-side pickup at her own house.

Trash Talkin' Ladies is using a borrowed dump truck for the time being but Sebastian said she is looking into grants for women-owned businesses in order to get money to buy a truck.

The team brings extra trash bags in case the ones their customers use breaks, which has happened.

"We stink at the end of the day," Sebastian said. "But our goal is to clean up. Look out, we're serious."

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