

## **Garbage and recycling service changes Jan. 1**

The City of Columbia Heights' current residential garbage/recycling contract with Allied Waste Services ends on Dec. 31 and a new company will begin providing services. This will involve some changes that residents need to be aware of.

Back in June, the city prepared a Request for Proposal for the current level of services (full service trash, recycling, yard waste, and appliance collection). Several alternates were requested including a single-sort recycling option and alley collection for recycled materials.

Four companies submitted bids for a 5-year service contract. Veolia Environmental Services was the low bidder and on Sept. 28 the City Council directed staff to prepare a contract for the same type and level of services currently enjoyed including single-sort recycling and recycling collection at the same point as refuse (including alleys).

The daily collection schedule will not change but other changes will take place including:

- Recycling will be changed to single-sort recycling so materials don't have to be separated.
- 64-gallon carts will be used for residential and 96-gallon wheeled carts for multi-family with lids provided by the contractor.
- Recycling collections will be moved to the same location as garbage.
- Recycling collections will be changed to every other week.
- Multi-unit properties with two-yard and smaller dumpsters will be changed to utilize 96-gallon carts
- Ensures multi-unit properties have single-sort recycling containers.

### **Recycling saves disposal costs**

The City of Columbia Heights is taking steps to increase recycling collected under the new contract. There are several reasons for this renewed effort besides the environmental impacts. Residential recycling collection volumes in Columbia Heights have failed to meet Anoka County goals for several years (which is used to determine recycling grant amounts). In addition, disposal costs for refuse increased on Oct. 1 from \$38/ton to \$52/ton. When more trash is diverted to the recycling bin then the overall cost of disposal is lowered.

The city is making recycling more convenient for residents. The biggest change will be utilizing a single-sort container and moving the recycling collection to the same point as garbage collection, i.e., in the alleys. The container will be a wheeled 64-gallon cart with a lid which will make storing recycling materials more convenient. The city and contractor will also be working with multi-unit properties to find methods to increase their recycling as well.

### **Information will be mailed**

Information on the transition from Allied Waste to Veolia will be sent out via a postcard in early December, which will introduce Veolia, their procedures for collection of trash, recycling, yard waste and appliances. Additional information will be available on the city's website at [www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us](http://www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us) and on Veolia's website at [www.veoliaes-sw.com](http://www.veoliaes-sw.com). Containers should be delivered during the last three weeks of December with instructions on when to start using them. Allied Waste will pull their containers the last week of December after they are empty.

**Please feel free to contact Veolia ES at 763-225-8705 with any questions.**

**You may also email Veolia at [CH.SW@VeoliaES.com](mailto:CH.SW@VeoliaES.com).**