



## Town of Florence, Wisconsin

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September 2023

### Regarding Florence-Spread Eagle Refuse (Garbage) Collection

Dear Town of Florence Property Owners,

This letter is an effort to keep property owners informed regarding an additional charge being added to your tax bills beginning in 2023.

The Town of Florence is required to transition to automated refuse collection (similar to how our recycling is picked up) and is currently requesting proposals for this service. The goal is to have it implemented by 01/01/24. This service uses a 95-gallon cart and is automated (picked up by the truck rather than a person). A 95-gallon cart can hold approximately 7-8 thirteen-gallon bags.

**This change will eliminate the ability to use and sell garbage stickers.** In the past, selling garbage stickers has funded approximately 70% of the yearly refuse collection expense, moving forward the town will collect this amount by assessing a “Special Charge” on tax bills properties with an improvement identified as being able to create refuse. While we don’t know the exact cost yet, the amount of the special charge will be determined by how many properties are identified and the cost of the service.

Contractor proposals for Refuse Collection are based on the number of containers (or stops made) and miles traveled. The Town is looking at several options in an effort to keep collection costs down and still provide residents the convenience of curbside service. Potential savings ideas the board is looking at include:

- Neighbors sharing a 95-gallon cart. Most people only have 1-2 bags of garbage per week, by sharing we eliminate the additional stops.
- Others residents may have access to a 300-gallon container to be shared.
- Other residents may have to deposit their refuse at a designated location.

We realize that many residents will not appreciate having to walk or travel to dispose of their garbage. Right now, these are just options we are looking at to try to keep the cost down.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Once the town begins this automated service with the 95-gallon cart, *any* trash not placed in a designated 95-gallon cart, will not be picked up. **All trash still needs to be bagged.**

We ask for your patience and cooperation as we work thru this process.

Respectfully,

Tim Bomberg, Chairman

