

# **Attention: Rutledge Residents and Property Owners**

## **PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT SANITATION NOTICE**

### **NEW TRASH AND RECYCLING GUIDELINES**

Dear Residents and Property Owners,

On 11/4/24, the Rutledge Borough council voted to approve a two-year trash contract with a new hauler, SEM Waste, whose bids were significantly lower than those of the competitors. This change results in overall reduction in trash fees, year over year, for our community. Along with this comes some adjustments to our sanitation collection and we truly appreciate your patience as we transition into a new kind of trash service.

#### **About SEM:**

SEM Waste is a Delaware based company with routes in Delaware County and other Pennsylvania municipalities. All SEM vehicles have a camera system which can record and report on truck status, geolocation and route status along with tablets to report and capture information regarding contaminated recyclables, oversized bulk items, and trash at the curb.

#### **Here is a summary of changes to which you can look forward:**

1. SEM will be providing a set of two 96-gallon receptacles hereafter referred to as “**toters**” to each residence after our final collection from our previous hauler on December 30th, 2024. This initial pair of receptacles will be provided free of charge.
  - a. Starting the afternoon of December 30th, please expect to see these toters left at the end of your driveway.
  - b. One toter with a Blue Lid will be for Trash, and the other, with an Orange Lid, will be for recycling.
  - c. If you prefer a smaller can, you can request a 65 gallon toter instead. However, initially, all residents will be given the 96-gallon toters.
  - d. If you inconsistently have more trash than will fit in the 96-gallon toter, residents can place additional waste in their own container which cannot weigh more than 40 pounds. **No loose trash or recyclables will be collected by SEM.**
  - e. If you consistently have more trash than fits in a single toter, an additional one can be purchased through SEM at a cost of \$75.
  - f. If a toter is broken by SEM, they will replace it at no charge. If you break your toter through irregular use or damage, it will be your responsibility to purchase a replacement.
  - g. These trash toters will be returned to SEM if the borough chooses not to renew the contract.

2. Both trash and recycling will be picked up on Mondays, beginning on 1/6/25.
  - a. SEM Waste will collect trash first and then return for recyclables.
  - b. **Please note: Contaminated recycling totes will not be collected for recycling. Any recycling can that is contaminated with food waste/or recycling in plastic bags, will be tagged with a sticker and set aside for residents to correct/fix until the next trash/recycling collection.**
3. SEM will collect all plastics numbers #1, 2, 3, 5, & 7. Additional details are found on the attached flier.
4. **Yard waste** will continue to be collected monthly on the First Friday. For the months of June through November, we will have a second collection on the 3rd Friday. Yard waste will still be taken to Delco Mulch, which means all accepted materials will remain the same,
  - a. Residents can use their existing cans and brown lawn and leaf bags for yard waste.
  - b. **No plastic bags and no grass clippings.**
  - c. Branches should be not more than 4' in length and those that do not fit into a can should be bundled with twine.
5. **Bulk trash:** SEM will collect one bulk trash item each week. To assist SEM in planning their pickup, residents are asked to contact them, by telephone, before 12PM on the Friday before collection with details on the item that will be placed out for trash.
  - a. **Use this number to call SEM: 1-302-832-8000 between 8 am to 5 pm.**
  - b. While this is another change from our past practices, it is common practice for Delaware County boroughs to request residents to notify them ahead of time regarding the bulk items for pick up.

While the change in our provider results in a lower trash fee year over year for Rutledge, we are aware that this will take some time to adjust to this process and SEM will be flexible as we begin the new service. Please do not hesitate to reach out with feedback.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we begin this transition.

Thank you,

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