

## Trash cart thefts prompt city to ask for residents' help

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The adage that one man's trash is another man's treasure seems to be true in Port Washington, where thieves have recently targeted the garbage and recycling carts used by residents.

Thieves have been stealing the green 95-gallon carts residents use to collect trash and recyclables and haul it to the curb for pickup.

City officials said five carts have been stolen in recent weeks. Two cases have been reported to police, most recently the theft of a recycling bin from a West Grand Avenue home on Tuesday, April 2.

"I guess they're nice containers," Police Chief Kevin Hingiss said, chuckling. "I don't know where they're going. I have no idea why people are taking them."

The carts, which cost \$70 each, are owned by Advanced Disposal, the city's refuse contractor.

The city is asking residents to record the serial numbers on their carts — they can be found on the front of the bins — and report them to the Department of Public Works. That way, if Advanced Disposal crews see an extra bin somewhere or one is found along a country road, for example, officials can compare numbers and determine where the cart belongs.

The numbers will also help residents whose carts are stolen save a little money.

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That's because starting May 1, residents whose carts are stolen will be charged to replace them unless they or the city have recorded the serial numbers.

For more information or to register the serial numbers, call Judy Klumb at 284-2600. The numbers may also be e-mailed to her at [jklumb@ci.port-washington.wi.us](mailto:jklumb@ci.port-washington.wi.us).