

CHANGES TO RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE SERVICE

As many of you might know, the City Council has been looking into solutions to the inefficiency and unsightliness of the current garbage and recycling service plus the expense shortfall it causes the City. Currently, residents have to purchase stickers that must be stocked and sold by local stores and City Hall staff. Plastic bags of garbage and open recycling containers are placed on the curb every week. Animals or heavy loads can rip plastic bags and the wind has sent garbage and recyclables flying down the street -- often to be picked up by City crews. This system of bags and open recycling containers is inefficient as it requires two days a week to complete the work. The City of Kewaunee is also losing approximately \$24,000 annually because sticker sales don't cover the entire cost of service. In recent months, several options have been explored in hopes of reducing/eliminating that shortfall. Some of the options include:

- Raising the price of the existing garbage stickers.
- Switching to a resident purchased colored bag system.
- Going with a Tote System (2 wheeled covered cart) of collection service.

The Tote System would utilize automated pickup equipped trucks and eliminates the need to purchase stickers or special bags and is paid by a flat fee that will be paid bi-monthly as an additional line-item on current water and sanitary sewer bills. This would also cover the current \$24,000 shortfall. The Tote System seems to solve most of the problems with our current process of garbage and recycling collection.

The City has approved a three (3) year contract with Advanced Disposal for a Tote System of garbage and recycling pickup. One advantage to this contract is the use of Advance Disposal's landfill/dumping sites. The Kewaunee County Landfill we currently use will be closing in the near future. If the City is put in a position where the landfill closes without the City having an alternate site for our refuse, we face the possibility of paying far higher rates at that time than what this contract offers. In this contract, each residence would be given two 95 gallon containers, one for garbage and one for recycling. Advance Disposal would be responsible for maintenance of the bins and would replace them in the event of damage. Garbage pickup would be done on a weekly basis, while recycling would be done bi-weekly.

The tentative start of the new Tote System will be during the week of October 1, 2017, as that is the week that carts will be delivered, perhaps earlier. We are looking at combining the pick-up days to Thursday for trash. Recycling will be every other week. We would begin Trash and Recycling together the week of October the 5th and then recycling would be off the next week and resume the week of October 19th -- then continue every other week. All residential apartments up to four-plexes will be covered. River Road residents will also be covered. The cost for the Tote service would be a fixed rate of **\$10.95 per month** or **\$21.90 every two months**, per household in the City of Kewaunee. There are allowable increases based on inflation, fuel prices, etc. All commercial property owners will ***not*** be covered and will be unable to have any garbage or recyclables picked-up in the blue containers. Only residential users will be covered. Therefore, commercial businesses will need to contact Advanced Disposal or another service provider to receive garbage and recycling disposal services.

The cost for a Tote System may be a little higher for some, but it is essentially the same overall price as City residents currently subsidize the cost through their property taxes. Individuals will have an additional 45 gallons of garbage capacity per week, so one would not have to purchase stickers for an additional 45 gallons of garbage.

All your garbage and recyclables would be kept in two nice and neat, rolling, covered containers. Plus, residents don't have to purchase outdoor garbage cans or stickers.

Below are some pictures of what the totes will look like and the truck that picks up the totes. More information will be forthcoming as there will be flyers attached to the totes when they are delivered that will explain the pick-up dates and process for placement of the totes.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call your district alderperson or City Hall.

