



**President's Corner**  
**October 2019**

By now, I hope you have heard about the change in garbage collection services, beginning with the new year. Village staff has made a concerted effort to get the word out to all residents so that you are prepared for the new contractor and the new method of collection when the time comes. In the process, staff has received many questions about the changes. This article provides answers to the questions raised, as well as a general overview of the new system.

Last year, the Village was approached by our current waste hauler regarding several components of the existing program that could no longer be supported. Three main concerns arose from those discussions: the program included non-recyclable blue bags; a fee for recycling collection beyond the charge for the blue bags was to be applied going forward; and the garbage collection rates were no longer covering the cost of service, requiring an increase in cost to residents.

Since changes would have to be made to the contract, the Board decided to engage in a competitive bid process among area waste haulers to obtain the best prices for our residents. In preparation for the bid process, a resident survey was distributed via the Tower Topics newsletter and the Village website, to gather resident input on the service model. The resulting feedback was discussed at several public meetings. Responses included requests for carts of multiple sizes - for both refuse and recycling - and to continue offering both curbside and backdoor collection. It was particularly important to residents to eliminate the use of blue bags, which are not recyclable. Residents also supported options for curbside recycling of electronics.

The Village sought formal proposals from area waste haulers for a residential program, and ultimately the Board chose to award a 5-year residential waste hauling contract to Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS), effective January 1, 2020. Among the proposals received, LRS provided recycling and waste-diversion programs at the lowest cost, while adding a senior discount, and curbside electronics recycling options (with required stickers).

This year, one garbage bag with a single sticker costs \$4.30, or approximately \$17.20/month for a single bag with weekly curbside collection. There was an additional fee of \$1.42 for recycling included in 2019 for all backdoor subscription services. Service and stickers were proposed to increase again in 2020 and in each successive year of the contract. With the new program, the 35-gallon cart (which holds two large bags) at a 2020 rate, is \$14.55/month for curbside collection. Beginning in 2020, stickers will be used only for overflow refuse placed outside the carts, special collections (electronics/bulk items) and yard waste in bundles/paper bags. The fee for stickers will be reduced in 2020 to \$3.00/sticker, from the current \$4.30/sticker, and will continue to be sold at Village Hall and local retail outlets. Though we recognize that some households produce less garbage than others, the obligation to negotiate services for over 4,500 households required that the Village work to find the best program for the community as a whole.

Please note that you have until November 27 to make your cart selections and register for service. Two carts are to be selected by each household - a **refuse cart** (35 gal, 65 gal, 95 gal) which will set the monthly collection rate, and, at no additional cost, a **recycling cart** (35 gal, 65 gal, 95 gal). Cost per household is based on refuse cart size, and whether curbside or backdoor service is selected. Seniors aged 65 and older are eligible for a 10% discount on services by calling LRS to register. Carts are on display at Village Hall, the train station, and the Recreation Center. Those who do not make a cart selection online or by calling LRS, will be provided with the default 65-gallon cart sizes for both refuse and recycling, and billed accordingly. If you find you have selected the wrong cart size, you can request a change at no cost, through the end of March.

The new refuse and recycling program will continue to include features like Spring Cleanup Day, and the collection of Christmas trees. The Village's Public Works department will continue to provide leaf collection services each Fall. The \$5 fee on the bi-monthly water bill contributes to the Village's cost for Spring Cleanup through the waste hauler, and subsidizes a portion of leaf collection. Please remember that only leaves should be placed in the curb for leaf collection. No pumpkins! Pumpkins can be composted at home or at the Village Pumpkin Smash event at the Recreation Center on November 2, from 9 am – 12 pm. Other vegetation such as grass clippings, flowers, and other seasonal plants, should be placed in a yard waste bag for collection.

Our new contractor has made it easy to sign up for the service. Please go to <https://www.lrsrecycles.com/westernsprings/> or call LRS at 773-685-8811 to learn more and/or to register for services. Please remember to enroll by November 27th. You can also check if your service day will change by checking the LRS [service map](#).

I hope this article answers many of your questions about the new refuse collection service. If not, the Village website offers more information on the new program, including an FAQ section at: <https://wsprings.com/127/Recycling-Refuse-Yard-Waste>

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Village President