



## Districting Study Goes Forward

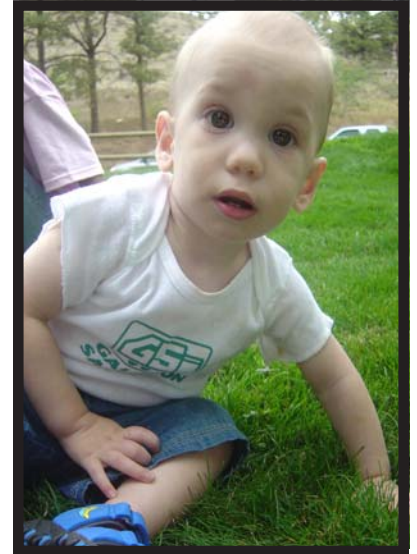
The Fort Collins City Council has decided to move forward and approved a study that will investigate trash services in the city, including the possibility of creating a city run utility. The Natural Resources department has put together an outline that will be presented to Council in early January that includes the perceived problem, desired outcomes, and timeline for implementation. This could begin as early as fourth quarter 2008. Unfortunately, the publishing of this article precedes the results of the initial work session, so not all detail nor the outcome of the work session are addressed in this article. Every effort will be made to keep our customers updated on the matter via our website, future mailings, and newsletters. In this article, we feel that it is important to clarify some issues that may be factors in determining which side of the issue our readers stand based on comments made by supporters of trash districting.

First, districting trash services is only being considered for the RESIDENTIAL service sector. Commercial, multi-family complexes, and construction customers will continue being serviced by area haulers even under the proposed districted system. This means that different waste companies and multiple trucks will still go into non-contracted residential neighborhoods if schools, multi-family units, businesses, or any construction exist there. It is this hauler's understanding that city code mandates that newly developing subdivisions be diverse and include these other types of entities. So haulers will continue to enter these neighborhoods as frequently as daily (some business require this level of servicing). Traffic will not be reduced remotely as perceived, since all haulers will continue to travel in all business areas, arterial routes and several streets in each residential area.

Second, many people are under the impression that there are six trash haulers collecting residential trash in the city. There are actually only three: GSI, Ram Waste Systems, and Waste Management. This means that traffic has already been reduced by 50% since districting supporters gathered their data. The city could immediately reduce truck traffic by eliminating the **requirement** made on haulers to provide weekly recycling, and allow them to scale back to bi-weekly service. The haulers have made this request, but the city has not given us any feedback or response.

Third, some supporters have commented that they favor districting if the city can accomplish it without loss of business for the existing haulers. Several months ago we asked city officials to investigate whether they could move forward in a manner that would prevent loss of business or if a system could be agreed upon without creating a districted trash system or new utility. Thus far they have not responded to our requests. During the *Garbage Districting Forum* (June 13, 2007) Bruce Philbrick, Superintendent of Solid Waste for the city of Loveland, indicated that the law may have to be changed at the STATE level to allow the city to limit participation to the existing haulers. Susie Gordon, FC Environmental Program Manager, commented that if districting were pursued it would result in "a competitive bid" issued by the city. These bids, throughout the country, attract other state and national haulers to market, thus resulting in increased pollution and truck traffic. Why? Because it is not economically feasible for a large hauler to enter a market solely for residential collection so they would pursue commercial work in the marketplace as well. This will increase competition for commercial business and thus truck traffic. Instead of seeing three companies' waste equipment around town you could see many more. The existing haulers would not only lose residential business, but commercial business as well.

There is a great deal more that can be said regarding this issue. We apologize that we are unable to include a higher level of detail such as reports, statistical data, and cost estimates due to space constraints in these articles. We anticipate including more of this information and directions on where to find this data in other resources on our website in the coming months. We do not have the resources at our disposal that local government has (your tax dollars), nor have we asked our customers to give us thousands of dollars to hire someone to compile the information or create a study of our own. We are limited to the time we take out of serving you and our personal time to gather information. However, more detailed information is to come as the issue continues to unfold over 2008. Thank you for your continued support and responses.



For more information on this subject, please visit our website. We would encourage you to send your comments to us at [CustService@GallegosSanitation.com](mailto:CustService@GallegosSanitation.com) or by mail to:  
Districting Issue  
PO Box 1986  
Ft. Collins, CO 80526

## Bio-Diesel Update

For a while now, there has been a growing discussion over the use of Bio-Diesel to fuel waste trucks. We are excited to say this past fall we converted 5 trucks in our fleet to 80/20 bio-diesel and have been satisfied with their performance thus far to the degree that we will be converting an additional 10 trucks by the end of January 2008. If the success continues, we will continue to move diesel fuel vehicles to the use of bio-diesel until our whole fleet is converted. This past year, we purchased several FLEX FUEL vehicles and have been utilizing this alternative fuel as availability allows.

## Fuel Surcharge 2008

Your current bill reflects charges for the new or coming quarter of services plus any extra waste charges, prorations, or fuel surcharges from the period since your last billing.

For 2008, we have elected to adjust your rate to cover service cost increases including the \$0.50 fuel surcharge for future periods. You will not see this charge on you bill after this billing, unless fuel prices increase above \$3.55/gal.

## Bill Payment Service Customers

As we explore the different ways our customers make payments we have discovered that numerous customers utilize their own bill pay system through their own bank or payment service provider. While GSI is thankful for the timeliness of these payments, we have come to realize that the information on the bank-issued checks are not always correct. Here are examples of some of the problems we experience:

- The name on the check is different from the name on our account;
- The account number is incorrect on the bank check;
- The address on the bank check is different from the service address;
- The amount of the check is different from the amount owed, therefore, resulting in an overpayment or underpayment; and
- There is no payment stub submitted, therefore, each check needs to be looked up to verify that payment is applied to the right account.

While this may seem like a small problem, GSI receives between 150 – 200 checks of this type every day. It has always been our goal to process payments daily so that these payments can be posted to your account in a timely manner and the possibility of late fees can be minimized.

For this reason, we are considering a \$0.50 processing fee for any of these types of payments in the future. We continue to explore online and ACH payment options. You can currently enroll in our Credit Card Auto-Pay program for no additional fee. Please contact our office for more details or to make arrangements for this payment option.

## Welcome Dick's Trash Customers!

June 2007 marked a major event in local waste disposal history. Gallegos Sanitation and the Mondragon family, founders and owners of Dick's Trash Hauling Service, made arrangements for GSI to take over all equipment and services to their customer base.

Some of you will remember the early history of waste disposal and know how far we have come. Dick's Trash Hauling has been operating in this community since 1957. They have acquired many longtime, loyal customers over that period of time. They have built a business that has sustained their growing family for the past fifty years.

We are honored to be the ones taking on the challenge of continued hometown quality services. Many of their hardworking employees, including two family members, have found a new home within our company because of their hard work and continued commitment to being the best.

At this time, we would like to formally welcome all former Dick's Trash customers as our customers. You should know that we are committed to your service satisfaction. If you ever find that our level of service does not meet your expectations, please do not hesitate to contact us to resolve the matter.

## 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 2008, 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**:

**New Year's Day** Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>  
**Memorial Day** Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>  
**Independence Day** Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>  
**Labor Day** Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>  
**Thanksgiving Day** Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
**Christmas Day** Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Please visit our website for more detailed holiday information



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Visit us @ [www.GallegosSanitation.com](http://www.GallegosSanitation.com)