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Willowbrook

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BRUSH COLLECTION FEE CLARIFICATION

We have received a number of inquiries regarding the brush pick-up fee that is now itemized on your Groot Industries service invoice and wanted to provide some clarity regarding the program.

The Village over the years has contracted a twice a year brush collection program for all single-family homes within the community. The program is funded through what is called a “pass-through” collection fee that was in our contracts with Republic Services and now Groot Industries.

The charge of \$4.35 fee is a “pass-through” fee that Groot Industries collects on behalf of the Village. The Village then applies that collected fee to pay a separate contractor to perform the twice a year brush collection program for the single-family homes. The fee charged for the program is charged to each single-family home per billing cycle.

The Village had the same program with Republic, although it was at a lower rate that did not cover the full cost of the program and it was not broken out as a separate item on your bill. Since the Village does not have a general property tax like our neighboring communities, this was the method chosen to fund this Village program.

As you may be aware, the contract with Republic Services expired this past July. With that in mind, the Village went out for competitive bid for refuse services to secure the best pricing for the quality service our residents expect. The Village received four proposals and Groot Industries coming in as the lowest bidder. They offer three different cart sizes in the contract so residents can determine which size best suits their needs and budget. As indicated in the chart below, the Village has received a better rate structure for the majority of the residents, depending on the size of the refuse & recycling cart that is used for the property. The comparisons are as follows:

| Cart Size for Refuse & Recycling | Republic Services Contract Ending 07/31/20 | Republic Services Bid | Groot Industries |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 95 Gallon | \$65.61 / Quarter | \$70.47 / Quarter | \$55.74 / Quarter |
| 65 Gallon | \$63.12 / Quarter | \$67.98 / Quarter | \$52.74 / Quarter |
| 35 Gallon | \$59.46 / Quarter | \$64.32 / Quarter | \$49.74 / Quarter |
| 35 Gallon - Senior | \$46.53 / Quarter | \$51.39 / Quarter | \$46.74 / Quarter |
| Village Brush Pick Up Program | \$2.16 / Quarter | \$4.35 / Quarter | \$4.35 / Quarter |

The updated \$4.35 brush collection fee covers the full cost of the twice a year brush collection program. The pricing achieved with the new Groot contract still provides an overall cost savings (95, 65 & 35 gallon services) to most of the residents. We are aware there are properties owners who do not partake in the program every spring and fall or some not at all; however, at this point the Village does not have an opt out method for this program. The brush program will be reviewed again at our next Municipal Services Committee meeting for possible enhancements for the 2021 season.



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