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New landfill fees

Thursday, December 8, 2005

The following was submitted by the Wayland Board of Health:

Despite the passage of the fiscal year 2006 override at last April's Town Meeting, two landfill accounts each suffered a 38 percent decrease in funding - one account for the disposal of waste wood items (mostly construction debris) and a second account for the disposal of waste ban items (electronics, tires, oil, etc.).

The Board of Health attempted to make the necessary cuts, with the least impact on services, by limiting the collection days for these items. Previous experience showed that when the number of collection days was limited, residents found other disposal alternatives. The board particularly hoped this change would lead residents undertaking building or remodeling projects to rent an individual dumpster to dispose of their construction debris.

Unfortunately, this pilot program did not produce the intended savings. Consequently, the board reluctantly announces that a "pay-as-you-throw" program will be implemented for six types of large electronics effective Jan. 1, 2006. Specifically, there will be a \$25 charge to dispose of each refrigerator, air conditioner, dehumidifier, computer, computer monitor and television. Collection days for these and other waste ban items will continue to be limited to the first Saturday of every month.

Residents will need to purchase a coupon for \$25 at the landfill trailer. Coupons will be available during regular public landfill operation and may be purchased at the time of disposal. Residents without landfill stickers will pay the \$35 single trip fee along with the \$25 per item. Payments should be made by check payable to "Town of Wayland."

After increasing the landfill sticker fee, the board had hoped to be able to make it through this fiscal year without further changes. However, the significant budget cut, combined with the increased cost of disposal for items the landfill is mandated to accept, left us little choice. It was hard to justify continuing without charge when virtually all of the surrounding towns have implemented some form of a pay-as-a-you-throw program for these items.

The board appreciates the support of residents, particularly sticker holders, for the landfill and their understanding during these difficult financial times for the town. Please be assured that the Board of Health is actively seeking the most cost-effective alternatives for solid waste and recyclable disposal.

For more information, contact the landfill at 508-358-7910 or the Health Department at 508-358-3617.

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