

What You Need to Know

Alley Refuse & Recycling Service in Government Hill

This is a Pilot Project

Traditionally, Government Hill has received refuse collection in its alleys. Our neighborhood had been scheduled to transition to automated curbside (street side) refuse and recycling pickup. Government Hill Community Council (GHCC) opposed this transition for logistical and aesthetic challenges posed by the change. The GHCC joined with several other community councils to form the Save Our Alleys Task Force (SOATF) to work with Solid Waste Services (SWS) to preserve services alleys. After hearing from the SOATF, and with support from Assembly members, Elvi Gray-Jackson and Dick Traini, SWS has agreed to a one-year pilot project to initiate service in the alleys of Rogers Park, Fairview and Government Hill, where pickup occurs in alleys. During this time, SWS will record issues they encounter in alleys and will meet quarterly with GHCC representatives to review challenges and successes. After one year, the program will be reviewed and either extended, made permanent, or cancelled.

The Timeline

During the summer of 2013, SWS will mail information to residents about the transition to automated pickup. In late summer, members of the GHCC will organize an alley clean-up day with SWS. This will be an opportunity for residents to dispose of alley obstacles at no cost. In the fall of 2013, SWS will deliver the new roll carts (and dispose of old cans and racks, if you wish) and begin automated pickup.

Alley Resident Roles and Responsibilities

The new roll carts and trucks require a specific operating radius, and if clearances aren't met, then refuse pickup won't occur. At times, alley residents may be called upon, either collectively or individually, to address alley access issues. See the attached brochure developed by SWS for more information about common obstacles that impede collection in the alleys and for resources to deal with obstacles. This summer is an excellent time to evaluate the condition of your alley and remove obstacles.