



The Village Voice

Special points of interest:

Solid Waste Levy Results

Cost Comparisons

Additional Resources

Q and A

Getting rid of so many trash trucks.

On the April 6, 2010 election, there was a ballot item for a solid waste levy. The goal of the levy was to pay for solid waste services that include trash pickup, recycling, yard waste and bulky item pickup. The levy did not pass by three votes. One of the concerns was yard waste pickup.

Since the April vote, additional information has been gathered. To take advantage of the favorable pricing that Kansas City receives, we would contract with [Town & Country Disposal](#). Town and Country offers yard waste removal services. Interested households would contact Town and Country and be billed separately for this service. *(See the article on the next page related to yard waste.)*

Town and County has special “trash trucks” with separate sections for trash and recyclables. This means only one “trash truck” coming through the village once a week.

The fees the Village would be charged per household are:

- Weekly trash pickup (with cart) – \$5.62 per house per month
- Weekly recycling pickup - \$2.30 per house per month

Residents would have access to additional services at reduced costs:

- Seven day dumpster rentals ranging from \$75 for 6 yard to \$320 for 40 yard
- Bulky item pickup five items for \$50 or one Freon item for \$20

Residents have access to the [Household Hazardous Waste facility](#) at 4707 Deramus (just south of the Chouteau bridge). They are open Thursday through Saturday. Call 816-513-8400 to set up a drop-off appointment.

Residents also have access to the [Regional Brush/Yard Waste Recycle Facility](#) at 4700 NE 76th Street (just north of Happy Rock Park). The costs range from \$1 for a bag to \$40 for a three-axle trailer.

Compare these prices to what you are currently paying.

The amount the village would have to collect for trash and recycling service for every home in the Village is \$5322.24 per year. As the Village has no means to collect monthly to pay for solid waste services, a solid waste levy is the only mechanism available. The Spring 2010 issue of the Village Voice contained details on how the levy would work. If you would like a copy, contact the Village Clerk by email at clerk@villageofoaks.org.

The April 2011 ballot will include the solid waste levy. Hopefully, any questions or concerns can be addressed. If you have any questions, please contact the Village Clerk or come to a Village Board of Trustees meeting held the second Monday of every month at the Oakview City Hall, 6404 N. Locust. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm. If approved, the new solid waste services would begin January 1, 2012.

The Village Voice is published for the benefit of the residents of the Village of Oaks, MO.

It is published four times a year (Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter).

To receive the Village Voice via email (to save on postage) or for questions, comments or suggestions send an email to clerk@villageofoaks.org.

Emergency contact numbers:
Sheriff - 407-3750
Fire/Ambulance - 436-3550
NKC Hospital - 691-2000
St. Luke's - 891-6000
Children's Mercy - 413-2500
Poison Control - 800-222-1222
Power Outage - 888-544-4852
Before You Dig - 800-DIG-RITE
Nat. Gas Leak - 800-582-0000
MODOT - 800-222-6400
Highway Patrol - 800-525-5555



Mulching Leaves

Mulching Grass

Composting

How it helps



Mulching leaves instead of bagging

You may have seen the commercial where they “brake the rake”. This commercial is touting the benefit of mulching leaves instead of raking and bagging. There is a good article at <http://www.grounds-mag.com>. The feature story covers information on the disposal of leaves in certain municipalities, the banning of leaf burning, the elimination of disposal of yard waste in landfills, and costs associated with the collection and disposal of leaves. The body of the article discusses research done at Michigan State University's Hancock Turfgrass Research Center. “The objectives were to determine if there were any negative effects of mulching tree leaves with a lawn mower and if adding a nitrogen supplement would enhance leaf-litter decomposition.” The study concluded that there were no negative effects of mulching the leaves into the turf and that the nitrogen treatments did not aid in the degradation of the leaf litter. Research clearly indicates that the practice of mulching leaf litter provides benefits for the soil and the grass. Additionally, increased nitrogen has an adverse effect in aquatic systems. Any mower will work as long as you reduce the leaf clutter to dime-size pieces. With multiple passes you can mulch up to 18 inches of leaf clutter. You'll know you're finished when about half an inch of grass can be seen through the mulched leaf layer.

Mulching grass instead of bagging

There is helpful information on mulching grass at the [Scotts company website](#). Like mulching leaves, mulching grass will return valuable nutrients to the lawn. Grass clippings contain the same beneficial nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium nutrients as synthetic fertilizer.

Keep your mower blade sharp and mow regularly at the recommended cutting height for your type of grass. Avoid mowing when the grass is wet. If the grass gets so long that mowing at your normal cutting height will remove more than one-third the length of the grass blades, raise the height on your mower. Mow once at the raised cutting height, then again in a different direction at the normal height.

Composting instead of bagging

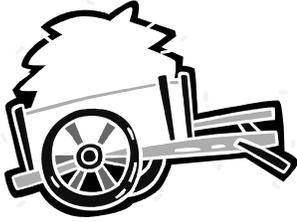
An alternative to mulching is composting. There are numerous websites explaining the types of compost bins, what can be composted, how to start a compost pile, the compost process and what to do to foster the process and what to look for when the composted material is ready to use. No need to send these organic components to the landfill.

How does my yard waste affect the Village?

There are several reasons why mulching and composting yard waste is important:

1. Leaves and grass that fill up ditches allows rain water and storm water to deteriorate the village roads. This is especially prevalent during Winter when the melting and freezing cycles can cause the most damage to our roads.
2. If grass and leaves do not need to be bagged, trash trucks that pick up the yard waste will not be in the village adding wear to the roads and unpleasant looking trash trucks through the village.
3. Any time and money that a resident can save could go into making yards even nicer with additional plantings.

Looking Good and Having Fun



A "Thank You" goes out to those folks in the Village who not only make their homes and yards look nice, but also keep our green spaces looking good. Your effort is greatly appreciated.

A special "Thank You" goes out to the Hicks family for taking the kids (and kids at heart) around the neighborhood on a straw-cover trailer on Halloween. Ryan said he plans to make this an annual Village event and will have a bigger trailer next year.

Your Tax Dollars at Work



Enclosed is the bi-annual financial statement for the Village. If you have questions about any of the expenditures, please attend the next Board of Trustees meeting.

Safety is Everyone's Business

As you may (or may not know), there have been break-ins in the Village of Oakwood. At their last board meeting, they invited an officer from the Clay County Sherriff's office. There were several recommendations such as street lights (which we already have), motion sensing lights on homes, keeping cars locked, and contacting the Sherriff's office if something does not look right. The officer also said that the economy is a factor in the increase in robberies.

The Oakwood Board of Trustees are considering what steps to take. The Oaks Board of Trustees is doing the same. In addition to informing residents to increase their awareness, we are researching a couple of different steps we can take:

1. Purchase and distribute static car stickers to each household to place on your vehicles as a way to identify the owner of the vehicle is a village resident.
2. Purchase a retired police car, put Village of Oaks identification on the side and take turns using it for a presence in the village.

Additional suggestions are welcome and encouraged.

If you do install or replace exterior lights, please direct them so they do not shine into the window of your neighbors.

Would you want to be a Trustee?

A mailing will be sent out next month, seeking those interested in being on the April ballot for a two-year term as a Village of Oaks Board of Trustees member. To be on the ballot, you have to a village resident for one year.

Thank you for financially supporting the Village

Enclosed is your personal property tax amount for the village. Please make your payment to the Village Clerk by 12/31/2010. Your personal property and real estate tax help pay for the services listed in the bi-annual financial statement.

Good and Fun

Bi-annual Financial

Safety

Being a Trustee

Supporting our village

