

## MIDDLETOWN

## Township eyes weekly trash collection option

*The once-a-week trash pickup is designed to lessen the increase in cost to residents.*

**BY CHRIS ENGLISH**  
**STAFF WRITER**

Middletown is considering going from two to one trash pickup a week to save residents some money under a proposed new contract with Waste Management, it was announced at Monday night's township supervisors meeting.

Under the proposed oneyear deal, which would kick in Jan. 1, each township household would pay about \$358 for trash collection in 2009 if twice-a-week pickups were maintained. Dropping to one pickup would save each household about \$25 a year.

Either option would be a fairly hefty increase over this year's \$304 cost. The board is scheduled to make a decision at the Dec. 8 meeting and would like feedback from residents in the meantime.

Supervisor Chuck Thompson said going to one pickup a week probably wouldn't be a big hardship for township residents.

"It seems like I hardly see any cans out on the second pickup day of the week," he said.

If the board decides on once-a-week pickups, Monday collections would be eliminated so that residents wouldn't lose so many trash collection days because of holidays, township officials said.

Supervisor Kathy Heuer said it was a shame bids for the new contract had to be submitted several weeks ago, when gas prices were about \$2 a gallon more than they are now.

"We set this up as a oneyear contract instead of multiple years because we didn't want to lock in for several years at a price that was too high," said township solicitor Mike Savona.

Anyone who wants to comment on the proposed trash contract can e-mail Supervisors Chairman Robert McMonagle at or Heuer at .  
Chris English can be reached at 215-949-4193 or .