

Dear City Manager:

What is going on with curbside brush pickup? Some say it's been free, others say there is a charge, some say the City does it, some say it's the garbage company. Can you please explain?

Thank you for your question. Curbside brush pick-up has always been performed by our trash company if the limbs are bundled and tied and placed with your trash. The brush must be four-foot lengths or less, tied or secured in a bundle of no more than 18 inches in diameter, or less, and weighing 50 pounds, or less. There is a charge of \$22.72 per cubic yard charged by the garbage company.

Over the last year, the city has been picking up free of charge, as an extension to the courtesy pick up after Hurricane Nicholas, why you ask? Well, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality shut down the county brush drop-off site and they prohibited us from accepting any more at our dump site located by the old pet pals building by the airport on Buffalo Rd. To help alleviate this issue, we would go around town and pick up the brush and dispose of it for citizens. The no-cost situation expired this calendar year, in January, as we could not continue to pick up for free. How it worked was if a resident placed a brush on the side of the road, our crews would estimate the amount and cost and a representative would call the property owner prior to picking them up to alert them of the cost that would be added to the water bill. Again, we can no longer do this for free, and recommend the use of our burn site.

Fast forward to today, we now have the Matagorda County/City of Palacios Brush Burn Site located on the outskirts of town past the airport going towards Port Lavaca. The site is open:

2nd and 4th Friday of every month from 8 to 4. And the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10-2.

Friday Hours: 8AM – 4PM

No loads accepted after 3PM

Saturday Hours: 10AM – 2PM

No loads accepted after 1PM

Because of this site, we will no longer be picking up brush on the side of the road for citizens, if we have a storm, then we will reassess the situation at that time. If you have brush to dispose of, you can either bundle it according to the rules mentioned above or bring it to the brush dump site when it is open.

Thank you for your efforts in cleaning up our town and understanding the new processes. We understand it can get confusing, please watch the newspaper, our website, and Facebook for updates and changes to the way we do business.

During the burn ban we may need to reduce the amount we receive, but once we can burn this restriction will be lifted.