



From the Mayor's Desk

June 2018

New Solid Waste Provider to Take Over Service in 2019

When Peachtree Corners incorporated as a city six years ago, securing a solid waste hauler to provide reliable, low-cost trash and recycling service was one of our top priorities. It was, without a doubt, one of the most pressing concerns for residents with whom we spoke.

In 2013 our current waste hauler was selected and began providing service. The current hauler's contract expires the end of this year. This spring the city issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) inviting all solid waste haulers to bid on the contract.

The city received a number of responses, all of the bids came in higher than the present provider's current cost of \$11.50 per month. After careful consideration, a new provider, Waste Management (WM), was selected.

In reviewing the proposals, WM clearly stood out. In addition to coming in as the most affordable of all the proposals received, was WM's ability to track its trucks while out in the field. This allows WM to communicate with its drivers alerting them of any missed pickups or other issues that can be handled the same day.

The city formally agreed to a contract with WM at the May 22 City Council meeting and WM will begin providing service to Peachtree Corners residents, and the commercial business community, the first week of January 2019.

In addition, WM is providing a fleet of brand new compressed natural gas trucks to service our city.

Other benefits:

- The quiet-running Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) trucks are the cleanest burning transportation fuel on the market today, and produces the fewest emissions of other fuels.
- New 96-gallon wheeled garbage carts for all residents co-branded with the City's logo and Waste Management's logo. Also new co-branded 64-gallon wheeled recycling carts.
- Commitment to reliable service and timely recovery/resolution. WM pledges to maintain the City's 99 percent recovery/resolution of missed pickups within 24 hours of the complaint.
- Preventive maintenance program to ensure safe, clean streets. Preventive maintenance programs will be in place to reduce breakdowns and accidents.
- Onboard computing system which keeps a record of every address that has been collected, by providing real time tracking. This system also tracks when pickups are made to ensure the hauler is not violating the city's noise ordinance by picking up outside the allowed hours.

Highlights of the new service:

- To maximize collection efficiency, the city will be divided into five zones and pickup will be Monday – Friday.
- Holiday pickup: Pickup days will not be reduced by holidays but will be rescheduled by one day. As an example, if a holiday falls on a Thursday, the pickup day for customers whose pickup day is Thursday will be Friday and Friday customers will be picked up on Saturday.
- There will be a slight cost increase of \$14.88 per month which will be billed annually and included on your Gwinnett County tax bill. Residents age 65 and over will be eligible for a 15% discount. The cost for yard waste pickup will be \$6.25 (for 10 bags).
- Backdoor services will be provided to those disabled or physically incapable of taking the cart to the road.

By comparison, the new monthly rate of \$14.88 (\$12.65 senior rate) and yard waste service (\$6.25) is still less expensive than what Gwinnett County charges residents in the unincorporated areas of the county. The county's regular rate is \$17.91 (Senior rate \$13.75) and yard waste service (the cost varies, the maximum charge is \$10.00).

The cost of trash and recycling service – and the quality of that service -- was an important factor in our decision to select a new solid waste hauler. Although residents will see a slight increase, Waste Management's commitment to quality service, while still offering a competitive rate, was the deciding factor in the Council's decision to award Waste Management the contract.

Much more information will be forthcoming in the future months that will help with the transition to the new service, but the Council and I wanted to let you know well in advance of the new service that will take effect in January 2019.

Mike Mason, Mayor

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