



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Rod Erskine

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A New Recycling Program

Starting in mid-May, Jersey Village will have a new recycling program. Our current contractor, Tascon Industries, Inc., has exercised their right to terminate their agreement with the city, after providing our recycling services for many years. At the March 2015 council meeting, city staff was asked to negotiate a recycling contract with our current solid waste collection provider, Waste Corporation of Texas, L.P. (WCA). WCA will provide a 65-gallon, wheeled recycle bin to each household for curbside collection of recyclables. The bin is plastic, and has a hinged lid. Materials will not be accepted in bags or other containers. While Tascon collected only paper, aluminum cans, and plastic, and required the materials to be sorted in plastic trash bags, WCA will be expanding that list of items to include non-aluminum cans and glass bottles, and will not require sorting. Residents will receive a recycling guide specifying items that will be collected. WCA currently provides solid waste collection service to 2107 homes in JV at a cost of \$11.58 per household. The recycling service is expected to cost the city an additional \$3.50 monthly per household.

Tascon provided good service at no charge to JV for years, but their primary business is not recycling - they utilized the paper they collected as a feedstock for their products. They originally initiated the service with the city at no charge, but indicated a resident participation rate close to 40% would be required for them to continue the service - JV never achieved that participate rate, currently estimated at 25%. Due to low participation, Tascon began charging \$1.33 per household under their current contract which began in December 2014. In February of this year, Tascon stated their decision to terminate the contract was based on low participation, and an increase in non-recyclable materials being bagged for collection.

It is my hope that participation in the new recycling program will increase significantly with the elimination of the sorting / bagging requirement, and expansion of accepted products. My household recycles on a weekly basis, and I believe in recycling from an environmental perspective. From a financial perspective, the city's cost for recycling just increased nearly three fold. Without a similar increase in participation, future councils may have to decide if this is a good use of taxpayer money. If you are not currently recycling, I hope you will consider participating in the new program.

In closing, I'd like to recognize the efforts of the staff of our city's Recreation & Events Committee chaired by Doris Michalak, for making the recent Easter Egg Hunt at Carol Fox Park a success. The turnout may have been one of the largest I can recall. This committee is also responsible for the city's other social events including Spring Fling, Fall Frolic, and Holiday in the Park. A lot of effort goes into organizing these events and I thank this committee for their hard work!

Until next month.

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