

Frequently Asked Questions

What can I do to help?

The best question! Here are some thoughts.

Email or call the City Council, and tell them that you support ROCKTRASH's proposal for optional, once-per-week trash service at a discount. Below is a link to their email addresses and phone numbers, and to the schedule of City Council meetings. Speaking at one of the bi-monthly Citizen's Forums is an excellent way to make your views known directly to the Council members. It's fun and effective! <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/government/mc/index.htm>

We plan to try to arrange for people to meet as a group with Council members. Email Art if you can participate.

Allow us to add your name to the list of residents who support and participate in ROCKTRASH.

Let us know what you are hearing in the community. Send us questions or information that might interest all of us.

Help improve the website by lending your web skills.

Suggestions/comments are always welcome.

Who created ROCKTRASH?

Art Stigile is the founder. Art is a budget analyst and branch chief at the Federal Office of Management and Budget in the Executive office of the President, where he has worked since 1984.

Art and his wife, Jin Zhou, and stepson, Cary Zhou, live at 312 W Edmonston Dr, Rockville, MD 20852. His three kids from his first marriage, Artie, Rob, and Jessica, live with their Mom in Silver Spring.

You can email Art at art@rocktrash.org

Is ROCKTRASH affiliated with the Rockville City Government?

No. ROCKTRASH is a community network of Rockville residents.

Will you use my email address for any purpose other than ROCKTRASH business?

Nope. For now, ROCKTRASH is pursuing the single goal of convincing the City Council to approve optional, once-per-week trash service at a discount. If the mission changes substantively over time, we'll give you a heads up so that you can decide if you want to continue to be affiliated with ROCKTRASH.

What does it cost to be a member?

Just the amount of time that contribute to the effort.

How can I add my name to the ROCKTRASH mailing list?

Send an email with the address of the email account where you wish to receive email to mail@rocktrash.org. In the subject field, say "add me".

How do I un-subscribe to ROCKTRASH?

I'm sad to hear that you want to un-subscribe. Send an email to mail@rocktrash.org and include "unsubscribe" in the subject field. I would greatly appreciate it if you would also take a moment to explain why you have decided to unsubscribe. And if you ever reconsider, we would gladly add you back to the mailing list.

How much does Rockville currently charge for trash service?

\$31 per month. The City estimates that the cost will almost double to \$61 per month, if no changes are made to the current system.

The current trash system isn't broken, what are you trying to fix?

It may not be broken, but it certainly could benefit from a look under the hood. Our trash burden will continue to grow as Rockville grows, and the cost of trash removal will grow with it, unless we change the way we do business. We need a system that encourages much greater recycling and makes us all more aware of the costs that our trash places on the system.

Optional, once per week service at a discount is a small but significant change that will encourage us to economize on trash service. Think about this for a second. We are a Nation of shoppers, a Nation of bargain hunters. If someone asks, “new shoes or new dress,” we respond, “yes, and I got it for a steal – 50% off!”

We would apply that same zeal for a bargain to our trash service, if we are allowed to cut back to once-per-week pickup at a discount. For a large percentage of us, the urge to economize would be irresistible. The result would be a fairer and cheaper system, greater recycling, and less pollution from the trucks.

Isn't once-per-week pickup an inferior service?

Probably for some people. We all have different preferences.

However, we have information on the issue. The 776 households who participated in the pilot experienced once-per-week service for the past year. Of the 358 households who responded, 95% rated collection quality either “excellent” or “good,” and 93% were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the pilot program.

Citywide implementation of the pilot program was recommended by 82% of those responding. Only 6% said they would not recommend the program be expanded citywide, and 11% percent expressed no opinion.

Won't cost twice-per-week service cost more than the current system?

Yes. But the price will reflect the full cost of your choice for twice the service. If the additional service is worth the additional price to you, then ROCKTRASH thinks you should be able to buy the additional service.

However, there's no justification for requiring residents who are happy with once-per-week pickup to subsidize your service. It's no different than paying for other services, like water and sewer, electricity and gas, swimming at the Rockville Swim

Center, or playing a round at Rockville's Red Gate Golf Course. You pay for the level of service consumed by your family.

Isn't trash service like schools, where families can send all of their kids without having to pay an extra fee for each child?

No. Trash removal is not like schools, where everyone is taxed to pay for the education of all students.

Tax-funded education furthers the public purpose of providing equal opportunity for all kids to get a quality education no matter what their family circumstances. Without tax-funded education, many kids would get an inferior education simply because they were born to poorer or larger families. It is our civic and our moral responsibility to tax the community to provide a quality education to all kids, so that all of them have a chance to succeed.

Trash removal has none of these characteristics. Instead, it's like water, gas, electricity, swimming at the pool, or playing golf at a public golf course, where we pay for what we consume. Taxing some residents to subsidize the trash service for other residents does nothing to further the public purpose.