

## RECYCLING NEWS UPDATE

### PROGRAM UPDATE

This year sure has been a year of change for the Village regarding garbage and recycling pickup and processing. As many of you know, Advanced Disposal was bought out and our garbage and recycling started being picked up by Waste Management in March 2021. As many of you had experienced, we have had issues from day one with missed stops, containers being damaged on a regular basis, dumped garbage and recyclables onto the ground, etc. Over the last several months we had been maintaining a log of the complaints received and did receive a number of complaints. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, the Village Board decided to send notice to Waste Management for violating terms of the contract and that they had 15 days to correct. They responded on September 14<sup>th</sup> and disagreed with every item we brought up as a violation of the contract. They claimed in their response that Advanced Disposal still exists as an entity and was not assigned to Waste Management. They did offer in their response to mutually terminate the current contract that we have with them. At our Village Board meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>, we did approve the agreement to mutually terminate our contract Advanced Disposal (Waste Management) as of September 30, 2021. At this same meeting, we approved a new 10-year contract with GFL Environmental with no increase in price and one additional feature, bi-weekly recycling pickup. We were able to come to an agreement on this contract that included bi-weekly recycling pickup at the same price that we are paying for monthly pickup. The Board felt that this was a great opportunity to offer additional services at the same price and we will now be dealing with a more local company that has an office in Chilton. The one caveat with this change is that we will not have recycling pickup on October 1<sup>st</sup> as was the scheduled pickup date under the old contract. Recycling will be picked up on October 8<sup>th</sup> instead and every other week after that (October 22<sup>nd</sup>, November 5<sup>th</sup>, etc). We have attached a new pickup schedule for the remainder of 2021 that incorporates this change. Also, under this new contract, we will be using the current containers until such time when new containers can be delivered. In the future, there will only be one size for garbage and recycling containers. They will be 90/95-gallon containers. When the new containers are delivered, you will only receive one garbage and one recycling container. If there is a desire to have additional containers, you will need to contact the clerk's office directly and we will work with the new vendor to have additional container(s) delivered. We ask for everyone's patience as we navigate through this change. We feel that this is the best option moving forward to the village to have worry-free garbage and recycling pickup.

As fall approaches again, we are in the process of applying for a recycling grant for 2022. We have been successful for several years now and usually receive approximately \$8,300 per year to help offset the costs of recycling. Please remember that when you are recycling, the plastic bags are not recyclable. They get caught up in the rollers while the recyclables are being processed which causes the machines to be shut down and employees must climb into these rollers to cut out the bags that become wrapped around the rollers. This poses a huge safety issue to the employees and also slows down the processing of the recyclables. Even though the bags may say they are recyclable, they are not. Calumet County is again looking at holding hazardous collections and electronics recycling events in 2022. Please watch future newsletters and our website for details on these events as they get closer.

### COMPOST SITE

When using the compost site, please remember to read the signs and dump the compost material and/or brush on the proper piles. There is also compost material that has been sifted. This material works great in your gardens and flower beds. We also have wood chips at the compost site. Currently, there is a sizable pile of wood chips so we are offering the wood chips free of charge to

both residents and non-residents. Anyone is free to come and get as much material as they wish. If you need assistance to load the wood chips there will be a fee to do that. Any questions regarding this, please contact the public works office at 920-853-3556.

### **LEAF PICK UP**

The village will again do leaf pick up this fall. If you have small amounts and can haul them to the compost site, we ask that you please do this. This will help save on labor costs to the village. The leaves have to be placed in the terrace area behind the curb. Please use extra care in keeping the leaves out of the street area. This will help prevent any drainage issues if there is any rain. Because we use the same trailer for both chipping brush and picking up leaves, once we begin to pick up the leaves, we will not be able to chip the brush. The village interchanges the two pieces of equipment on the trailer and utilize the collection hopper for both chipping and picking up leaves. Because of this, we try to hold off on collecting leaves until a substantial amount has fallen. While we understand that Mother Nature dictates when the leaves fall off the trees, we ask that you do not wait too long and get the leaves out to the terrace area in a timely manner once they have fallen. Once the village decides to put the chipper equipment back on the trailer, we will stop collecting leaves.

### **BRUSH PICK UP**

Please remember that the village still continues to do brush pick up at your residence for large amounts of brush. If you only have a couple of branches and are able to transport them to the compost site, we ask that you do. This helps curtail costs of driving around the village picking up small amounts of brush. **IN ORDER TO HAVE THE BRUSH PICKED UP ON YOUR PROPERTY, YOU MUST CALL THE CLERK'S OFFICE TO BE PLACED ON THE LIST. IF YOU DO NOT CALL THE CLERK'S OFFICE TO GET ON THE BRUSH PICK UP LIST, WE WILL NOT PICK UP THE BRUSH AT YOUR PROPERTY.** The maximum diameter of brush that the village will accept at the compost site or on site at your property is 4". If you are removing a large tree, please call prior to cutting down the tree. If possible, we are asking residents to help out the village and take the brush to the compost site if they have some. As noted above, once we start picking up leaves, we cannot chip brush because we use the same trailer for leaf pickup as we do for chipping brush. We will again pick up brush once we are finished picking up the leaves. By utilizing the same trailer for both functions, it helps save the village monies because we can eliminate duplication of equipment. We want to thank you for your patience and cooperation as we go through this fall season.

The following table provides you with the revised pickup dates for 2021 for garbage and recycling:

GARBAGE PICK UP DATES		REVISED RECYCLING PICK UP DATES
October 1, 2021	November 19, 2021	October 8, 2021
October 8, 2021	<b><u>NOVEMBER 27, 2021</u></b>	October 22, 2021
October 15, 2021	December 3, 2021	November 5, 2021
October 22, 2021	December 10, 2021	November 19, 2021
October 29, 2021	December 17, 2021	December 3, 2021
November 5, 2021	December 24, 2021	December 17, 2021
November 12, 2021	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2021

Please note that the special pickup dates that will be on Saturdays due to the holiday are bolded, underlined and capitalized.

The Recycling Committee

## What is FOG?

FOG refers to fats, oils, and grease from food preparation and kitchen clean up. It is found in items such as:

- Meat fats
- Food scraps
- Lard/shortening
- Baking goods
- Butter/margarine
- Cooking oil
- Sauces
- Dairy products
- Salad dressings

## Why Do Clogs Occur?

When poured down the drain, FOG can build up in pipes. This can cause significant problems in the sanitary sewer system and at wastewater treatment plants, causing increased sewer rates.

Clogs can be caused by improper disposal of fats, oils and grease. A partial or total blockage can cause floor drains, sinks and dishwashers to back up or not work properly.

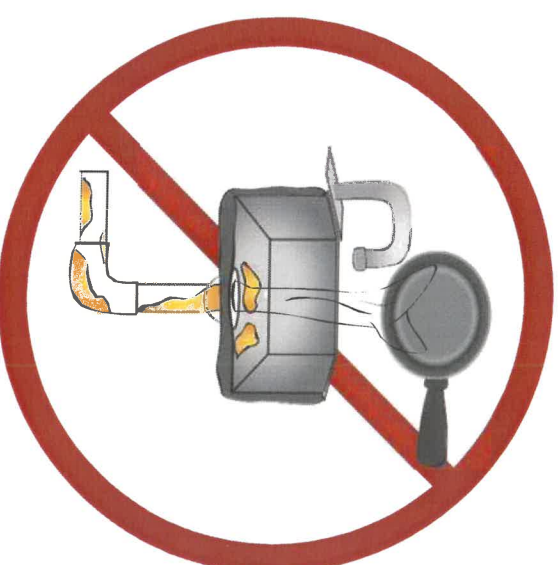
To help prevent these clogs, dispose of FOG properly by following the simple tips in this brochure.

## DO



- Place cooled oil and grease into trash bins or covered collection containers
- Scrape food scraps into trash bins
- Manually wipe off all visible fats, oils, grease and food residue from dishes and cookware into trash bins
- Use a strainer in the sink to collect excess food particles
- Encourage neighbors to help keep fats, oils, and grease out of the sewer system

## DON'T



- Don't pour oil or grease down the drain
- Don't put food scraps down the drain
- Don't pour liquid foods (dairy products, syrups, batters and gravy, etc.) down the drain
- Don't run water over greasy dishes, pans or fryers
- Don't use chemicals to remove grease clogs; they can damage the piping system
- Don't rely on a garbage disposal to get rid of grease (**excess use of garbage disposals can also contribute to blocked pipes**)

**Residents make the biggest difference when it comes to reducing sewer backups and spills by adhering to Sewer Smart tips.**

## Grease Myths

It's OK to pour grease down the drain as long as...

### I use the garbage disposal

MYTH! The garbage disposal only grinds up items before passing them into your sewer pipes.

### I run hot water

MYTH! The grease will eventually cool and build up in the pipes.

### I chase it down with a dose of dish soap

MYTH! Soap breaks up grease, but the soap will eventually lose its effectiveness, causing the grease to solidify in the pipes.

## Results of FOG in Sewer Lines

When fats, oils and grease enter the sanitary sewer system, they stick to the insides of the sewer lines. Over time, the FOG buildup can block the entire line and cause sewer backups which may result in:

- Clogged drains or toilets
- Raw sewage backing up into your home
- Raw sewage overflowing into the environment
- Expensive cleanup, repair & replacement of damaged property
- Higher wastewater system operation & maintenance costs
- Unpleasant odors
- Potential public health risks



### VILLAGE OF HILBERT STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

For more information on FOG, please contact:

**Village of Hilbert**  
26 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
PO Box 266  
Hilbert, WI 54129

[www.villageofhilbert.com](http://www.villageofhilbert.com)

Telephone: (920) 853-3556



## Fat, Oil and Grease Sewer Smart Tips



**DO NOT Pour Fats, Oils or Grease (FOG) down the drain.**

**THE BAD NEWS**  
Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) will clog your pipes and may cause a sewage backup into your home or a sewer spill in the street that goes down the storm drain and into our waterways.

