

## MIDDLETOWN

# Township maintains twice-a-week trash pickups

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Middletown residents will continue to get twice-a-week trash pick ups under a new one-year \$4.3 million contract with Waste Management approved unanimously by the township supervisors at Monday night's meeting.

The contract starts Jan. 1. It was approved on the stipulation that trash not picked up on a Monday holiday be picked up the next day.

Township engineer Herb Gery said the contract doesn't require Waste Management to do that, so he will have to contact company officials to see if they are agreeable. Any change that might make in the terms of the contract would have to be brought back before the supervisors for their consideration, township solicitor Mike Savona said.

Half of the township is on a Monday and Thursday pick up schedule while the other half is Tuesdays and Fridays. Supervisor Kathy Heuer said it wasn't fair to the Monday and Thursday residents to miss so many pick ups during the year because of Monday holidays.

The new contract will increase the yearly per-household cost \$54, from \$304 to \$358. The supervisors had the option to go with once-a-week pick ups, but with a perhousehold yearly cost of about \$333, that would have saved residents only about \$25.

Supervisors Heuer, Robert McMonagle and George Leonhauser said their e-mails and other feedback from residents overwhelmingly favored staying with twice a week pick ups. The township goes out to bid and then enters into a contract with one waste hauler because it saves residents money in comparison to residents having to arrange for their own garbage collection. "This is just a pass-through cost," said McMonagle. "Many residents incorrectly view this as a tax from us." The township has the option to renew the contract at the end of 2009 and 2010, said