

RAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM RAY TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR ERIC CRUMP

As summer is coming to an end, I hope this message finds you well. I'd like to share an important update regarding the future of waste and recycling services in our community.

Background

Since 2020, Ray Township has had a contract with GFL Environmental for trash and recycling services. That contract was set to run through 2025, with an option to extend. However, last year, GFL sold its residential operations to Priority Waste. Because of this sale, the existing pricing and terms will not carry forward. Rather than issuing a formal Request for Proposal (RFP), we evaluated options appropriately. The concern was that Priority Waste might be the only company to respond, and delaying action could lead to higher prices.

What We Found

Our outreach confirmed that the municipal waste hauling market is very limited. Other communities that issued RFPs received just one bid and it was from Priority Waste. We also contacted multiple vendors directly and received no additional interest. It became clear that having multiple companies in the Township could increase resident costs, wear down our roads faster, and complicate service oversight. These findings reflect larger industry trends: consolidation and rising operational costs have made competition scarce.

Industry Challenges

At our July 15, 2025, Board meeting, Priority Waste explained current challenges:

- Waste trucks now cost over \$150,000 more than they did in 2020
- Labor and insurance costs are up significantly
- Environmental compliance costs continue to grow

Moving Forward

After careful review, the Township plans to enter a new five-year contract with Priority Waste starting January 1, 2026:

- Trash Service: \$66.00 per unit per quarter (\$22/month or about \$5.50 per weekly pickup)
- Recycling: \$18.00 per unit per quarter (\$6/month)

The contract includes a 5% annual increase, in line with inflation.

Why It Matters

A single-hauler approach helps keep costs predictable, reduces road wear and traffic, and improves environmental efficiency. This is the most stable and cost-effective option available today.

Next Steps

We will continue to share updates through our website and newsletters. Thank you for your understanding and support as we work to provide essential services responsibly.

Have a wonderful Fall!