

## Talking Trash

One of the items Union Grove Trustees take seriously is trying to keep increases in expenses to a minimum in order to keep the Village property taxes as low as possible.

We are currently reviewing our garbage/ recycling contact and will shortly be seeking proposals from refuse companies for a future contract. We feel that some options exist which need to be considered. In a few surrounding communities, residents are issued two large garbage carts (one for garbage and the other for recycling). Some carts can be as big as 96 gallons. The garbage trucks pick up refuse once per week using an automated truck arm. The 96-gallon recycling cart holds quite a bit so it is picked up every other week.

The carts are provided free of charge and refuse companies in these communities generally keep the carts in good working order (however, resident would be billed for damaged carts that are beyond the normal wear and tear). Additional carts could be requested through the refuse company and issued for an additional fee billed to the residents. Only garbage or recycling that is placed inside of the carts are picked up on the scheduled day (garbage bags not placed in the carts are left behind.)

We feel that bulk pick for large items (for example a couch) and yard waste pick need to continue. We plan to include the pickup of bulk items and yard waste as a requirement when requesting proposals from any refuse vendors.

When requesting proposals for waste/ recycle/ bulk/ yard waste pick up, we will also ask for proposals utilizing the current garbage method (no carts, waste pick up as currently being processed—no change to current method).

A comparison will be completed once all proposals are collected this coming summer. Our goal is to find a vendor that will provide a high quality of service while keeping any increase in cost to a minimum. Contracts for waste pick up are usually approved for a five-year period. You will be updated with information once a decision has been made.