

**NEW SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION
CONTRACTS TO GO INTO EFFECT OCTOBER 1, 2010 FOR
LEE COUNTY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES –
STABILIZING RESIDENTIAL RATES IN MOST AREAS TO
CURRENT LEVELS**

FORT MYERS, Fla. (March 15, 2010) – Beginning October 1, 2010, residents of unincorporated Lee County may notice changes and improvements in their garbage and recycling collection service.

Three (3) contracted franchise hauling companies will begin providing garbage, recycling, and yard waste collection service in Lee County. Residents in the City of Bonita Springs, Town of Ft. Myers Beach, Captiva Island, and the Iona/McGregor area will continue to receive service from Veolia ES Solid Waste Southeast, Inc. as their service provider for franchise areas 1 and 2. Waste Pro of Florida was awarded the contracts for franchise area 5, North Fort Myers and Pine Island, and also franchise area 3, South Fort Myers, Brooks, and San Carlos Park area. Franchise area 4, Lehigh Acres, East Fort Myers, and all of the Alva area will be serviced by Choice Environmental Services of Lee, Inc.

The Solid Waste Division solicited bids for the five different franchise areas in December of 2009. On March 9, 2010 the BOCC awarded the garbage service contracts to the low bidder for each service area. The pricing for each of the five service areas results in collection costs for 2011 remaining very close to the current cost. All of the new residential collection rates will be virtually the same as the current rates or slightly less. All service providers are committed to providing the best service to our residents and businesses.

Garbage and recycling collection days may change for some residents. The Solid Waste Division is working with the collection companies to try to keep collection days the same for as many residents as possible, but, inevitably, some collection days will change.

Some other changes to the contract include that residents in franchise areas 1 and 2 will receive 65 gallon wheeled containers for recycling. The Board also adopted the Solid Waste Advisory Committee's recommendation not to collect cardboard boxes that are set out with the kitchen garbage. Starting October 1, 2010 all cardboard must be set out and collected with the recyclables. The garbage collection crews will tag improperly placed cardboard boxes with instructions for proper recycling to the resident.

Notification of day changes will be distributed to residents mid September. The hauling contractors and the Solid Waste Division are working to assure a smooth transition and continued quality customer service.

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