



Office of the City Manager

CITY OF HERMITAGE

800 North Hermitage Road
Hermitage, PA 16148
Phone: 724-981-0800

Facsimile: 724-983-1922
E-Mail: ghinkson@hermitage.net
Homepage: <http://www.hermitage.net>

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Dear Hermitage Resident:

Enclosed with this letter is a packet of information relating to the new solid waste and recycling contract between the City of Hermitage and Tri-County Industries. City ordinance requires that the City enter into a contract with one provider for the collection and disposal of solid waste, yard waste and recycling materials for all residential units (except multi-unit structures with over 4 units). The new contract began March 1, 2009 and will be in effect until July 31, 2014. The first five months of the new contract kept the same terms and conditions as the previous contract. Beginning August 1 several changes will occur. Some of these changes were made to get the City into compliance with State regulations and some were made in an attempt to minimize cost changes for the vast majority of Hermitage residents.

The background for the new contract begins in July, 2007 when the City was notified by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that Hermitage was not in compliance with DEP regulations regarding yard waste collection and disposal. Hermitage is mandated to provide to all residents curbside recycling and yard waste (minimum once per month) collection and disposal. With the previous contract due to expire February 1, 2009, new contract specifications that would achieve compliance were developed and publicly advertised. Bids were received from 3 contractors. Ultimately Tri-County Industries was determined to be the low bidder and awarded the new contract on February 2, 2009.

Some of the provisions of the new contract include:

- Garbage collection will no longer be unlimited. Garbage will now be limited to the content of the cart. There will be additional charges for excess waste placed outside the cart by way of tags that must be applied to excess bags or items. The larger capacity and increased convenience of the larger recycling carts and new yard waste carts will limit the need to purchase additional tags. Residents can choose the current garbage cart size – 95 gallon, or elect to have a smaller – 35 gallon cart – with a nominal savings.
- Bag tags will be replacing the “purple” garbage bags currently purchased at local retailers. For residents choosing to use bags instead of a cart for garbage, the tags will be available for purchase through Tri-County by contacting Customer Service @ 724-748-4705 or www.tricountyind.com or at the Hermitage City Building. The tags can be used on any 32 gallon trash bag.



- The red recycling bin will be replaced by a 95 gallon recycling cart, similar to the garbage carts now in use but with a blue lid. Recycling under the new program is much easier with increased opportunities, a larger container and no separating of items.
- Residents will have the opportunity to select a 95 gallon cart, brown with a green lid, for yard waste. Residents can decline the yard cart if they have no use for one, however the quarterly cost will remain the same.
- There will be one bulk trash pickup day, in the spring, each year.
- Hermitage residents can drop off, at no charge, old tires and white goods at the City Garage on Virginia Road. Call the City in advance for details and drop-off times.
- There is a low income assistance program where residents that qualify will receive a reduced rate for service. Information on this program will be available at the City and on the City web site at www.hermitage.net. To qualify, residents will complete an application form and be notified as to their acceptance after review by the City.
- Residents occupying a farm property used for normal agricultural purposes may opt out of service, provided they comply with all State and City regulations.
- Residents that own businesses and provide evidence of full service at the place of business can choose to opt out of residential service.
- Residents that are disabled or unable to take carts to the curb can notify Tri-County Industries and request backyard service at no additional cost.

Included in this informational packet are the following materials:

- A color brochure explaining the new program
- A color wall chart detailing cart guidelines, what to put and not put in each cart, and what to do with wastes that are not accepted in any cart
- A list of Frequently Asked Questions and the new rate structure
- 5 free \$3 bag tags, 1 free \$4 bulk item tag, and 1 free \$8 appliance tag

Before August 1, 2009, Tri-County Industries will be delivering new recycling carts (95 gallon brown with blue lid) and yard waste carts (95 gallon brown with green lid). Residents have the option to choose the smaller, 35 gallon, garbage cart. Also, **selection of a yard waste cart is not mandatory**. Residents can choose to compost their yard waste, purchase biodegradable bags to put at the curb, or have it removed by private lawn services. Cart placement is important under the new program. Residents are encouraged to review the enclosed materials and make every effort to place carts for weekly collection as recommended.

All of the information in this packet is available on the City's website at www.hermitage.net. In the near future the City intends to offer a backyard composting program with training and incentives for residential composting as well as continuing with education programs that promote recycling to both adults and school students in our community.



The City of Hermitage is committed to promoting environmental stewardship across the community. From energy efficient LED traffic signals, to the design and construction of LEEDS certified “green buildings”, to the conversion of sewage waste to electricity at the wastewater treatment plant, to programs promoting increased recycling and composting, the City is making an effort to lead in protecting our environment for its enjoyment by future generations.



Gary P. Hinkson
City Manager