

Recycling may be discontinued for residents with medical waivers

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By CHRIS BOURNEA

ThisWeek Staff Writer

Residents with a medical exemption may have to start taking their recycling to the curb -- or stop recycling altogether.

For economic reasons, the city of Upper Arlington and its solid waste contractor, Inland Service Corp., can no longer afford to pick up recycling at the door for residents who have been granted a medical exemption, assistant city manager Joe Valentino reported at city council's meeting Monday night.

Valentino said the city is considering three options for residents with a medical exemption as the city enters the second year of its contract with Inland:

Residents can take recycling to the curb.

Residents can leave recycling at the door and it will be picked up as solid waste and disposed of.

Residents can stop recycling and mix in items they would normally recycle with the rest of their trash.

Valentino also suggested that residents could call Northwest Counseling Services to inquire whether the social service agency could offer assistance in taking recycling to the curb each week.

The city is no longer making money on recycling; recycling is now costing the city, said finance director Cathe Armstrong. Picking up recycling at the door for residents with medical exemptions is costly because a second Inland truck has to visit the residents' homes, whether the
cbournea@thisweeknews.com

residents leave out any recycling or not, Armstrong said.

"Two trucks are going to every house individually each week when half of them have nothing out at all," Armstrong said.

In other business Monday night, council authorized the city manager to enter into contract with Jess Howard Electric Co. to install lights at a Thompson Park baseball diamond at a cost of \$130,000. The expenditure is part of the Parks Capital Improvement Program.

Resident feedback was mostly positive at a public forum last July to discuss the plan to install lights at the baseball diamond, said parks and recreation director Tim Moloney.

"We had overwhelming support at that meeting for lighting this ball field," he said. "There are a few residents who've shown concern throughout this process. We've talked to each of them individually and most of them seem happy with this plan."

Gavin Lane resident Deborah Mendel said she thinks the lights will increase safety at Thompson Park and enable more youth to use the baseball diamond after dark.

"It seems like such a positive way to use that park," Mendel said.

Moloney said the parks and recreation department plans to install the lights in time for the spring baseball season.