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Letters for Nov. 24: Chesapeake officials should restore curbside recycling services

Letter writers comment on curbside recycling in Chesapeake, the health of the Chesapeake Bay, the future of the Newport News airport and parking at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront.



Billy Schuerman/The Virginian-Pilot

Chesapeake voters defeated a city referendum on Nov. 5 that would restored curbside recycling services by charging a \$10 monthly fee. (Billy Schuerman/The Virginian-Pilot)

By **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** | The Virginian-PilotUPDATED: November 24, 2024 at 9:05 AM EST

Recycling

For more than two years, Chesapeake Recycles lobbied Chesapeake City Council to reinstate curbside recycling using a fraction of the \$160 million surplus logged last year. More than 13,000 emails were sent to City Council. Hundreds of volunteer hours were contributed to the effort. Many of current City Council members campaigned on reinstating the program.

Nothing has been done. Politicians chose to use the referendum process to kick the issue down the road once again. To add insult to injury, they added a fee of \$120 per year.

Exit polling showed overwhelming support for the program, but citizens felt they should not have to endure an additional “tax.” The recycling tax of \$120 per year is equivalent to 28 gallons of milk, 48 loaves of bread, 38 gallons of gas or 3.5 months of insulin medication. The citizens didn’t vote against recycling. They voted against an additional tax.

There is hope. The three council members elected Nov. 5 — Debbie Ritter, Les Smith and Pat King — were all endorsed by Chesapeake Recycles and have pledged to work to bring the program back. It’s our hope that the curbside recycling program will be reinstated in the next budget cycle and without a fee to the citizens.

Dawn Matheson, Chesapeake

Bay health

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