

Kettering's talking trash

Five years have come and gone. Five years ago this July the City of Kettering entered into a 5-year contract with Waste Management (WM). WM became the city's first Single Source Trash Hauler. WM became responsible for all 1, 2 and 3 unit dwellings in the City. The new single source system was put in place to reduce the damage that was being caused to our roadway infrastructure by multiple trash haulers doing business in the City every day and to reduce the number of missed pickups. The new system also enabled the City to receive better pricing and additional services, such as house-side recycling and large item pickup.

Beginning July 1, 2009 the City of Kettering will enter into a new 5-year contract period with Waste Management for refuse services. Waste Management was the lowest and best bidder of the two companies that submitted bids for this 5-year contract.

The new contract is very similar to the contract that will expire on June 30th. The City has opted to continue requiring house-side pickup and require house-side recycling. If you are happy with your current level of service, you don't have to take any action and your selected service level and your pick-up day will not change. Provided below are the service level options that are provided for in the new contract. Please remember that all levels of service include weekly house-side recycling, free large item curbside pickup and yard debris bag service (\$3 per bag).

Unlimited Service - Weekly collection with no limit to the number of refuse containers and the ability to rent a 96-gallon



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toter (\$3 per month). Refuse containers, with the exception of the rented toter, should be a maximum of 35 gallons in size and weigh no more than 70 pounds. The price for this service level, beginning July 1, 2009 is \$19.58 per month plus a fuel adjustment.

Limited Volume Service - Weekly collection service that has a limit of 2-35 gallon refuse containers per week. The rented 96-gallon toter is not an option for this service level. This limited volume service includes unlimited recycling and large item pickup. The price for this service level, beginning July 1, 2009 is \$18.12 per month plus a fuel adjustment. We believe this level of service is an economic option for most of our residents when compared to the unlimited service level. The use of two 35-gallon containers and unlimited recycling should be sufficient for most of our households. I know that this program will work just fine for my family of 5.

Low Volume Service II - A monthly refuse collection service that replaces the existing "orange bag program." This program is limited to one 35-gallon refuse container (no orange bag required) per month and includes weekly house-side recycling and large item pickup. Although this program is very limiting with it's monthly refuse collection, the program may be the right choice for a select few of our community. The price for this service begin-

ning July 1, 2009 is \$5 per month plus a fuel adjustment fee. If you are currently an orange bag customer you will be automatically enrolled in the Low Volume Service II program.

Senior Low Volume Service - A weekly collection service that replaces the existing "yellow bag program." This program is limited to one 35-gallon refuse container (no yellow bag required) per week and includes house-side recycling and large item pickup. To qualify for this service level a customer must be 65 years of age or older and have an adjusted gross income, from your tax return, of less than \$30,000 per year. The cost for this level of service beginning July 1, 2009 is \$3 per month with no fuel adjustment fee. If you are currently a yellow bag customer you will be automatically enrolled in the Senior Low Volume Service program. For new customers to this service level, we will be hosting a signup day at the Charles I. Lathrem Senior Center on May 6th from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. You may also register for the program by calling the City at 29-Trash (298-7274).

The fuel adjustment fee noted in the first 3 levels of service accounts for the variable cost of diesel fuel throughout the period of the contract. When the cost of diesel fuel rises, the adjustment will go up. Likewise, when the cost of diesel fuel drops the adjustment will drop. The allowance for this adjustment, new for this contract, allowed us to receive a lower base rate in the contract. The base rate, with the exception of mandated tipping fee increases, will be fixed for the first 4 years of the contract with an up to 3% increase in year 5 of the contract.

Large Item Pickup will still be a weekly curbside

pickup. Please call Waste Management at 1-866-263-6445 at least 24 hours in advance of your collection day. Appliances will be picked up the 2nd Saturday of each month, curbside. Please call Waste Management at 1-866-263-6445 prior to the Wednesday before the 2nd Saturday of the month. There is a \$30 charge for Freon removal.

Residents can still purchase yard debris bags for \$3 a bag. Bags can be purchased at the Kettering Government Center, Kettering Yard Debris Center on Woodman Center Drive and at Kettering area Kroger stores. These bags will be picked up on your regular pick-up day and must be placed curbside. However, we hope that residents take full advantage of the city's yard debris facility. Open from 3 - 8 p.m., Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, the yard debris facility provides residents with a free and convenient option to dispose of yard waste.

Please keep in mind that the new contract begins on July 1, 2009. Invoices will continue to be mailed out quarterly. The first invoice under the new contract will be for the 3rd quarter of 2009 and will be mailed to the customers in mid to late May. Customers will be receiving information from both the City and WM via the mail in the coming weeks. You will also receive a green brochure from WM that details the plan and will act as your reference guide for the next 5 years of the program. Please watch for this brochure in the mail.

Should you have any questions regarding our new refuse contract, please contact the City at 29-Trash (298-7274). Additional resources can be found online at our website www.ketteringoh.org.