

## Town Adopts New Solid Waste Ordinance; Changes to Be Implemented Effective May 26, 2003

After nearly three months of public debate, and valuable input from permanent residents, rental unit owners, second home-owners, and real estate rental companies, the Board of Commissioners adopted a new solid waste ordinance on March 27, 2003.

The new ordinance implements several significant changes to the Town's solid waste program. The new program is designed to insure adequate containment of trash, improve the appearance of the Town's right-of-way, standardize the type of containers used, minimize the amount of any solid waste fee increases, and maintain an equitable funding system for the Town's solid waste activities. Special emphasis was placed on finding a solution that works best for the ENTIRE community rather than one demographic over another.

The main components of the new program are the use of standardized 65-gallon and 95-gallon containers, distribution of standardized containers, the removal of solid waste container racks from the public right-of-way, and a requirement to roll containers out and back in a timely manner. The Town's new program will bring it into conformity with 17 of the 19 other beach towns in North Carolina, and is believed to represent the best approach to resolve the Town's long-standing solid waste problems. Until now, Emerald Isle was the only NC beach town that provides solid waste services that allowed the use of solid waste racks on the public right-of-way, and, along with one other town, was the only NC beach town that did not standardize collection with 90/95-gallon containers.

The new program will take effect beginning with the May 26, 2003 collection date. A summary of the key elements of the new program is presented below:

### REFUSE CONTAINERS

- All residential units, regardless of type of residential use, will be required to provide "adequate containment" of all refuse and recyclables.
- All residential units will be required to use standard 65-gallon or 95-gallon roll-out containers. Those who are physically unable to use 65-gallon or 95-gallon containers can receive authorization to use standard 40-gallon containers for residential refuse. A doctor's note or handicapped parking card is required to receive authorization to use standard 40-gallon containers. These individuals are urged to contact Town Hall for this special authorization.
- All residential vacation rental units will be required to use one standard 95-gallon roll-out container per 3 bedrooms.
- The Town will purchase and distribute 95-gallon roll-out refuse containers directly to all residential units that do not currently have them. Permanent and second-home owners who contact the Town by 5:00 pm on May 1 can request a 65-gallon container if they'd like to use a smaller container, and the 65-gallon container will be distributed to the residential unit. The Town will note which residential units were issued containers, and will include the cost of the container(s) on the FY 2003-2004 tax / solid waste bill. The additional fee per container will be \$40, which is less than half the cost to purchase a container from a retailer. Residential vacation rental units that require more than one container will be issued the appropriate number of containers and billed appropriately.

- New refuse containers will be distributed in mid-May prior to Memorial Day weekend (May 24–26).

### RECYCLING CONTAINERS

- All residential units will be required to use standard 18-gallon recycling containers or 40-gallon roll-out recycling containers.
- All residential vacation rental units will be required to use one standard 40-gallon roll-out recycling container.
- The Town will NOT be distributing recycling containers. The purchase of these containers will be the responsibility of the property owner.

### RACKS

- Solid waste racks will no longer be permitted in the Town's right-of-way. Solid waste racks will be permitted on private property, however racks and containers must be permanently stored at least 30 feet from the public right-of-way or behind the front or side wall of the structure.
- Solid waste racks must be removed from the Town's right-of-way by June 15. Waste Industries, the Town's contractor, will collect all racks remaining on the right-of-way after June 15. Property owners are encouraged to move their racks off the right-of-way if they wish to retain them. If they wish to discard them, racks should be disassembled in flat pieces and left at the right-of-way.
- The Town will also establish a central dumpster point for those who would like to dispose of their racks earlier than June 15. Please contact Town Hall for information on location and availability.

### ROLL-OUT AND BACK OF CONTAINERS

- Effective with the May 26 collection, containers must be rolled-out to the street no earlier than 3 pm the day before collection, and rolled-back no later than 9 am the day after collection. The property owner is ultimately responsible for making sure the containers are rolled-out and rolled-back in a timely manner.
- Real estate rental companies are currently making arrangements to provide roll-out and roll-back service for their rental units. Rental unit owners should contact their rental company for specific details.
- Permanent residents are required to roll containers out and back according to the schedule, or make other arrangements to have a third party roll containers out and back.
- Second home owners are required to roll containers out and back according to the schedule, or make other arrangements to have a third party roll containers out and back. A town employee will be assigned to roll-BACK containers for second home owners who are not here to roll the containers BACK without penalizing the second home owner with a citation. The Town will provide this service at no additional charge if the second home owner signs up in advance for this service. Second home owners interested in this service must sign up by contacting Town Hall. Second home owners can sign up for this service at any time.
- Waste Industries will roll containers out and back for those who are physically unable to use 65-gallon or 95-gallon containers free of charge upon submission of a note from a doctor or by presenting a handicapped parking card. These individuals can also receive authorization to use standard 40-gallon containers for residential refuse if so desired.

## ENFORCEMENT

- The Town will hire a full-time enforcement officer to enforce the new ordinance and provide roll-back service for second home owners.

## FEES

- The Town's annual solid waste fee will increase from \$130 per year to \$135 per year, an increase of \$0.42 per month. The Town's total fee will be equal to \$11.25 per month, which is still very low compared with other municipalities and private service providers.
- Property owners who receive new containers will be charged \$40 for each container. This charge will be in addition to and included in the FY 2003-2004 solid waste fee. For example, a property owner who receives one new container will be billed \$175 on the FY 2003-2004 solid waste bill (\$135 for the annual service plus \$40 for one container). The fee would be reduced by \$40 in the next and subsequent years.

Please contact Town Hall at 252-354-3424 by May 1 to request a 65-gallon container in lieu of a 95-gallon container, or to request authorization for a 40-gallon roll-out container. If you are a second home owner, and would like to request free roll-BACK service, please contact Town Hall during regular business hours.

Please contact us at 252-354-3424 if you have further questions, or by email at [frush@emeraldisle-nc.org](mailto:frush@emeraldisle-nc.org). The Town appreciates your cooperation with the new ordinance and solid waste program.