



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of February 21, 2009**

DATE: February 9, 2009

SUBJECT: Authorize the advertisement of a public hearing on March 26, 2009, on proposed increases to mulch delivery fees and the fee for curbside appliance pick-up and the proposed establishment of a new fee for brush and leaf deliveries by multi-family communities.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize advertisement of a public hearing on March 26, 2009, on proposed increases to mulch delivery fees and the fee for curbside appliance pick-up and the proposed establishment of a new fee for brush and leaf deliveries by multi-family communities.

ISSUE: Should the County increase fees for mulch deliveries and appliance pick-up and authorize a new fee for brush and leaf deliveries in order to capture the costs of delivering the services?

SUMMARY: Mulch deliveries are one of several citizen services the Arlington County Solid Waste Bureau provides to citizens on a request basis. In order to keep the cost of mulch deliveries 100 percent covered by the fees, it is necessary to increase the fees for delivery of 2.5 cubic yards (half load) of leaf mulch from fifteen dollars (\$15) to forty dollars (\$40); delivery of 5.0 cubic yards (full load) of leaf mulch from twenty five dollars (\$25) to fifty dollars (\$50); and delivery of 2.5 cubic yards (half load) of wood mulch from thirty dollars (\$30) to forty dollars (\$40). The fee for delivery of 5.0 cubic yards (full load) of wood mulch would remain fifty dollars (\$50).

Currently multi-family communities are permitted to bring brush and leaves to the Solid Waste Bureau at no cost while other counties in the region charge for this service. The Solid Waste Bureau recommends applying a thirty-two dollar (\$32) fee per ton for yard maintenance contractors of multi-family communities to dispose of/recycle their brush and leaves.

It is proposed that the appliance collection fee would be increased from \$20 to \$22 for the first item. The fee for collecting each additional appliance is \$10 per item and no change is proposed for this fee. Increased fees for the collection of metal would cover the overtime costs of approximately \$3,500 associated with this program. Without the fee increases, there will be delays in collection of material as a result of limiting the number of requests that can be

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Erik Grabowsky and Carolyn Gershfeld, DES

scheduled daily. A delay in metal collection has the potential for lost revenue as it would encourage more scavenging within the County. Delays in either service may lead to increases in illegal dumping.

BACKGROUND: The mulch delivery services are a popular service in Arlington County. The mulch made in Arlington County is also a very environmentally and sustainable activity whereby the Solid Waste Bureau collects leaves and brush from the citizens, processes them in the Earth Products Recycling Yard and turns the materials into leaf and wood mulch for citizens to use. This is a closed loop system keeping the materials grown and created in the County within the County. The current fee structure does not cover the cost of providing the service. The new fee structure addresses this issue.

Three years ago the Solid Waste Bureau started a pilot program to accept brush and leaves from multi-family communities. During that time the participation in this pilot program has grown. The fee recommended is consistent with what is charged regionally, but allows Solid Waste Bureau costs to be recovered.

The increase in metal charges allows the Solid Waste Bureau to maintain its current level of services. The added costs to cover overtime will allow us to provide collection services without imposing a daily service level restriction. Historically, all metal collection requests for a given service day were collected on the requested day. Without these additional funds, the bureau would have to limit the number of service tickets performed on a given day. The lack of additional funds would lead to service reductions, and possible increases in illegal dumping and scavenging.

DISCUSSION: None

FISCAL IMPACT: The proposed fee increases and new fee, which would collectively generate \$62,408, are included in the County Manager's FY 2010 Proposed Budget. Of this \$62,408, the mulch delivery fee increases would generate \$54,956, the appliance collection fee increase would generate \$3,500 and the new brush and leaf disposal fee would generate \$3,952.

Attachment A

THE COUNTY BOARD HEREBY RESOLVES that effective July 1, 2009, the fees listed below will be charged for programs and services of the Department of Environmental Services, Solid Waste Bureau.

Materials	Quantities	Current Prices	Proposed Prices
Leaf Mulch	2 ½ cubic yards	\$15.00	\$40.00
Leaf Mulch	5 cubic yards	\$25.00	\$50.00
Wood Mulch	2 ½ cubic yards	\$30.00	\$40.00
Wood Mulch	5 cubic yards	\$50.00	\$50.00
Brush & Leaves disposal	Per ton	\$0.00	\$32.00
Appliance Collection Fee	First item	\$20.00	\$22.00