



**TOWN OF MENDON**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
18 Main Street  
Mendon, MA 01756

Alan Greenberg | *Chairman*  
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## **MENDON TOWN TRASH/RECYCLING AUTOMATION PROGRAM TO BEGIN JULY 1, 2023**

Dear Mendon Resident,

The Board of Health is providing this letter to inform you of upcoming changes regarding the trash/recycle service currently provided to residential subscribers by E.L. Harvey & Sons. Starting July 1, 2023, we will be entering a new contract arrangement with E.L. Harvey & Sons, as the existing contract is due to expire on June 30, 2023.

The trash/recycling industry has experienced many changes over the last 5-year period for which E.L. Harvey & Sons has been providing quality services to the residents & the municipal departments of Mendon. One of the most dramatic changes relates to the recycling element of this service.

For most of past two decades, China was importing the vast majority of recyclables from North America and Europe. In 2017, China launched a policy known as Operation National Sword (ONS). This policy initiative was created to monitor & more stringently review recyclable waste imports. This new policy made changes to the previous percentage of contaminants allowed in recycled material. The allowable percentage went from 5-10% to .5%. In March of 2018, this policy came into effect.

Before this National Sword policy went into effect, 70% of the plastics collected were sent to China. Since this policy, North America & Europe have had to struggle to deal with recyclables. As part of that struggle, the trash/recycle industry has had to respond to properly deal with the abundance of recyclables. In so doing, the industry has incurred dramatic expenses, which in turn translates to significant cost increases of services.

When the Board of Health negotiated its last contract with E.L. Harvey back in 2018, we were very fortunate to have been able to implement a contract that was very price friendly. At the time, E.L. Harvey & Sons was also a family-run business. Back in 2021 however, E.L. Harvey & Sons was acquired by Waste Connections, Inc. In these last five years, industry changes & cost increases will bring a different look to the trash/recycle service program being provided.

Although subscribers will see a cost increase, you will also see some added benefits. First, the recycle portion of the service will move to single stream. This means that you will be able to combine your paper & cardboard recyclables with your plastic, aluminum, etc. & the recyclables will be picked up weekly. In addition, E.L. Harvey will be providing **(1) 65-Gallon blue lid recycle toter** to each household. The use of the low profile recycle bins will be eliminated. Also, E.L. Harvey will be providing **(1) 65-Gallon Gray trash toter** to each household for regular trash.

**Please note that if you are not a Town Subscriber to the Trash/Recycling Program, you will need to contact a Mendon Licensed Trash Hauler (List available on Board of Health website). Also, households that currently have their recyclables-only picked up by E.L. Harvey will no longer be able to do so. A household MUST be a participant in the Town's Trash/Recycle Subscriber Program for both trash & recyclable curbside service.**

One of the major goals is to dramatically reduce the manual labor element thru the use of automation. We have been very fortunate to have a regular driver (Phil) who has serviced our residents extremely well. To keep Phil & all the drivers safe & healthy, the truck used for trash/recycling has an automated arm that can do the lifting of the toters. In addition, the truck utilized is a split-body vehicle designed to keep separate the trash from the recyclables.

Another change will relate to the use of stickers for trash that goes beyond the current allowable limit. Currently, we allow (4) 30-gallon bags maximum at curbside as part of the trash program, with additional bags requiring a \$3.00 sticker. Each additional trash bag may be on the ground, next to the Trash Toter, and the Trash Sticker needs to be easily visible to the Driver.

Moving forward, **all bags must be placed in a barrel that can be lifted by the automated arm on the truck.** Manual “throwing” of bags by the driver will be eliminated. A resident will still have the ability to put out roughly the same allowable limit of trash (120 gallons). The difference is that the bags must be placed in a barrel that can be lifted by the automated arm on the trash/recycle truck. For example, a household can put out (2) 65-gallon trash toters and that would be an acceptable pickup under the trash/recycle program. The excess trash bags may be on the ground, next to the Trash Toter. On the recycle side, (1) 65-gallon toter provided by E.L. Harvey will be the limit for a weekly pickup. **Please note, at least one trash toter being used MUST be the E.L. Harvey issued toter.**

Another major goal is to be better stewards of our environment by utilizing the recycle component of the program more effectively & efficiently. With the larger recycle toter being provided by E.L. Harvey, residents should experience more ease in collecting & storing the appropriate recyclable material.

From a general service perspective, your scheduled day for trash/recycle pickup will not change. Our regular driver (Phil) will still be taking care of our residents as he has done for the past five years. From a billing standpoint, bills will continue to go out in the usual cycles. As far as the cost increases previously mentioned, you can expect that the standard (non-Senior) rate will increase from the current \$296.00 annually to \$406.00 annually & the Senior rate will increase from \$148.00 annually to \$203.00 annually.

RATES FOR FY2024 TRASH/RECYCLING <sup>1</sup>	STANDARD RATE	SENIOR RATE
Cost per Week	\$7.81	\$3.90
Cost per Month	\$33.85	\$16.92
Cost per QTR (3 Months)	\$101.50	\$50.75
Bi-Annual (6 Months)	\$203.00	\$101.50
Cost per Year	\$406.00	\$203.00

In doing comparisons to what the cost would be if you were to utilize a private licensed hauler, the findings do indicate that it could be a bit more expensive or roughly the same, as opposed to utilizing the Town’s Subscriber Program. Given the unfortunate inflationary period that we have been in, costs are up on everything which has additionally fueled cost increases in all areas.

Additionally, certain private haulers may only be providing trash pick-up service & not providing recycle service. As such, a requirement will be part of the 2024 Trash Haulers Permit Application for those that wish to service Mendon to offer recycling services along with trash services.

To those of you that do participate, we hope you have found the service to be of good quality & if you are currently not a subscriber to the program, we hope you will consider doing so.

For any questions or concerns that you may have, please contact our office by phone, email or feel free to drop in to discuss as well.

Best Regards,

Mendon Board of Health

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<sup>1</sup> FY2024 Trash & Recycling Rates are for price comparison/breakdown only. The Town of Mendon invoices these rates on a Bi-Annual basis. (July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>).