

# City renews garbage contract with TDS

## Recycling service to expand under new five-year agreement

By JOSH PHERIGO

Georgetown residents won't have to part ways any time soon with a company that has hauled their trash for more than a decade.

Texas Disposal Systems on Tuesday received a five-year contract extension from the city council that expands services and continues a 15-year relationship between the city and the Travis County-based company. Staff recommended the extension after a months-long bidding process that drew offers from six area competitors.

TDS edged the competition, Assistant City Manager Jim Briggs said, by providing a proposal that meets the city's request for additional services at a low cost.

"Our customers will not see a change in the provider for these services," Mr. Briggs said. "That is definitely a benefit. We've heard from the customers and the customers like the level of service they've been getting from the provider."

The contract includes single stream recycling, a new service that replaces the small residential recycling bins currently used by Georgetown homeowners with a 96-gallon cart. Single stream also allows residents to recycle most types of plastics and cardboard, a service that hadn't previously been available.

"We are trying to convince everyone that recycling is good," said Kathy Ragsdale, director of environmental and conservation services.

The new services will also include providing a 96-gallon container for solid waste. Pick-ups for solid waste will happen every week and pick-ups for recycling will happen every other week.

The contract finalizes a process that had been ongoing since last fall, when council members declined to option for a renewal of TDS' contract. Instead, council members directed city staff to conduct an open bidding process to evaluate companies competitively and insure that the city was receiving a good deal.

That process resulted in a recommendation in favor of TDS.

City council gave the go ahead for staff to begin negotiations with TDS at a meeting in June. Dozens of residents attended that meeting, praising the waste company for its sustainable landfill, the friendliness of its employees and the company's philanthropic efforts in the community.

On Tuesday, council members echoed those sentiments in a unanimous vote for approval.

"I just want to challenge the City of Georgetown to see this as an opportunity to really get green and reduce our waste footprint," Councilwoman Rachael Jonrowe said. "My family of five puts out our trash every other week, and I know that if we can do it anyone can do it."

City officials said the con-

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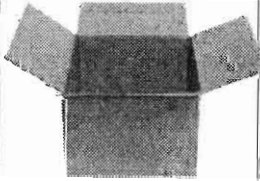
**Rachael Jonrowe**  
Councilwoman

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tract is worth \$20 million. Mr. Briggs said city staff negotiated the price down from the original June proposal by \$300,000. The new services are expected to begin October 1.

# CURBSIDE RECYCLING

**R**ecycling changes are on the way. Georgetown is moving to a single-stream recycling program beginning this fall. Full-size carts will replace the 18-gallon bins at residential homes. Customers will also be allowed to recycle a wider range of materials from home. Here are a few of them:

	<b>PLASTICS 1</b> Clear plastic bottles: Soda bottles, water bottles.	<b>Now:</b> Yes <b>October 1:</b> Yes
	<b>PLASTICS 2</b> Colored plastic: milk jugs, butter tubs, detergent bottles.	<b>Now:</b> Yes <b>October 1:</b> Yes
	<b>PLASTICS 3-7</b> Kitchen wrap, most shampoo bottles, plastic bags, juice boxes.	<b>Now:</b> No <b>October 1:</b> Yes
	<b>CARDBOARD</b> Cereal boxes, frozen dinner containers,	<b>Now:</b> No <b>October 1:</b> Yes

Veronica Rosalez