

Dear Citizens:

Your Council members & I have been working diligently on a new waste disposal contract for several months. After accepting bids & interviewing the surrounding cities we have agreed to a new contract with Royal Disposal from Fulshear Tx.

The cost of fuel has dramatically increased over the last 24 months & landfill costs have steadily increased. We have been fortunate to keep our rates for trash pickup down for several years. Our new rates for waste disposal beginning in July will be \$24.00 per month. This is in line with the surrounding cities who have signed new contracts. Our contract with Century Disposal ended as of May 8th 2008. As part of our agreement with the new vendor we asked that the old rates to be honored until July 1, 2008. This allowed us time to communicate with you & explain the changes.

Your Council members & I are committed to keeping our rates as low as possible while not sacrificing the quality of the service. Do not hesitate to ask questions or attend a council meeting if we can answer any questions or address your concerns. While we do not expect anyone to like the rate change I hope this letter provides some explanation.

Attached you will find the guidelines for residential waste pick up. Please take some time to read through it. I will not address any of the guidelines in this letter but you are more than welcome to call one of the council members or myself for any clarification. **OUR NEW SERVICE DAY FOR TRASH PICK UP WILL BE WENDSDAY STARTING ON 06-18-2008** (the rate change will begin in July)

One of our goals is to improve our communication with the citizens of Orchard. From time to time we will send out a news letter to keep you informed of changes & update you on events that will impact the city. For those of you that have access to the internet, we have just put up a website for the city. The URL is www.orchardtexas.org you will find our current agendas & minuets of our meetings, as well as past years meetings & agendas. You will also find photos of events & improvements to the city. In a few weeks you will be able to sign up for a newsletter that will be sent to you electronically with news about orchard.

I would also like to point out that the council raised the over 65 exemption from \$3000 to \$10,000. You should see this on your 2008 city taxes. I look forward to sending out more newsletters in the future with news about our city.

Rod Pavlock
Mayor City of Orchard
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