



City Pushes Districting Despite Bad Timing

As the US economy continues along an unpredictable course, we are all concerned about what we can expect in 2009. We have recently seen a spike in job loss, a drastic fall in retail holiday sales, personal and business bankruptcies, and thousands of foreclosures hitting close to home and affecting many of us.

We have seen the federal government step in and "rescue" the financial giants, only to be left with uncertainty as to the use of the \$700 billion package. Many are wondering how billions of taxpayer dollars were given away without a formal plan outlining every detail of how it would succeed.

Fort Collins residents face a very similar situation within the discussion of a districted trash collection program. To date, the majority of Fort Collins City Council plans to vote for districting trash collection without any type of plan showing how it will be implemented, cost calculations, timeline, or cause and effect study. A myriad of details remain unexplored and questions unanswered by City staff. This should be a MAJOR concern to supporters and non-supporters of trash districting alike.

Going forward with a vote, while lacking vital costing and planning information, mirrors the US governments "rescue" of the financial giants. Consumers and business owners to date (January 2), are still not seeing any improvement in their ability to borrow funds needed to stimulate the economy. Influenced by these current economic conditions and the implementation of districting, Fort Collins residents could end up without trash services, jeopardizing the health and safety of Northern Colorado residents.

Since the economic downturn, the value of recyclable materials has fallen drastically. Many parts of the country are paying between \$30-55/ton at recycle centers to dump materials and some are even electing to trash them! Locally, Waste Management Recycle America, operator of the Larimer County Recycle Center, went from paying \$18/ton to \$0/ton for curbside recyclables! These concerns should outweigh districting.

Introductory business courses stress the necessity of solid planning. Yet our local government has not given adequate consideration to a plan before

formulating an opinion, which contributes to GSI's position against trash districting. It is illogical to make a decision and vote for districting without having an outline of the majority of the details identified. GSI wants to protect its customers, and all residents of Fort Collins from this uncertainty and the potential impacts to our community.

You can expect there will be a cost to implement and run such a program that is currently unnecessary under the existing, **stable** system. Additional city staff salaries would most likely surpass the dollars saved having less trucks on streets! Nothing is truly free. Households using higher volume service such as a 95-gallon cart, families of more than two people, or those with larger homes and lots will pay more. As more regulations are set dictating how the work is performed, costs will increase.

Not all City Council members are in support of this program. Our hope is not only to gain your support but also to educate City Council on other issues to consider before making a decision with major ramifications to the health and safety of our community. You can still make a difference. Protect your freedom of choice in trash collection by sending your feedback to City Council. We have included a postcard with this billing to some customers directly affected by this issue. Please send the postcard to City Council reflecting your support of local business and a non-districted waste collection system. The postcard reads in a way that will show your support of your hauler and freedom of choice.

The City has already received thousands of postcards from RAM Waste customers but needs to hear from you. Thank you for your support of local business and our freedom of choice! You can view the most recent work session by following the link below and selecting the City Council Work Session & Adjourned Meeting 12/9/08.

<http://fcgov.com/cable14/video.php#>

Temporary Fuel Fee

As of the time this newsletter is published, Diesel fuel markets have fallen to a point where we have elected to discontinue the fuel fee. Should diesel fuel increase above \$3.00/gallon, it will again become necessary for us to reinstitute the fuel fee.

Curbside Yardwaste Recycling 2009

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of our curbside yardwaste collection program! It is hard to believe, but we still remain the only area hauler that offers this service. Are you taking advantage of our yardwaste collection program? This is a great way to save on the cost added by the increase in waste volumes during the warm weather months. It is a great way to reduce waste while creating valuable landscaping materials, such as mulch and fertilizer.

The program begins the first week of May and runs through the end of October. However, we may start the program a couple weeks early and ending a couple weeks later for this year. More details are available on our website including a guide outlining the accepted materials at www.gsiwaste.com/Services/Yardwaste.html.

One way we are able to keep costs down for the program depends largely on you. We need your help to increase participation in the program to ensure its continuance. Are you already participating? Why not tell your neighbors about it?

This program is available throughout our service area, including Fort Collins, Wellington, Windsor, and Loveland. It is not too early to be thinking about green grass! Call to reserve your container for the program today!

The GREEN Way to Pay!

Over the past several months we have been working on improving the payment options available to our customers. While we have taken payments by credit card for some time, it was not always convenient to do so, until now through our Auto-Pay and Online payment programs!

Paying for services through our Auto-pay program will save you postage, cut down on paper statements, and our mailing costs, while ensuring your payment is never late. We will set up a subscription payment account with our credit card processor. No information is stored in our local computer system for your protection. Our credit card processor assures the confidentiality of your card information by meeting all necessary industry security standards.

This is currently the most convenient and timely payment method available to GSI customers. To get started, we will need your card information, a valid email address, and the GSI account(s) to which you would like your payment(s) applied. By providing your email address, our payment system will notify you when your card is charged. This information is held confidential and is not made available to anyone outside GSI and our processor.

Contact us directly to set up your account for our Auto-pay program. We can have it up and running for your next payment in just a few minutes of your time.

Work is almost completed that will allow you to view account information and pay via our website. By entering the Billing and Payments section of our website or selecting BillView from our home page, you can directly access information. For now, the information is limited to your account balance as of the specified date, and the date and amount of your last payment. However, our intention is to make full statement details available later in 2009. To get started, you must contact our office identifying the account and the password you would like to use to access your account information. Currently you may select a password up to 8-digits. If you have more than one account, we recommend that you set up different passwords for each to ensure payments are posted to the correct account.

Auto-pay is already available to you, and the online bill view and payment system should be up and running by February 2009. These are a couple ways to help the environment by reducing paper and eliminating mailing costs. Program participants will no longer receive a paper statement unless requested. Contact us to set up your account for one of these programs.



1941 Heath Parkway #2

Fort Collins, CO

Phone: (970) 484-5556

Fax: (970) 484-0662

Comments? Mail to:

P.O. Box 1986

Fort Collins, CO 80522

Visit us @ www.GallegosSanitation.com

HOLIDAY ALERT!

Area Landfills are closed every year on the following holidays:

New Years Day - Memorial Day - Independence Day - Labor Day - Thanksgiving Day - Christmas Day

For 2009, if your pickup day falls ON or AFTER the following holiday **during the regular work week**, your normal pickup will be **delayed by one day**:

Memorial Day

Monday, May 25th

Labor Day

Monday, September 7th

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 26th

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25th

New Year's Day

Friday, January 1st, 2010

Visit our website for more information about holiday scheduling