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A Waste Management truck travels its route June 20 in DeKalb.

DeKALB

Trash changeover details coming

By **DREW ZIMMERMAN**
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DeKALB – DeKalb Public Works Director Tim Holdeman said he hopes to shore up details on the transition from Waste Management to Lakeshore Recycling Systems as the city's waste hauler in the next couple of weeks.

The DeKalb City Council approved the Morton Grove-based company, which came in as the lowest bid for a new waste removal contract, at its June 25 meeting, a move that earned the ire of Waste Management employees and DeKalb residents.

Holdeman said a Waste Management contractor will pick up existing totes on the company's last day of local service.

A few days before that, Lakeshore contractors will distribute new totes to customers.

"There will always be a tote for people to put their refuse and recyclables in," Holdeman said.

Holdeman added that there soon will be a web portal on Lakeshore's website where customers can identify what size refuse and recycling containers they want.

Lakeshore will charge about \$15.58

for base-rate services, plus household hazard waste and e-waste services starting Sept. 1, compared with Waste Management's \$16.90.

During subsequent contract negotiations, Lakeshore agreed to reduce the price for street sweeping roll-offs from \$18 to \$11 a cubic yard. It also will provide the city with an annual credit of \$25,000 to cover any additional services requested by the city.

Waste Management's current contract expires Aug. 31. Holdeman said Lakeshore's first pickup will be Labor Day weekend, which means collections will be pushed back one day.

Sycamore history museum names new director

By **KATIE FINLON**
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SYCAMORE – The Midwest Museum of Natural History will be getting a new executive director Saturday.

Jessica Landau, who lives in Brookfield and will be commuting to Sycamore, has been selected as the museum's new executive director. The announcement comes after the previous director accepted a job in Washington, D.C., in April.

Landau comes in with more than 10 years of museum experience – which includes fundraising, educational pro-

gramming and curatorial work – and her last day as lead instructor at the Wildwood Nature Center in Park Ridge is Friday. She also curated several exhibits as the associate curator at the Brinton Museum in Big Horn, Wyoming.

What attracted Landau to the Sycamore museum was its "impressive collection," and not only because of the museum's size, she said.

"Even just the outside of the building, I immediately fell in love with it," Landau said.

Landau received her master's degree from the University of Glasgow, where she examined taxidermy in the Victo-

rian and Edwardian periods. Her knowledge specialties include natural history and the way animals are depicted in images and objects.

While executive director at the museum, Landau will continue her doctoral studies in art history at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

She said she looks forward to combining her experience as curator, educator and fundraiser in her time as executive director.

"I'm just really excited and looking forward to getting to know Sycamore and the museum and the greater DeKalb area, as well," Landau said.

DeKALB COUNTY

Companies invest \$67M in enterprise zone

By **KATIE FINLON**
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SYCAMORE – Companies that came into the DeKalb County enterprise zone have invested \$67 million in new construction, renovation and rehab since the zone was certified in 2016, said Paul Borek, executive director for the DeKalb County Economic Development Corp.

Borek said the DeKalb County enterprise zone has brought in 26 projects since the

zone was certified a year and a half ago. Of those 26 projects, 12 were manufacturing and industrial, 10 were commercial and mixed commercial use, two were professional services, and two were contractors.

"All in all, I think we've had a significant amount of activity; in particular, considerable expansion and development and notable business attractions," Borek said.

An enterprise zone's purpose is to encourage economic development in a geographical area by offering property tax incentives to new businesses and industrial developments.

DeKalb County, the cities of DeKalb, Sycamore, Genoa and Sandwich, the town of Cortland and the village of Waterman all are units of government that are part of the enterprise zone. The original participating taxing bodies within the zone were DeKalb School District 428, DeKalb Township, the Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District, DeKalb Public Library, Sycamore Public Library, Kishwaukee College, Genoa-Kingston School District 424 and Indian Creek School District 425.

Other taxing bodies have joined the enterprise zone since 2017, including Genoa Township, the Genoa Public Library and, most recently, Sycamore School District 427.

Overall, Borek said, the enterprise zone has increased visibility and competitiveness business-wise for the county and attracting new investments, such as the Toyota-Mazda manufacturing plant that DeKalb County dropped out of the running for in 2017.

"We would not have been a finalist for that project had we not been part of the enterprise zone," Borek said.



Paul Borek