

EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2008

VILLAGE CHANGES REFUSE COLLECTION PROVIDER

After three years of service by Veolia, the Winthrop Harbor Village Board negotiated a new 5-year contract with Jensen Disposal Service. Residents will have their current trash and recycling containers picked up by Veolia at the end of February. Jensen will be delivering new trash and recycling carts during the last week of February. The new service will commence on March 1st.

There were several reasons for the change. First was a request by Veolia for a very large increase in the cost of their service. The initial requested increase was nearly a 50% hike in the base cost with escalator clauses for both inflation and fuel surcharges. After extended negotiations, the Village Board decided to put the contract out to bid to ensure that the residents got the best deal possible. When the competing bids were tallied, the results were reviewed carefully by the Village Board, and the Trustees and Mayor determined that Jensen's bid came out on top.

Residents will see little change in their basic service. Friday will still be our pick up day. We are allowed unlimited recyclables collection. We still are allowed six bags of yard waste per week, during the yard-waste collection period of April 1st through November 30th. We can put out one additional 32 gallon bag of trash with our carts and there will be six weeks of leaf collection in the fall. Senior citizens will still receive a 10% discount.

A brochure explaining the new contract services and pricing is available on-line at www.winthropharbor.com, and will also be mailed to all residents shortly. We urge all residents to read it carefully as there are options available to tailor the service to meet your needs and possibly lower your costs.

Unfortunately, like everything else we purchase, the cost of service did have to go up. With the recent increases in the costs of fuel and labor, the bids were all significantly higher than the existing Veolia contract. Residents will now be charged \$23.40 per month, billed four times per year, for basic service. Again, options are available that may enable you to reduce your expenses.

The Mayor and Village Board thank you all for your patience and cooperation in making this change. We anticipate that it will be a smooth transition, but if there's anything we can do to help resolve any issues that arise, we're committed to working with you and Jensen Disposal to ensure that service is not interrupted. We hope that you are as pleased as possible with the change of service providers and welcome any questions or comments that you may have.

Jensen's Disposal may be reached at 847-566-0229, and of course you can always call Village Hall for further information at 847-872-3846.