

CITY OF CLEARWATER NEXTDOOR REPORT

ORIGINAL POST

APRIL 14, 2020



Clearwater: Trash & Recycling Service Changes

Hello, neighbors! Everyone at the city of Clearwater hopes you are staying healthy, practicing social distancing, and taking care of yourself and your families.

We have received several comments and questions about the city's trash and recycling services, so we hope this communication helps answer your questions. In response to the city of Clearwater's declaration of a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been some changes to the city's trash and recycling collection services:

RECYCLING SERVICE

- Collected recyclables are being rerouted to the Pinellas County Waste-to-Energy Plant until further notice. The city apologizes for the inconvenience.
- Residents may see brown or white solid waste or recycling trucks picking up solid waste and recycling collections.
- Residents are asked to place only trash/garbage in black barrels, and the blue barrels are reserved for recyclables only.

YARD WASTE

- Yard waste and bulk item collection is now suspended until further notice. This collection has been deemed a non-essential city service, and this change is due to reduced staffing and adherence to CDC guidelines.
- Residents are asked to refrain from trimming trees and creating unnecessary yard waste debris at this time.
- For customers who don't want to wait for the city to resume yard waste collection, residents can self-haul and self-unload their yard waste at Pinellas County Solid Waste Department. The county is waiving the \$3 per car and \$10 per pickup truck fee for yard waste disposal. Larger vehicles will pay \$39.75 per ton. The facility is located at 3095 114th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL, and can be reached at (727) 464-7500. Accepted forms of payment include credit cards only; no cash.

(more)

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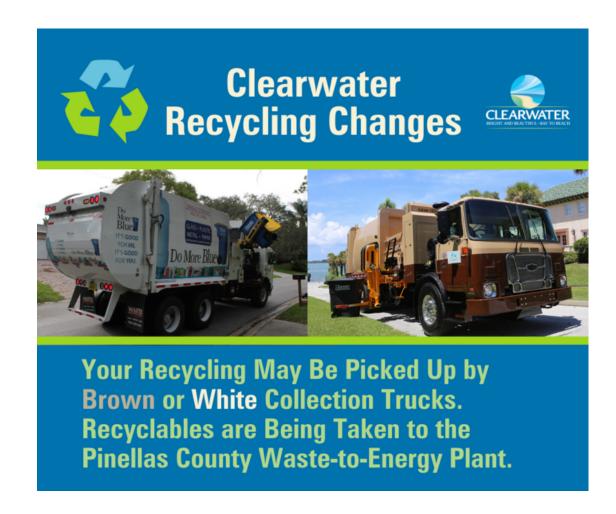


Clearwater: Trash & Recycling Service Changes

SOLID WASTE/TRASH COLLECTION

• Solid waste crews will continue to provide residential and commercial solid waste collection, as well as residential & multi-family blue-barrel collection.

For questions about the city's response to COVID-19 (which also includes information about solid waste collections), visit myclearwater.com/covid19. There is a tab for "Solid Waste & Recycling Collection Changes," and updates are also listed on the Solid Waste/Recycling page, or you can call the Solid Waste Operations Line at (727) 562-4920. Thanks, and stay safe!



REACTIONS













Thanks: 25

Like: 0

Agree: 0

Haha: 0

Wow: 0

Sad: 0

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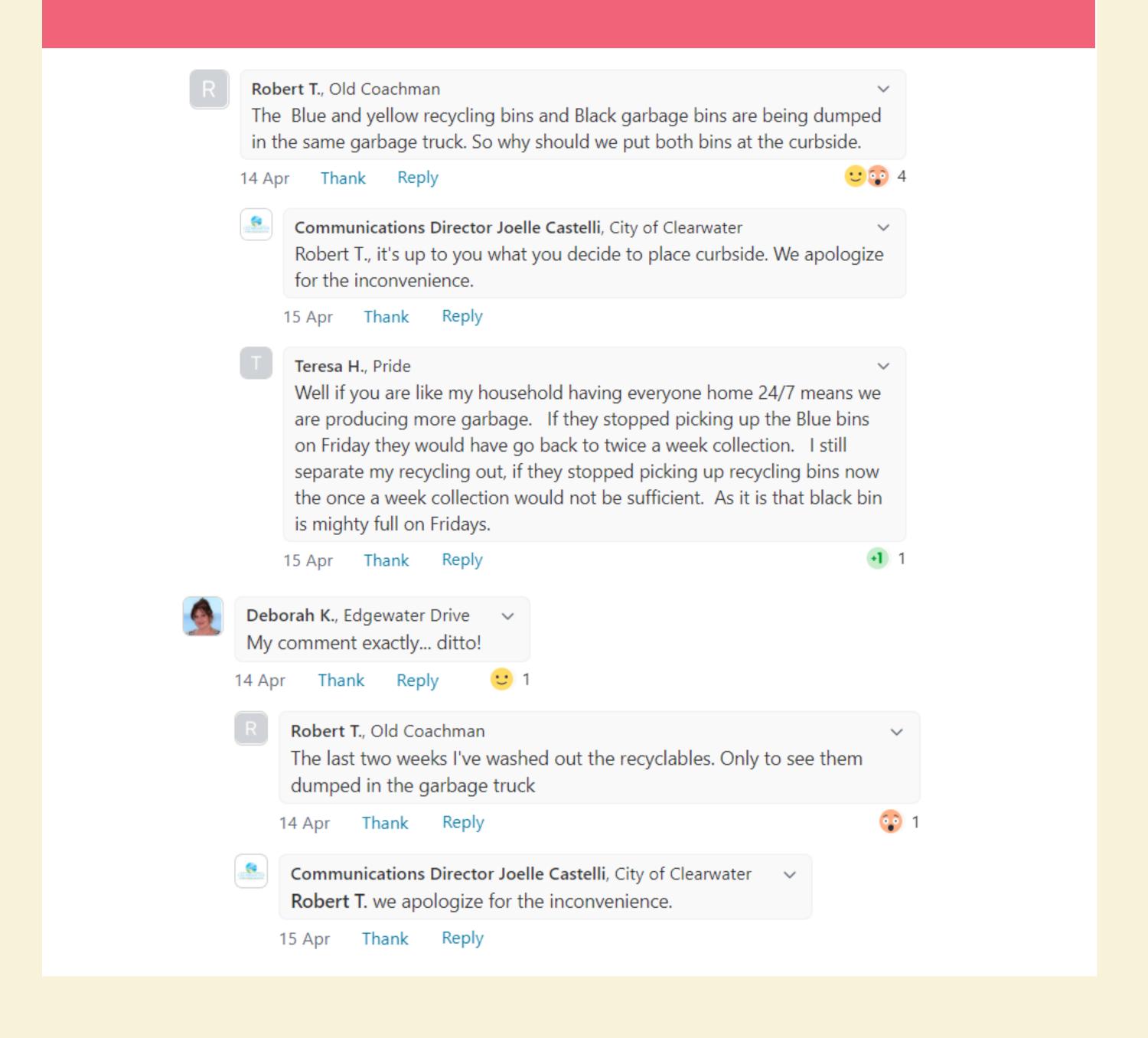
REACH

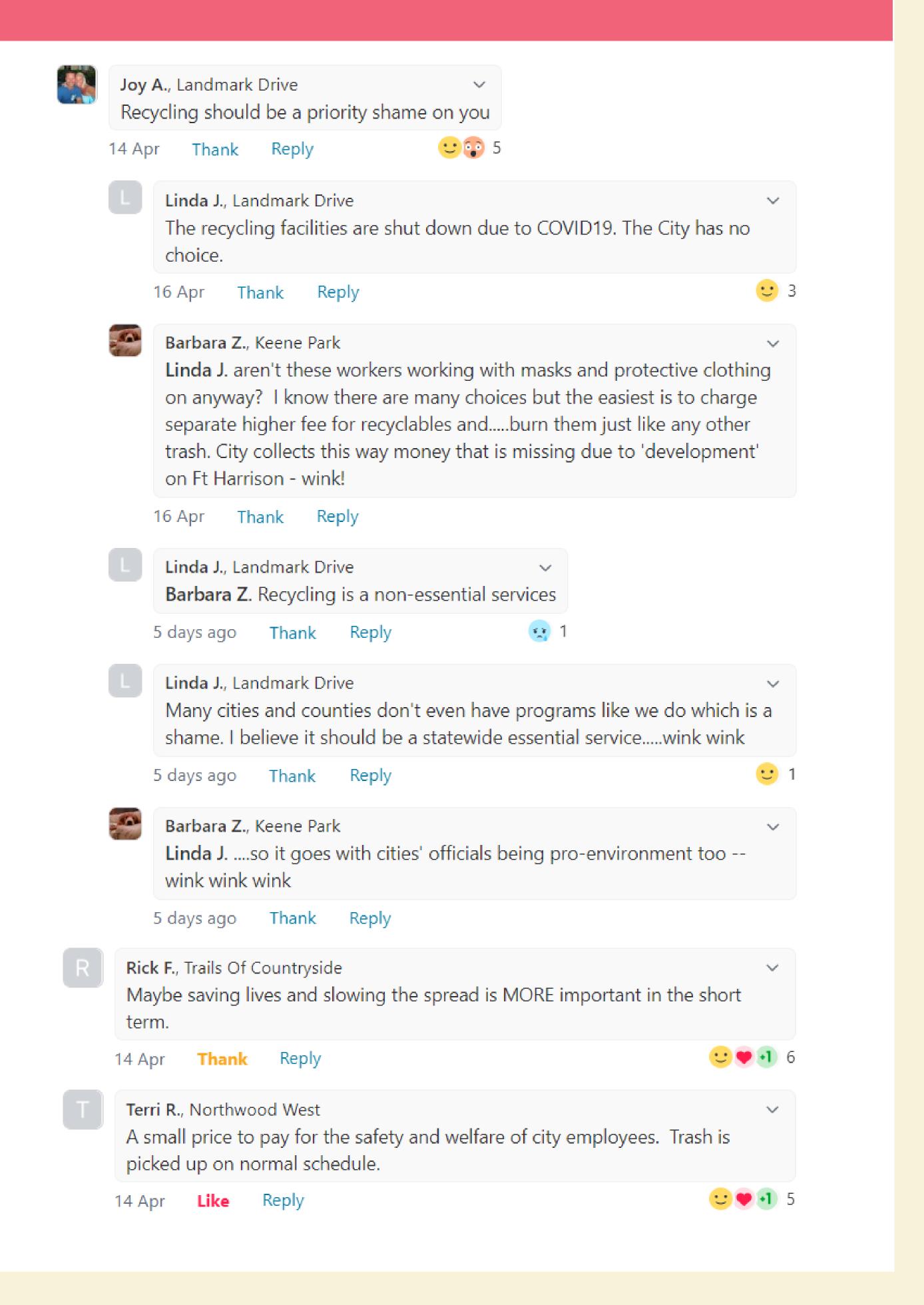
*UPDATED EVERY 24 HOURS. DOES NOT INCLUDE E-MAIL OPENS.

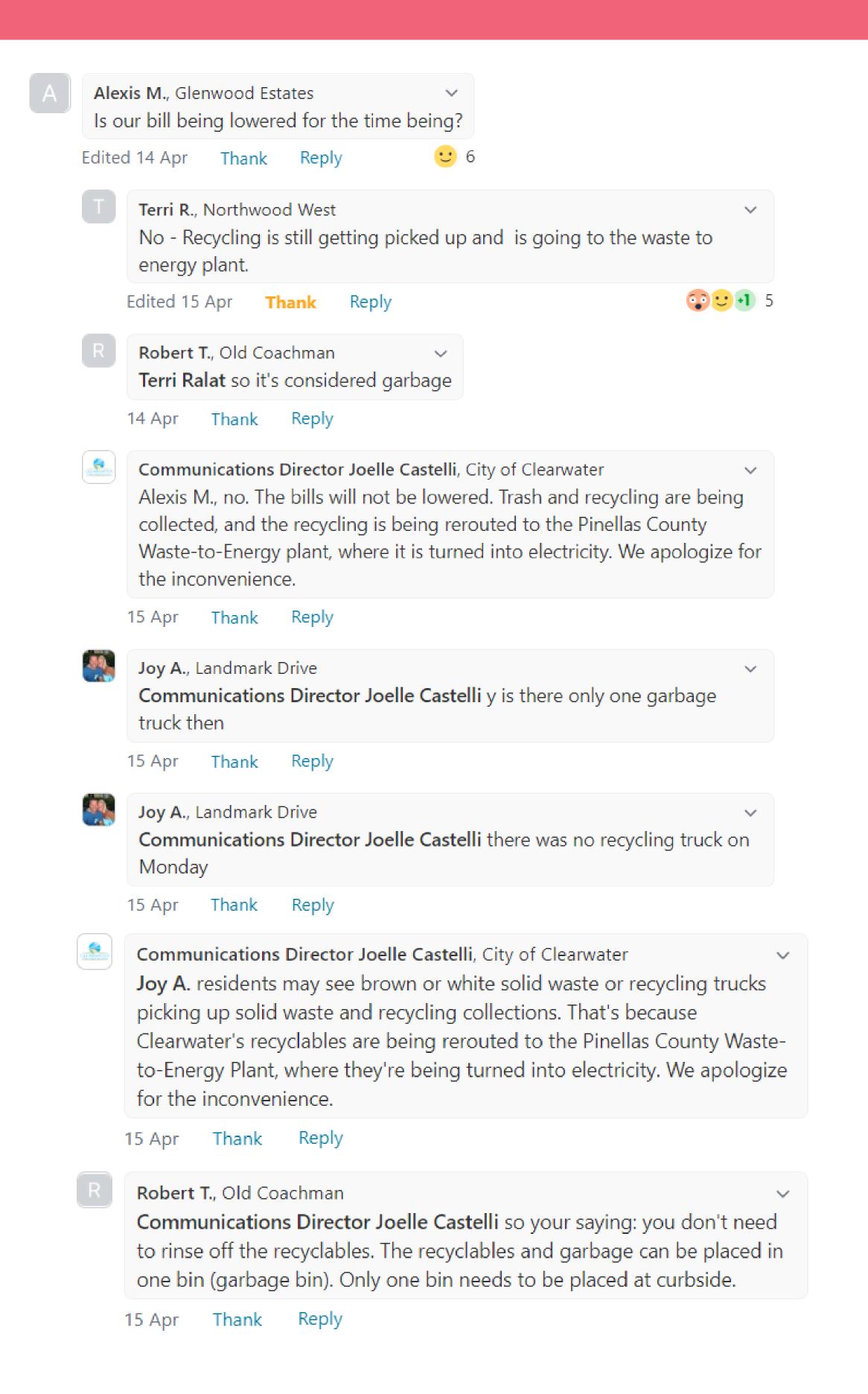
Impressions are the amount of times someone saw this posts on their timeline.

IMPRESSIONS: 13,594

COMMENTS: 166









Joy A., Landmark Drive

Communications Director Joelle Castelli so again 1 truck picking up both all together one bin

15 Apr Thank Reply



Communications Director Joelle Castelli, City of Clearwater

Joy A. that is correct. Residents may see one white or brown truck picking up both trash and recycling together, or they may be collected by one brown truck for trash and one white truck for recycling. Regardless, both trash and recycling materials are going to the Pinellas County waste-to-energy plant during the state of emergency. We hope to be able to resume business as usual services soon!

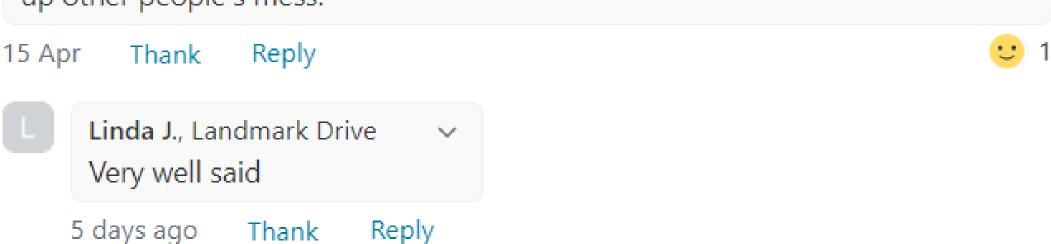
23 hr ago Thank Reply

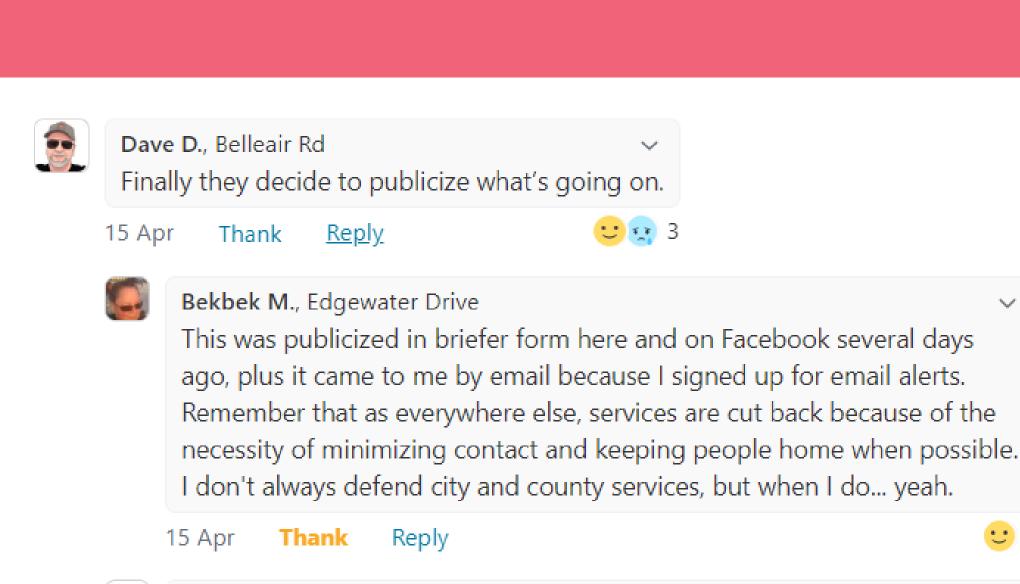




Alexandra N., Idlewild

I hope everyone will appreciate the convenience of public services a little more in the future, since the partial unavailability thereof is apparently annoying. Waste removal and recycling are especially important, not only for our own well-being and health, but for the environment in general. If there was no waste removal, people would have to keep their junk on their property, or burn their trash, or other such less salubrious options. Imagine that! Besides, even during normal service, some people still behave ridiculously, such as taking the trouble to load their vehicle and drive to State Street Park (which was adopted by my neighborhood association) to dump their tires, construction waste, pallets, old tarps and other non-degradable debris in the woods. I realize these cheap skates are probably not willing to pay for services, so they just pollute the environment to save a buck. I just hope this period of reduced services will not lead to the apparition of more waste in the woods and natural areas of Clearwater, which will have to be cleaned up by volunteers who do not mind contributing their time and efforts for FREE (oh wow, what a concept) to clean up other people's mess.





Communications Director Joelle Castelli, City of Clearwater

Dave D. we have been updating our website myclearwater.com/covid19 often since March 27, and we have posted multiple times on the city's Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor accounts since then as well. We've sent out press releases, website posts under "News & Info", and list server email blasts to those who are signed up for city news in all news groups. In addition, media outlets have been covering the changes and helping us to get the word out.

The city is updating its communication channels multiple times a day. We recommend residents check in with our COVID webpage (myclearwater.com/covid19), follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/cityofclearwater), follow us on Instagram (instagram.com/myclearwater), and sign up for our enotificiations/list serve email blasts at myclearwater.com/enotifications. Hope this helps!

23 hr ago Thank Reply

U

Teresa H., Pride

So instead of complaining lets be grateful that they are still picking up both bins, they could have made the change to just pick up black cans. With being home all the time we are creating a lot more garbage than usual and without having the blue bin to put recycling in one day a week garbage pick up would not be enough. As for the bulk and brush collection I appreciated the city announcing one additional week of service, they had sent notification on a Monday that they had suspended service. I had cleaned out my shed and garage the previous weekend and was facing the prospect of having a pile of junk at the curb for weeks or months. While when we see the bulk collection trucks we see one person driving and then one or two others putting the items in the truck. When the are driving between neighborhoods or to the solid waste plant these people are all riding in the same cab which so they cannot comply to the 6 foot rule. I am okay with the suspended service to keep people safe.

15 Apr Like Reply



Bekbek M., Edgewater Drive

Joelle Castelli, it is confusing to residents because on the one hand you are saying for the time being recycle is being picked up as waste, and on the other you are asking residents to still keep recycle items separate from other household waste. If they are both being picked up by the same truck, obviously it makes no difference if we keep them separate. So this makes people wonder if they're missing something here, and might be misunderstanding the instruction. I offer two different suggestions:

#1, ask residents to use the black can until full for both garbage and recycle, then use the blue can if necessary for the week's waste. This would ever-so-slightly cut down on unnecessary emissions from the truck, which would have to stop and lift fewer cans. It does, however, risk people losing the habit of keeping recycle separate, which was a hard thing for some people to learn it seems, and we will want to be able to return to recycling when possible.

#2, then, is to explain that the aim is to be able to return to recycling as soon as possible (and when possible if this winds up being an on-and-off thing), so please keep following the practice of putting recycle out separately.

15 Apr Thank Reply





Bekbek M., Edgewater Drive

#1 is a bad idea. See below. My husband has pointed out that we need to keep the two separate streams going so that when recycling starts up again, the amount of household waste entering the recycling stream is minimized.

15 Apr Thank Reply





Michele F., Tropic Hills

What can we do about neighbors that continue to pile waste on the curb making the neighborhood look like a dump?

15 Apr Thank Reply





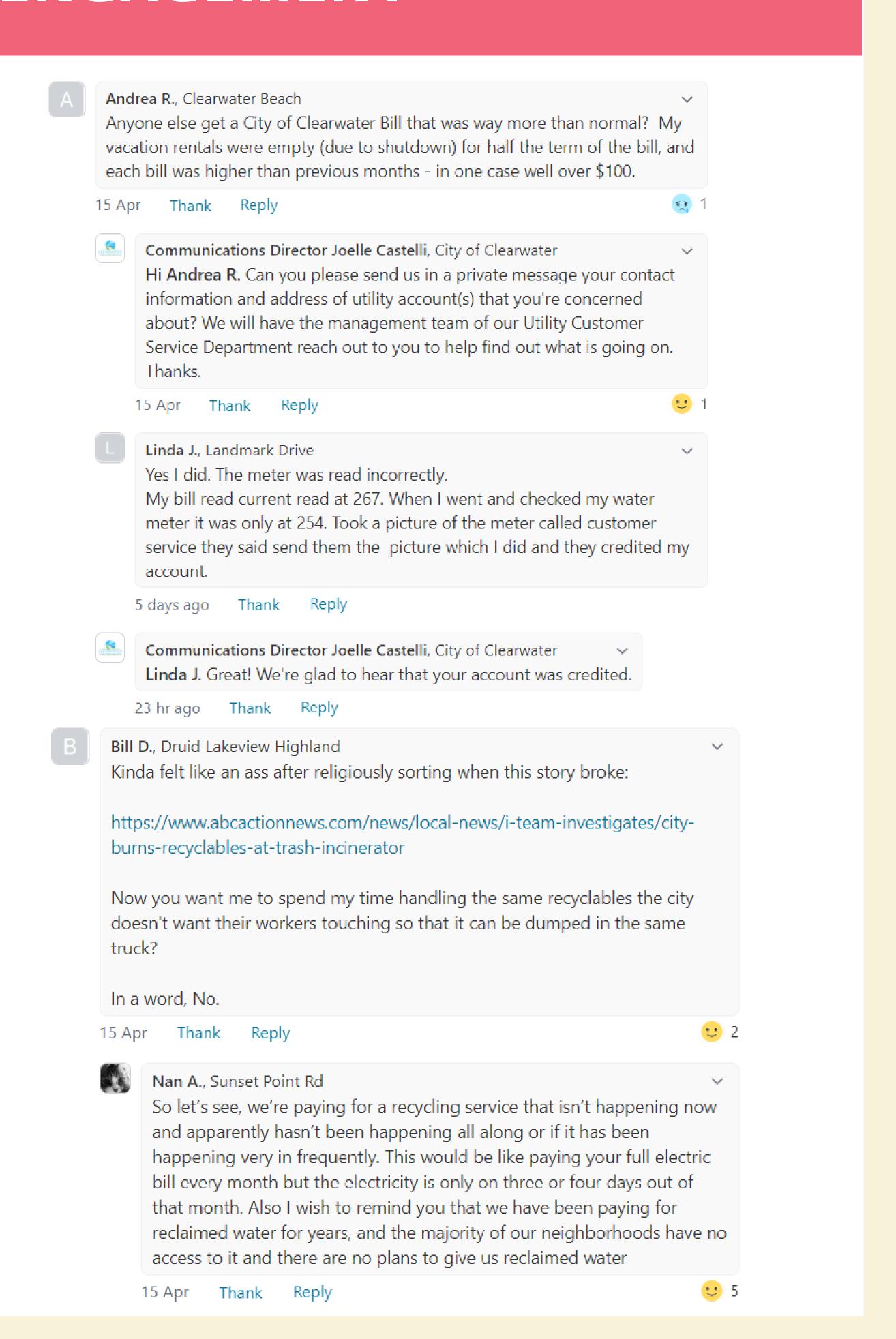
Bekbek M., Edgewater Drive

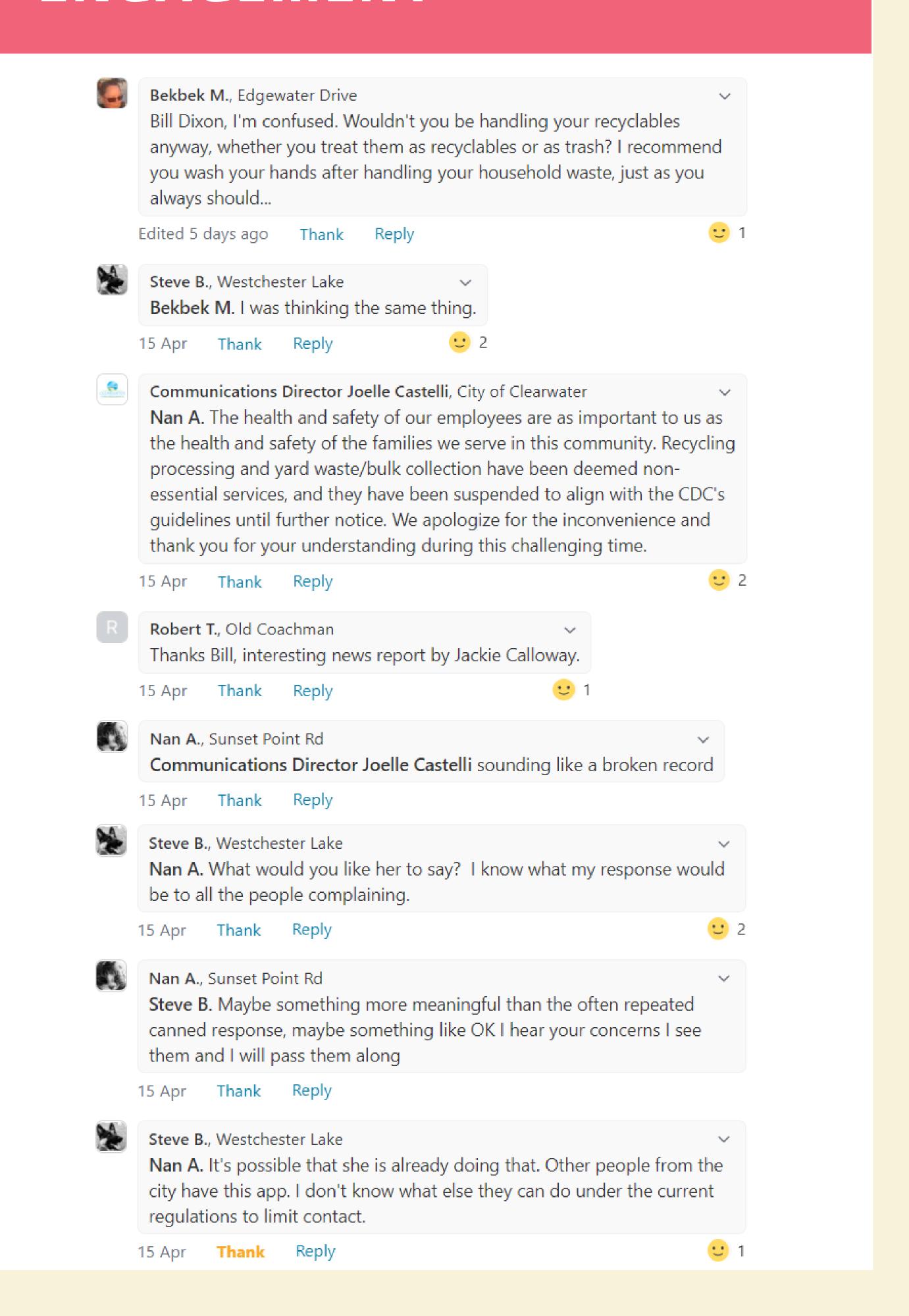
I'd like to remind everyone that if you actually break down your boxes and other packaging waste, it takes up a lot less room in your cans. I see so many overflowing cans where there are big boxes that haven't even been flattened. It only takes a few minutes. WASH YOUR HANDS AFTERWARD, if it's packaging you've received recently. You can also cut up cardboard and use it as mulch or for other uses in your yard (if you have one), so especially for those of you who cannot work at the moment, that's a recycle-reuse option.

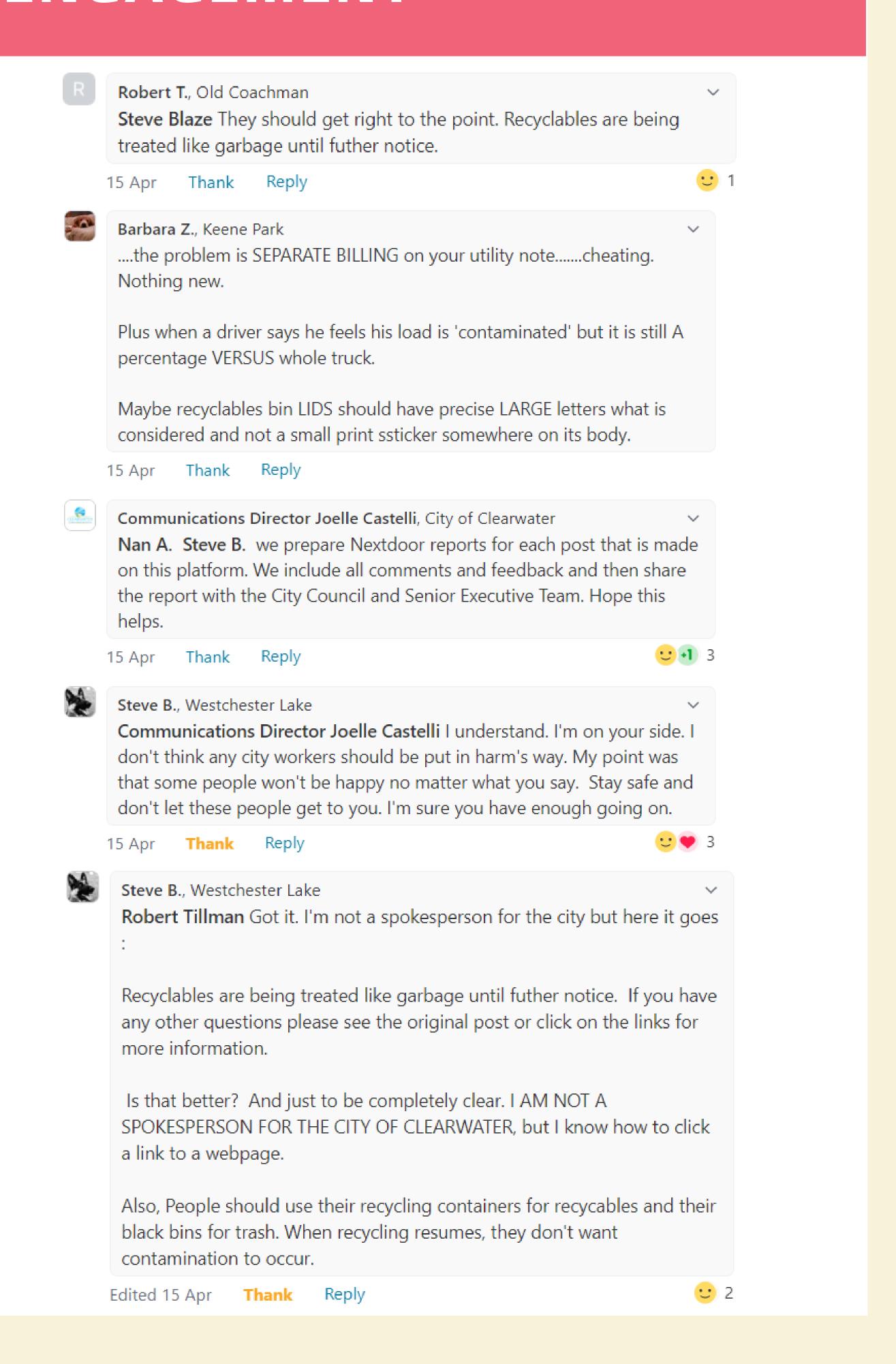
I'm not sure why so many people have trouble keeping to one can of garbage in a week, unless they are families. My husband and I both work from home so we were already here all the time before the coronavirus, and unless we are doing a project of some kind, our can is usually less than half full. Even with recycling in the same can, we wouldn't overflow. But it is just two of us and two pets. Maybe we don't buy so much in the way of packaged goods.

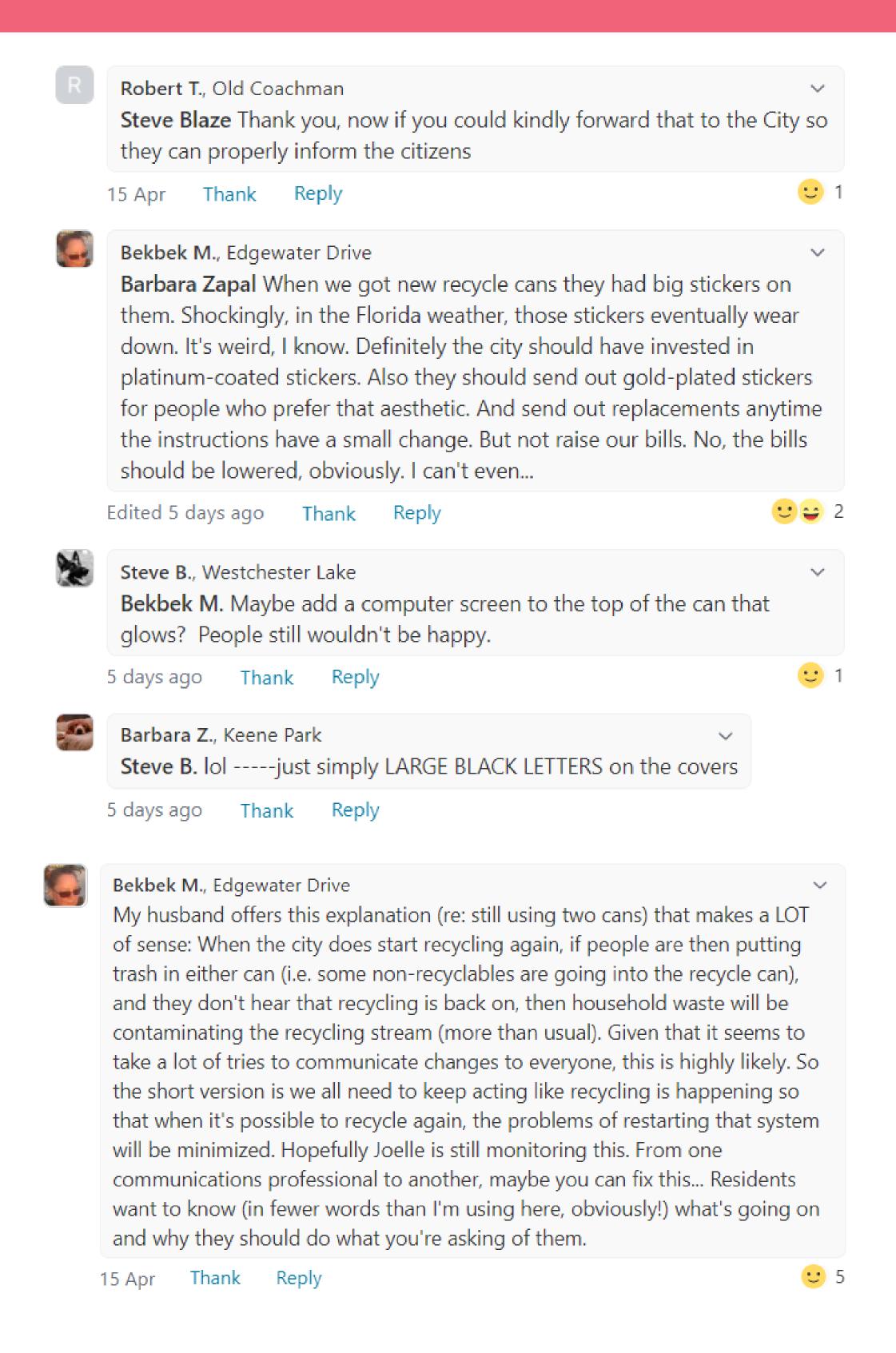
15 Apr Thank Reply

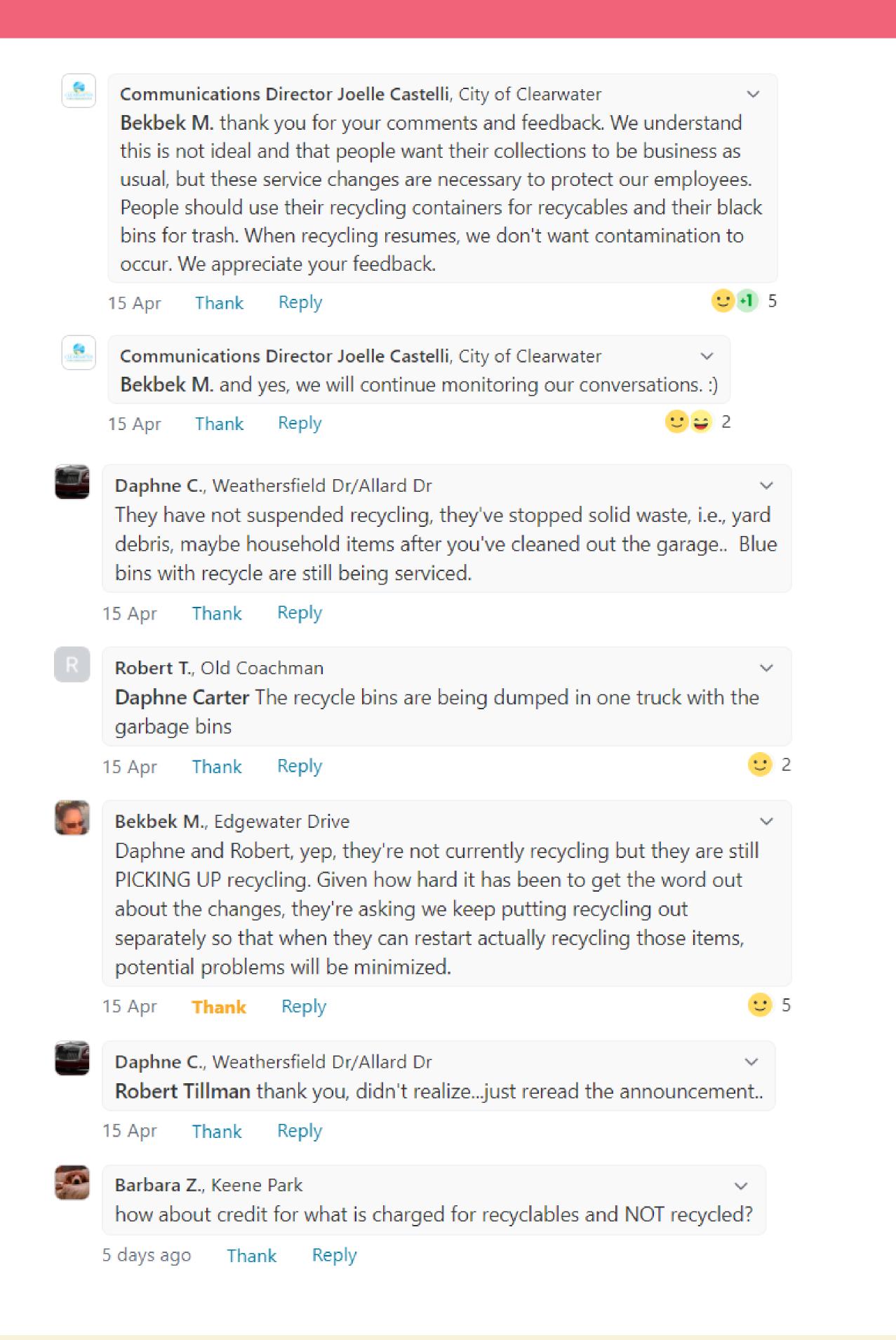


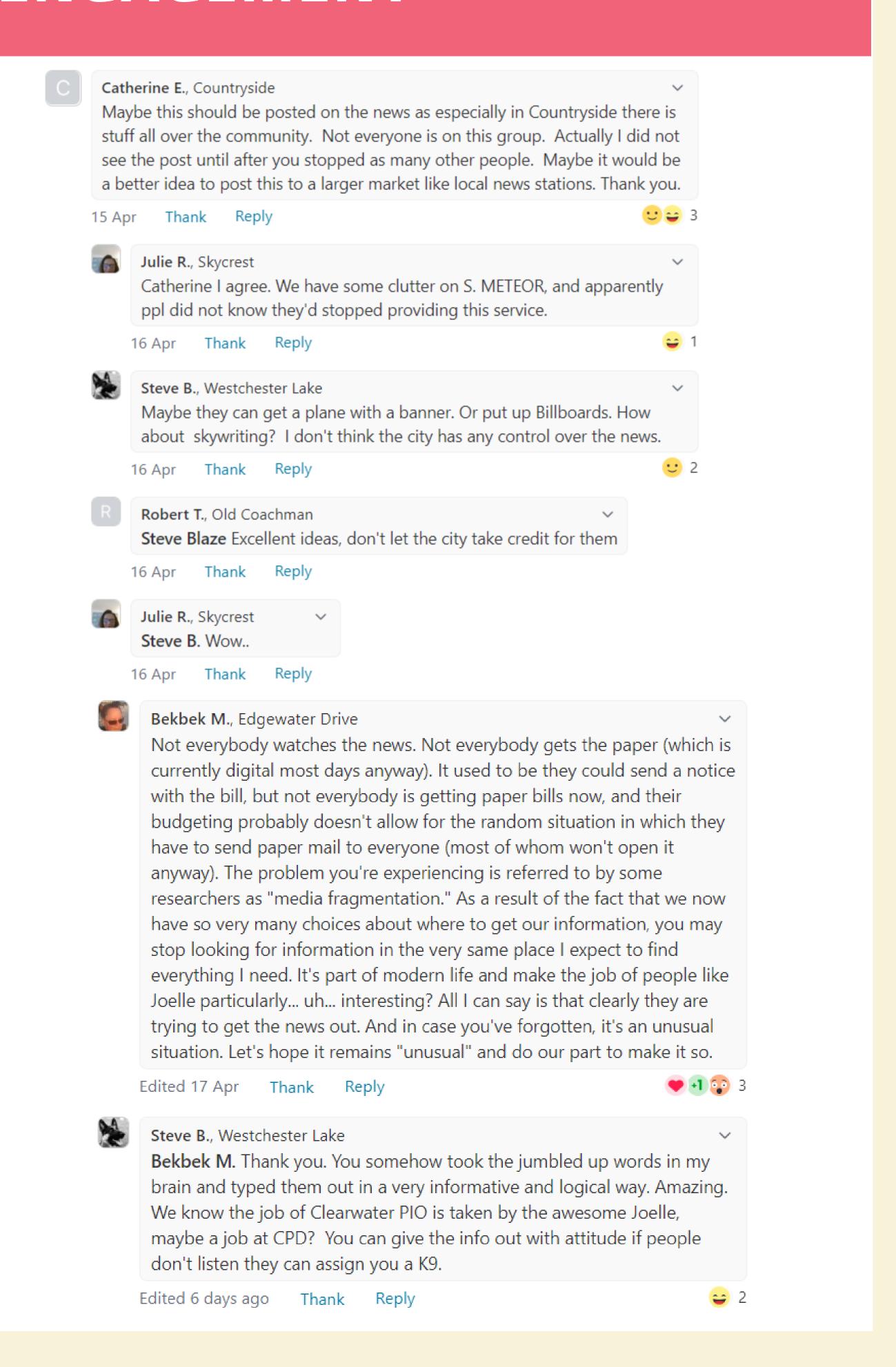


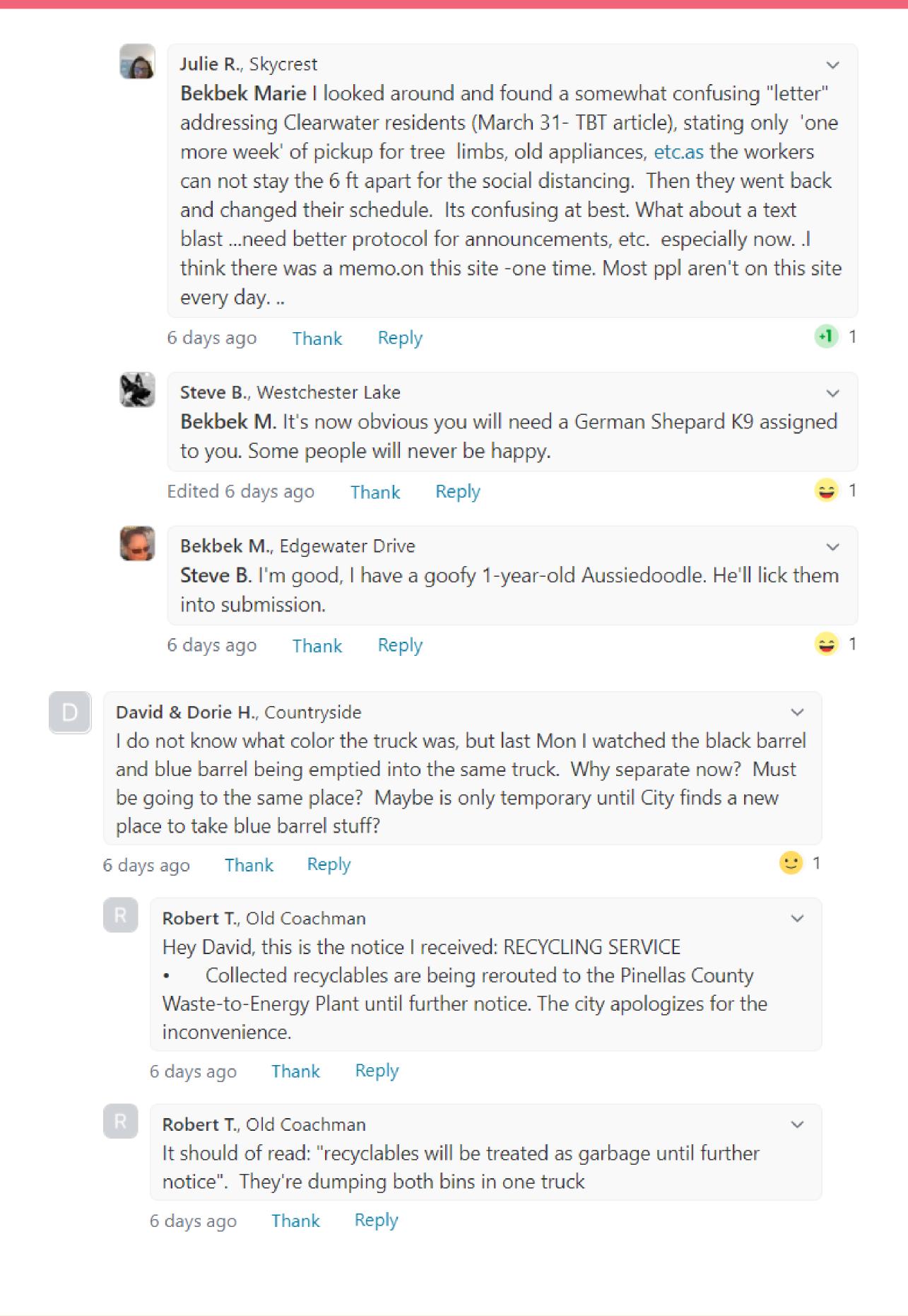














Steve B., Westchester Lake

Robert Tillman since you seem to forget or are being this way on purpose I will repeat this for everyone who chose not to read it the first time.

I'm not a spokesperson for the city but here it goes:

Recyclables are being treated like garbage until futher notice. If you have any other questions please see the original post or click on the links for more information.

Is that better? And just to be completely clear. I AM NOT A SPOKESPERSON FOR THE CITY OF CLEARWATER, but I know how to click a link to a webpage.

Also, People should use their recycling containers for recycables and their black bins for trash. When recycling resumes, they don't want contamination to occur.

6 days ago Thank Reply





Robert T., Old Coachman

Steve Blaze I believe my post said "Hey Dave" not Steve

6 days ago Thank Reply





Steve B., Westchester Lake

Robert Tillman hey Robert, this is a public post. And instead of giving him ALL the information you decided to edit your response.

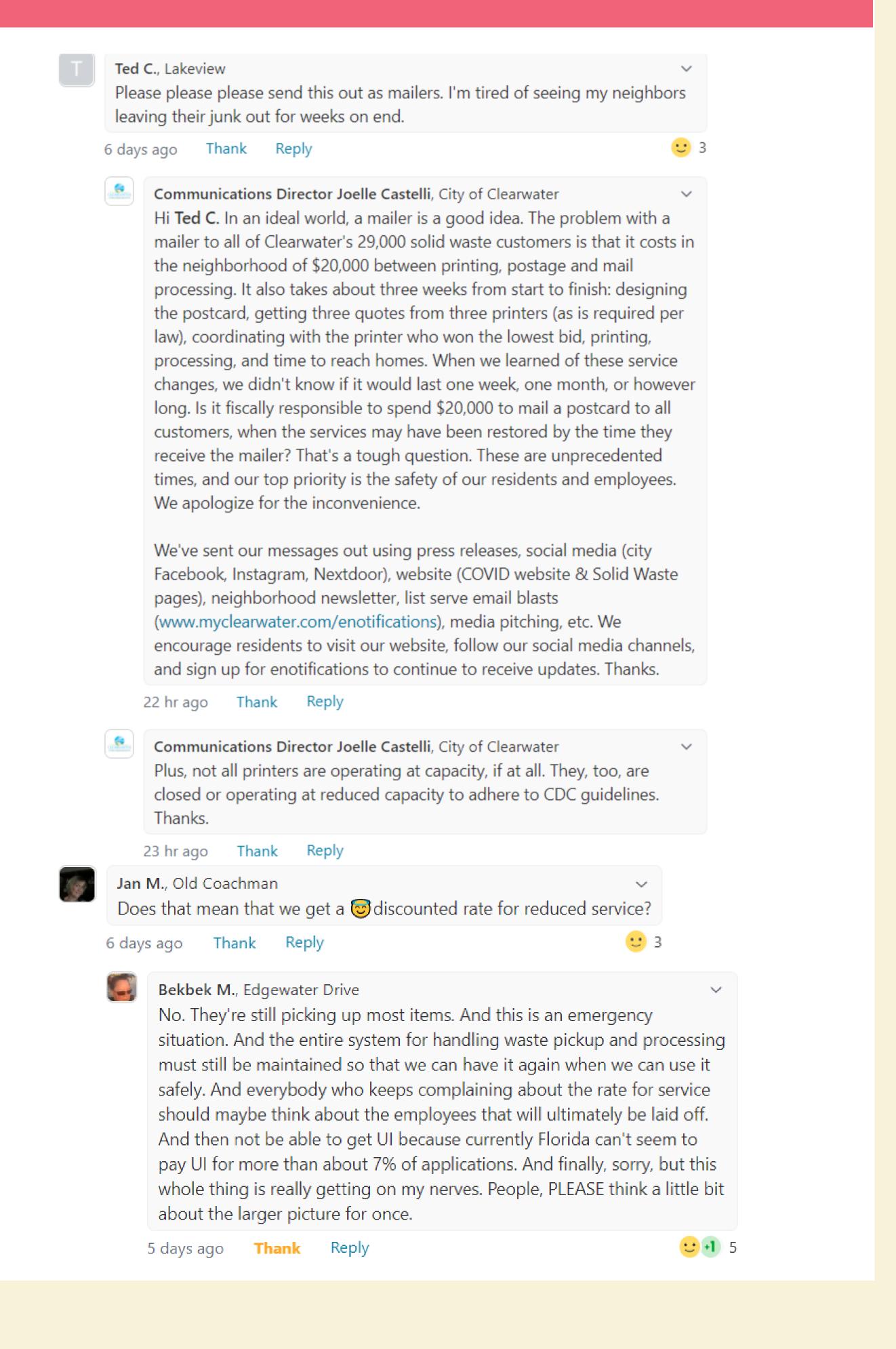
6 davs ago Thank Reply

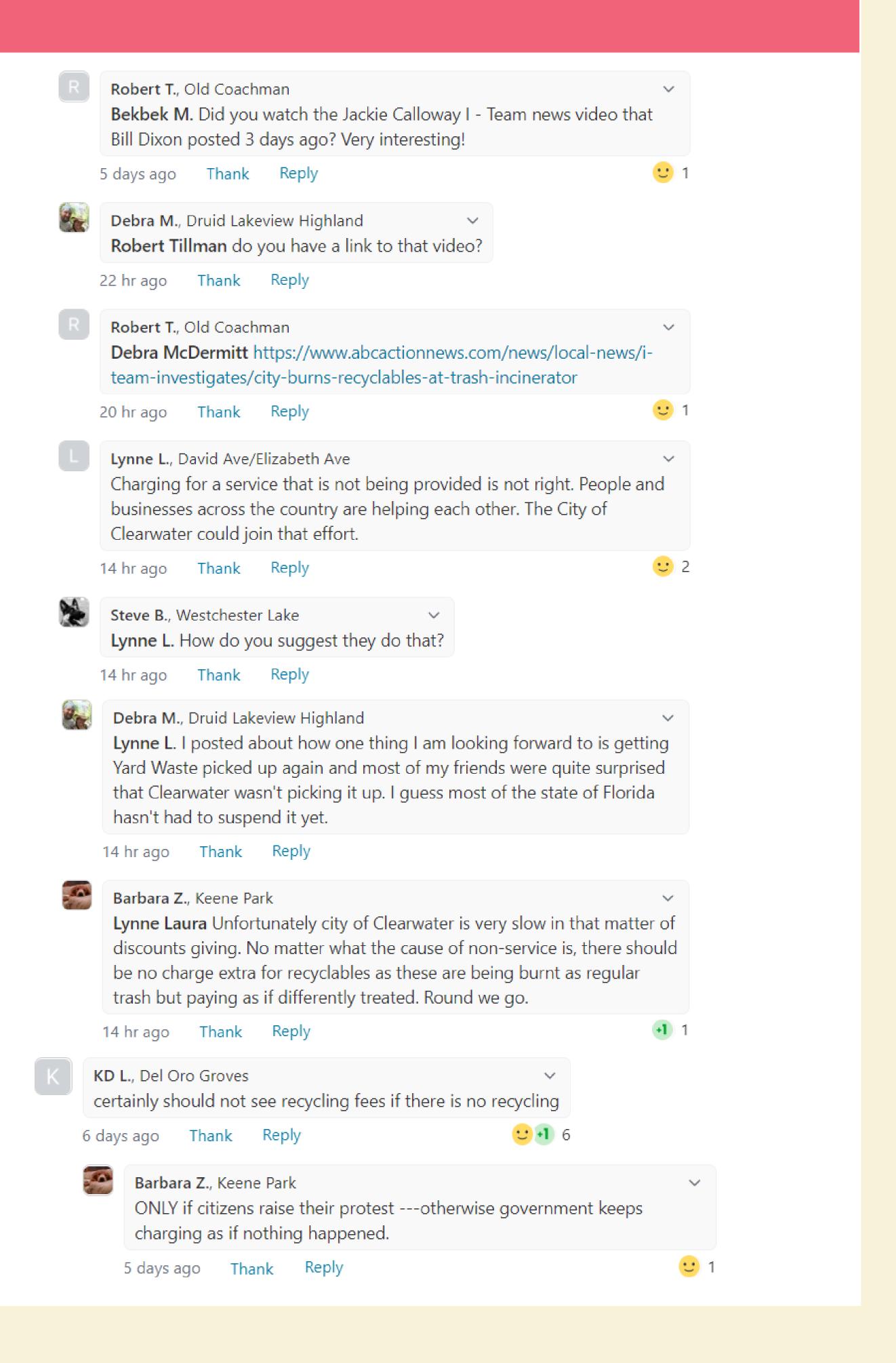


Robert T. The process of presorting of recyclables to remove the many plastic bags and non-recyclable items (such as chairs, hazardous rechargable batteries, clothing, toys, etc. that make it into the recycling and shouldn't) before they go to the recycling processor (Waste Management in Tampa) has been deemed a non-essential service per the city management team, and therefore is suspended until further notice. We hope to resume services as usual once the state of emergency order is lifted. We apologize for the inconvenience.

23 hr ago Thank Reply









Bekbek M., Edgewater Drive

They still have to pick it up. They still have to transport it. The system is still being kept in place in order to be able to resume quickly when possible. Even if they eliminated recycling entirely right at this moment, that would mean your total waste production would still be the same amount (or higher, if you're home all the time), which means they're still picking up the same amount or more. Can somebody please tell me why this is so hard to understand?

5 days ago

Thank

Reply







KD L., Del Oro Groves

The issue is there is a separate charge for recycling. If I just produced more trash, it is the same charge regardless. The recycling is now just going into a garbage truck and being processed like garbage. No additional recycling trucks, no separate processing with workers.

5 days ago

Thank

Reply





Steve B., Westchester Lake

Bekbek M. I agree. And also as taxpayers and residents on Clearwater, aren't we paying either way? I may be wrong, it just seems no matter what we will be paying.

5 days ago

Thank Reply







Barbara Z., Keene Park

If lets say cable was off due to Irma's no electricity and people got credit, why the city is NOT crediting for what is not being serviced?? RECYCLING is separate charge.

5 days ago

Thank Reply





Bekbek M., Edgewater Drive

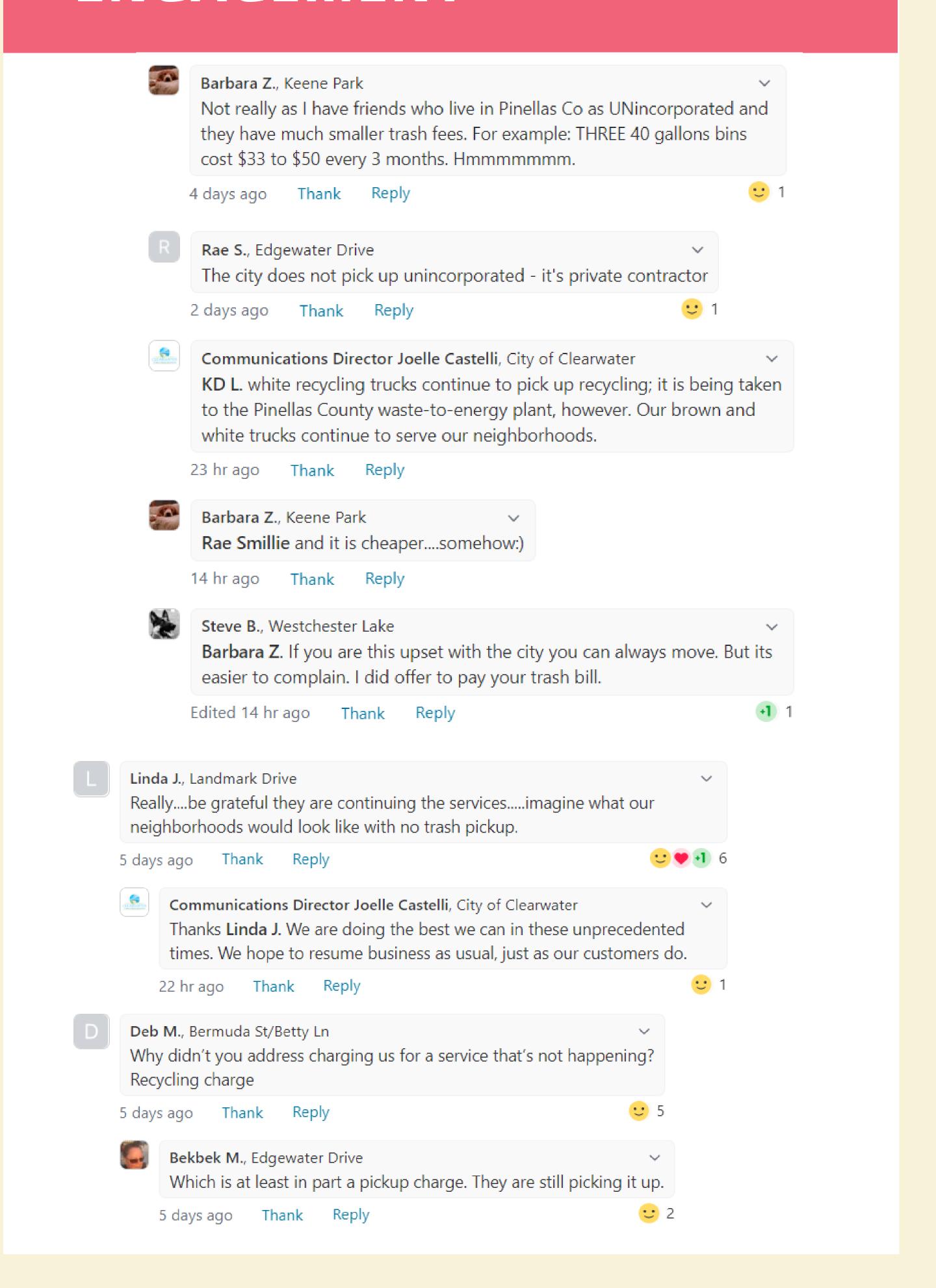
The fee may be larger than what it would be for trash. But if you were putting EVERYTHING in trash (which is effectively what you're doing now), the volume of your trash would be larger, thus there should and would be a larger fee. So right now you're paying for two services instead of one big service. There probably would be a difference, but it's not that big of one. Now, if they were asking you to keep all your recyclables in your yard until this was over, it would be reasonable for you to demand that you not pay a recycling fee. Also, it would be reasonable for you to charge them for the dead grass where you had to pile all your recyclables. But THEY'RE STILL PICKING UP ALL YOUR RECYCLING. And yes, you pay for that.

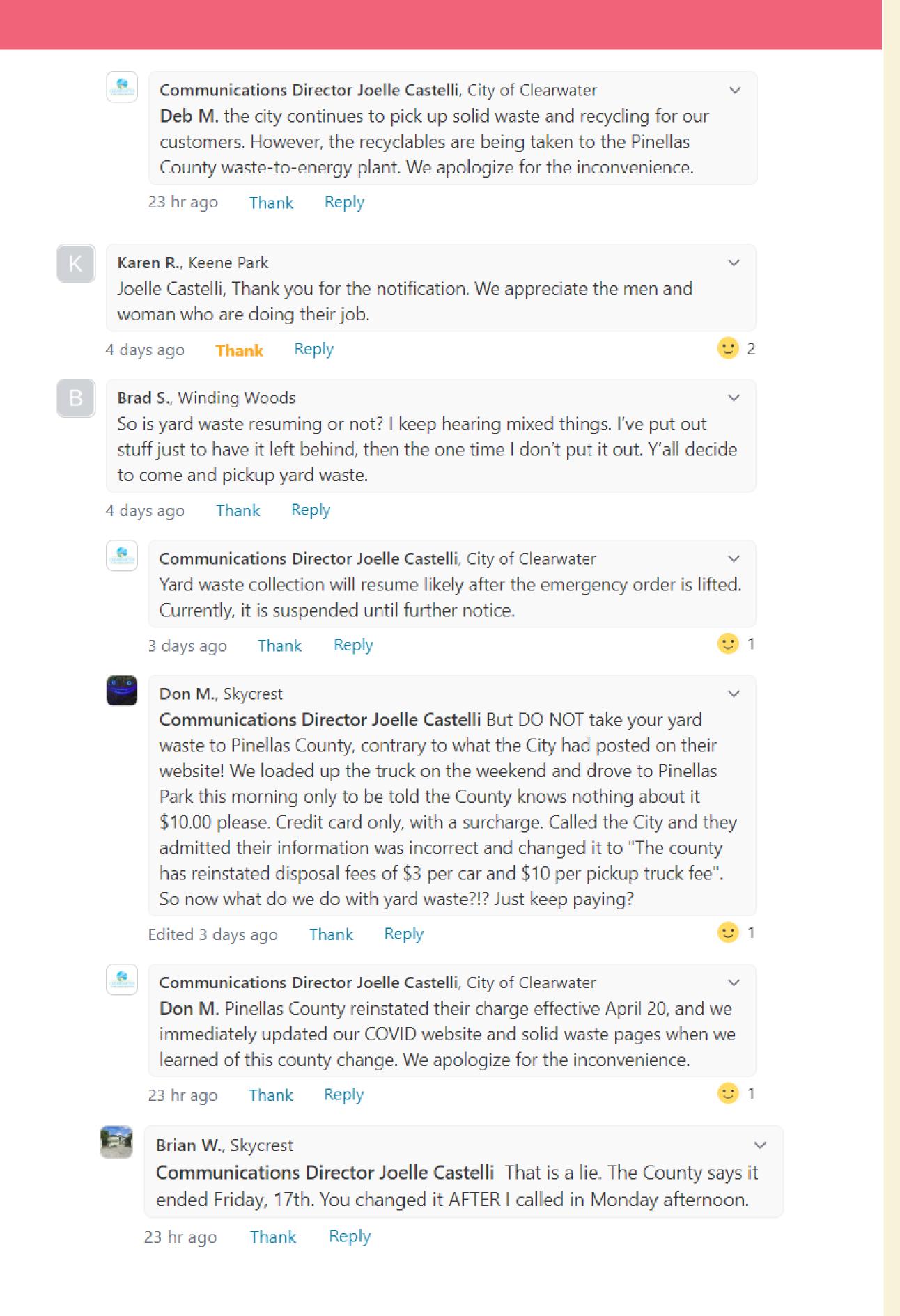
5 days ago

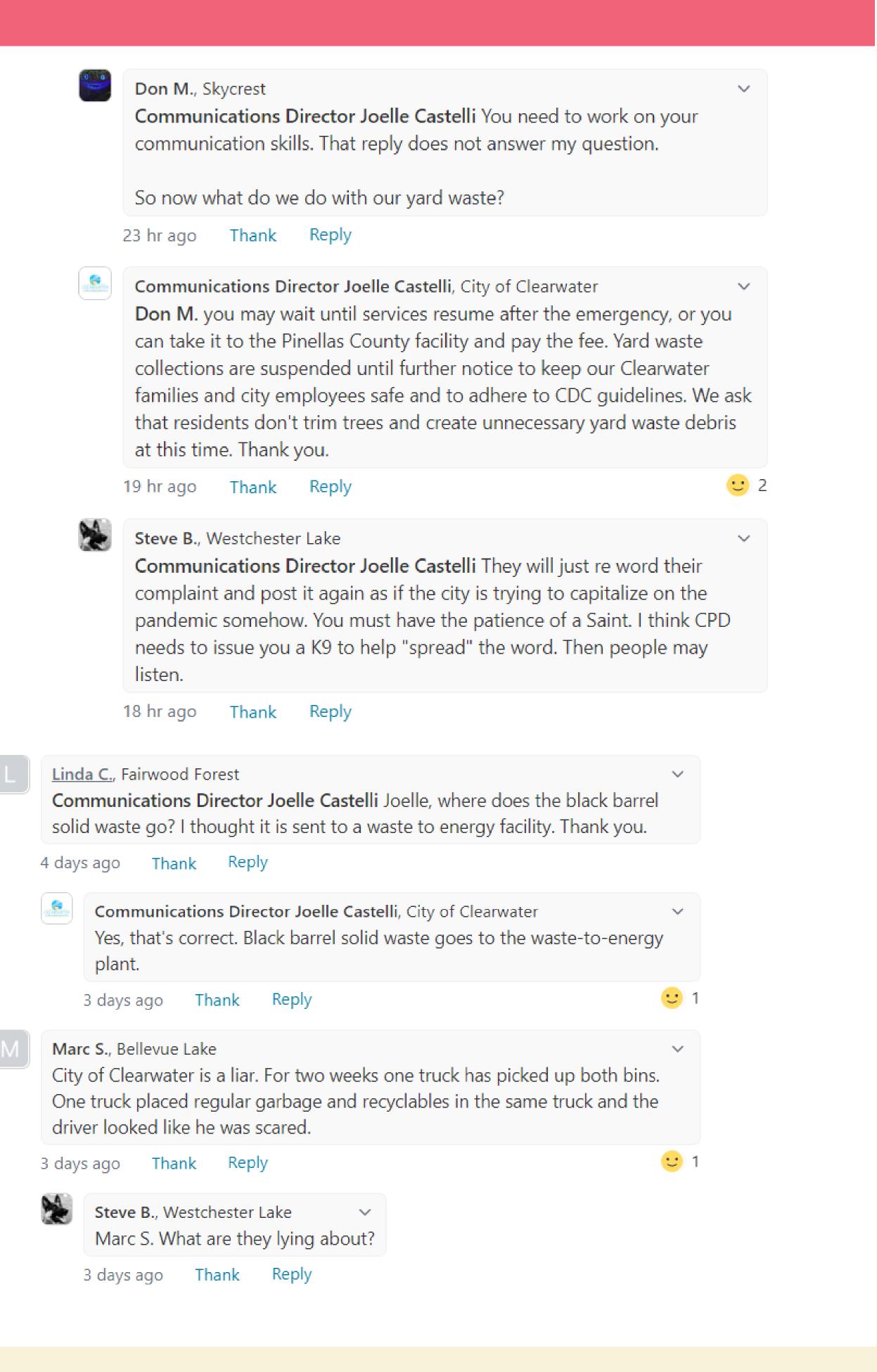
Thank

Reply

: 3









Bekbek M., Edgewater Drive

Marc, if you read the post and the replies, you will see that although there has been some confusion, they have been quite upfront about this. They are still picking up trash and recycling. For the time being, the recycling is being treated as trash. (I have since learned that their recycling program relies on hand-sorting, BECAUSE people insist on putting trash in the recycling bin. The recycling cannot go through a recycling program unless it is JUST recyclables.) Since the moment(s) when they can resume recycling will require us to once again keep recycling separate, they are asking people to just keep doing that--keeping trash and recycle separate. That way when the day comes, we are less likely to jam up the works with a diaper in the recycle bin.

3 days ago Thank







Communications Director Joelle Castelli, City of Clearwater

Marc S. we have been updating our website myclearwater.com/covid19 often since March 27, and we have posted multiple times on the city's Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor accounts since then as well. We've sent out press releases, website posts under "News & Info", and list server email blasts to those who are signed up for city news in all news groups. In addition, media outlets have been covering the changes and helping us to get the word out. We have been telling residents for a long time that they can expect to see brown and/or white reycling trucks picking up their trash and/or recycling during this time of local state of emergency. We hope to resume to normal business as usual soon!

The city is updating its communication channels multiple times a day. We recommend residents check in with our COVID webpage (myclearwater.com/covid19), follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/cityofclearwater), follow us on Instagram (instagram.com/myclearwater), and sign up for our enotificiations/list serve email blasts at myclearwater.com/enotifications. Hope this helps!

23 hr ago Thank Reply



Marc S., Bellevue Lake I don't have any time to help you count to 2.

3 days ago Thank Reply

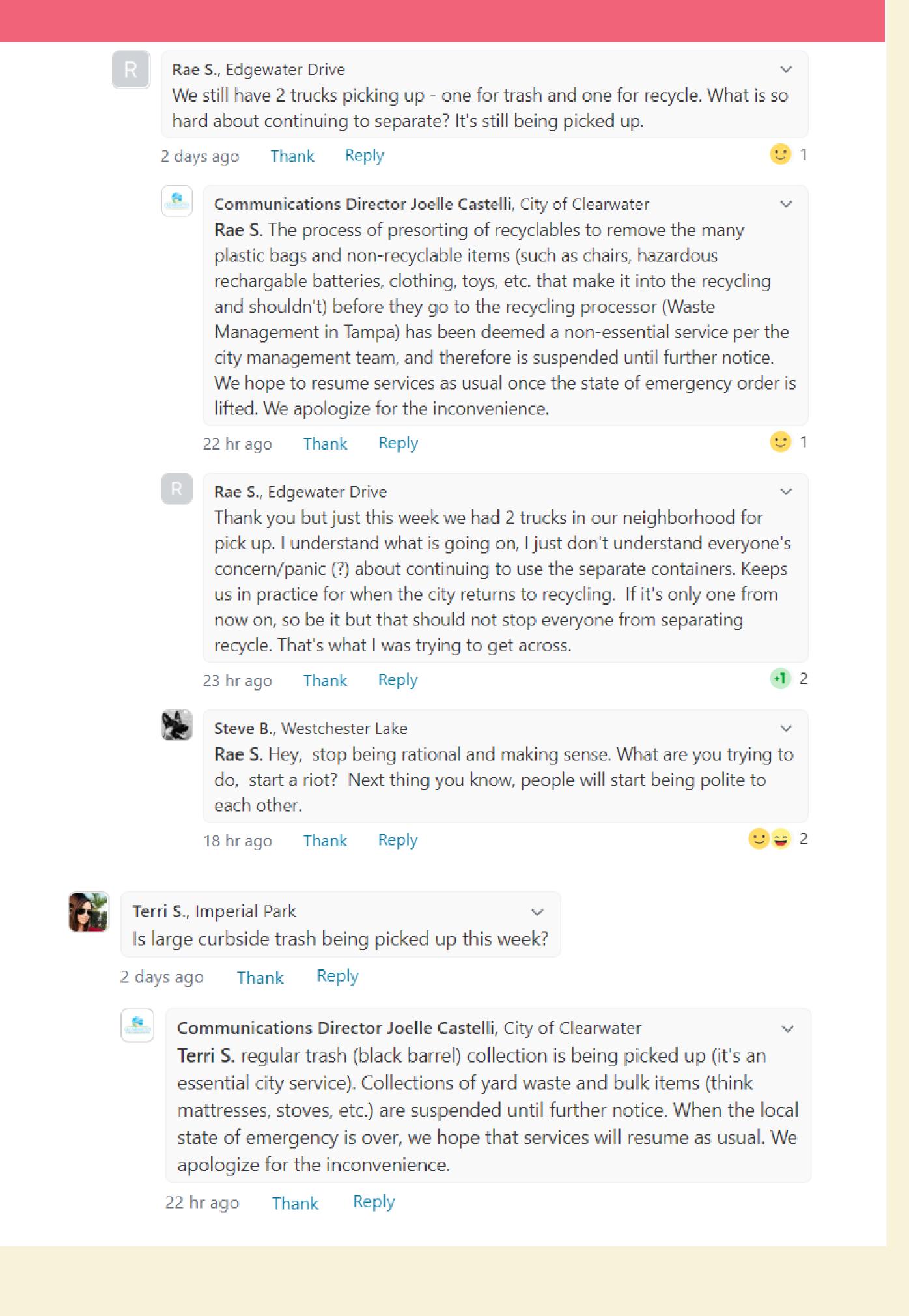


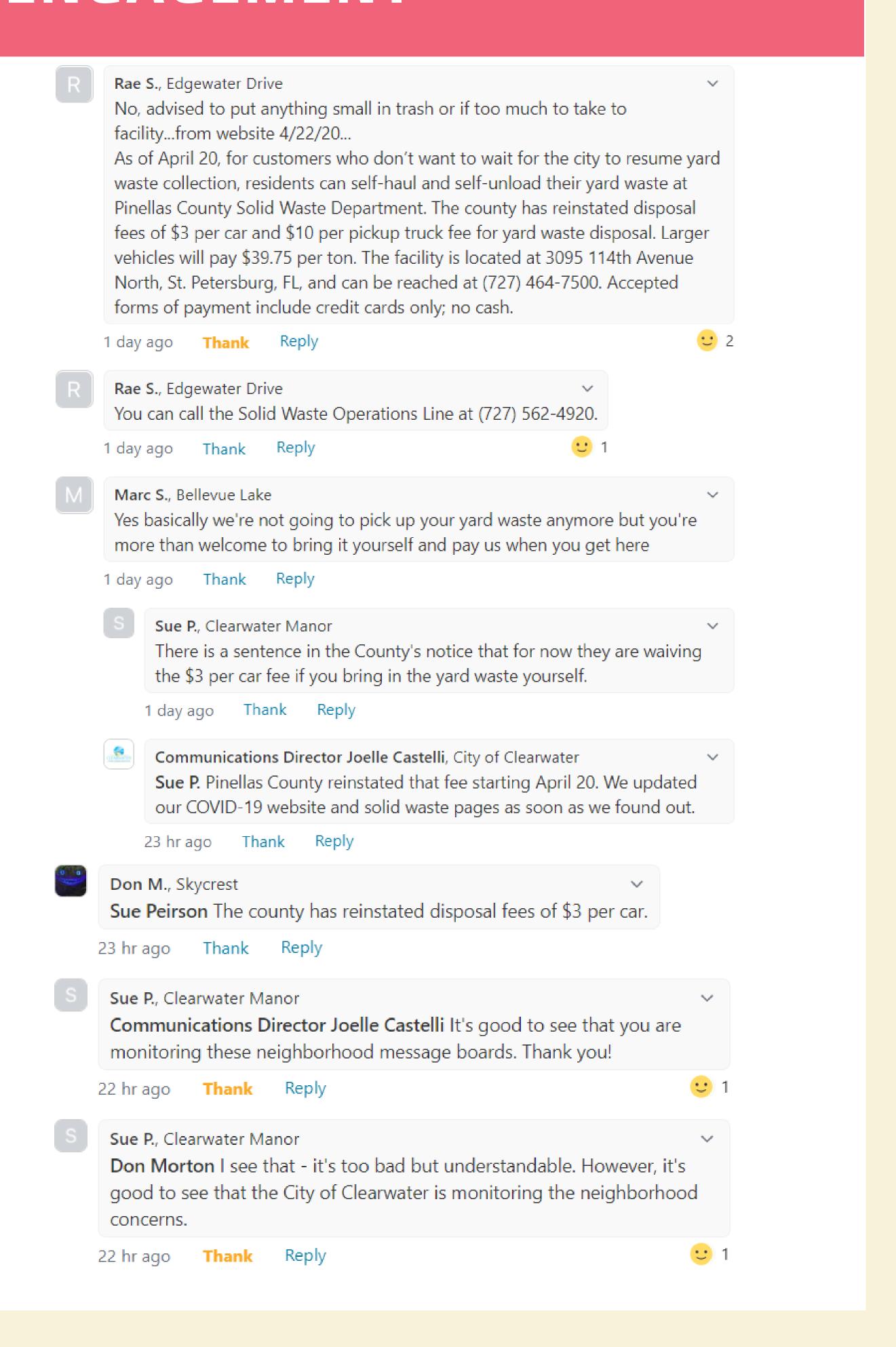


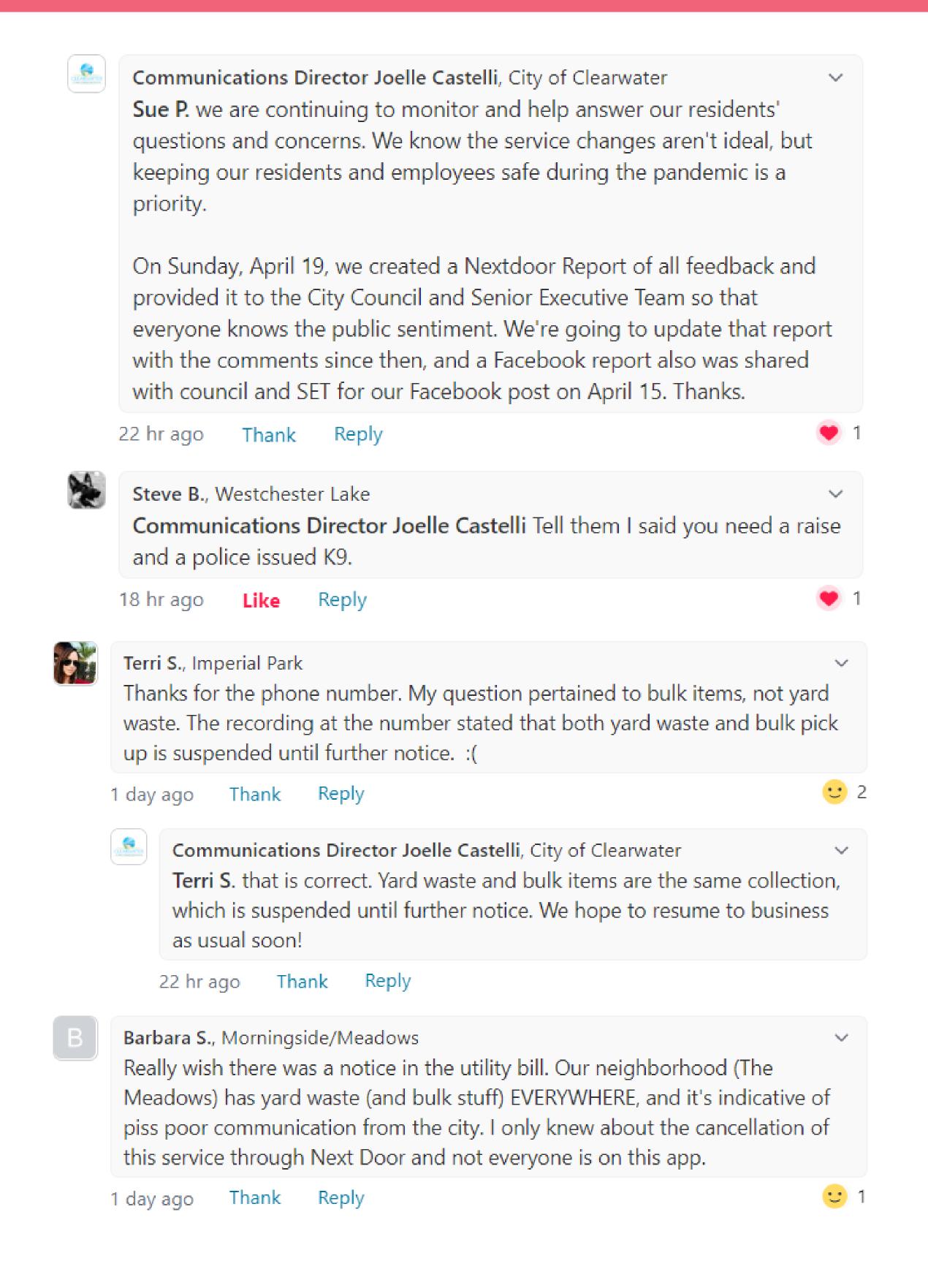
Steve B., Westchester Lake
Marc S. Relax and put your tinfoil hat back on. We will return to our
regularly scheduled program soon.

3 days ago Thank Reply











Communications Director Joelle Castelli, City of Clearwater Barbara S. we have been updating our website myclearwater.com/covid19 often since March 27, and we have posted multiple times on the city's Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor accounts since then as well. We've sent out press releases, website posts under "News & Info", and list server email blasts to those who are signed up for city news in all news groups. We sent details out in the most recent neighborhood newsletter to HOA presidents, who are supposed to forward the info along to their residents. In addition, media outlets have been covering the changes and helping us to get the word out.

The city is updating its communication channels multiple times a day. We recommend residents check in with our COVID webpage (myclearwater.com/covid19), follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/cityofclearwater), follow us on Instagram (instagram.com/myclearwater), and sign up for our enotificiations/list serve email blasts at myclearwater.com/enotifications. Hope this helps!

22 hr ago

Thank Reply

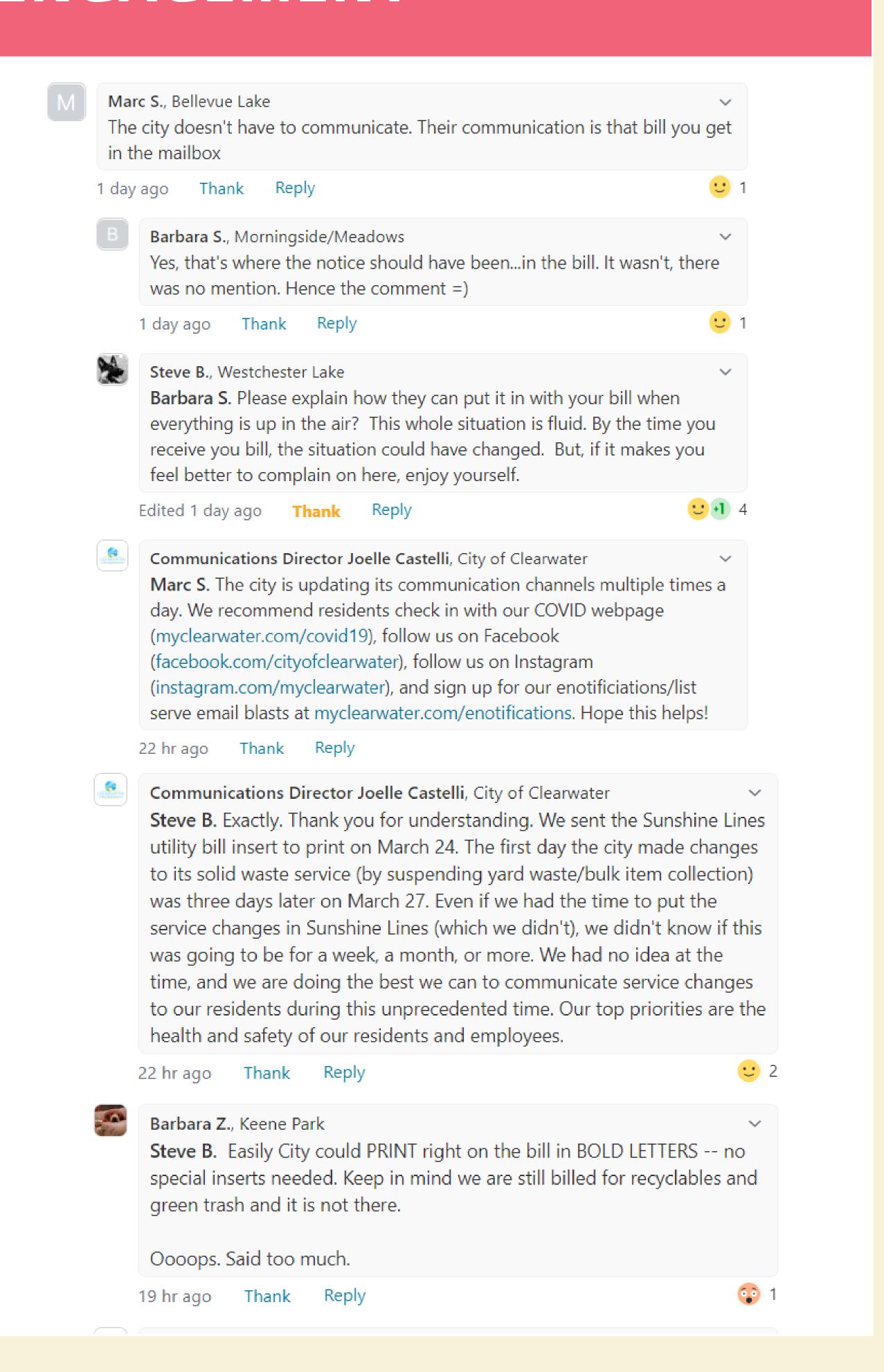


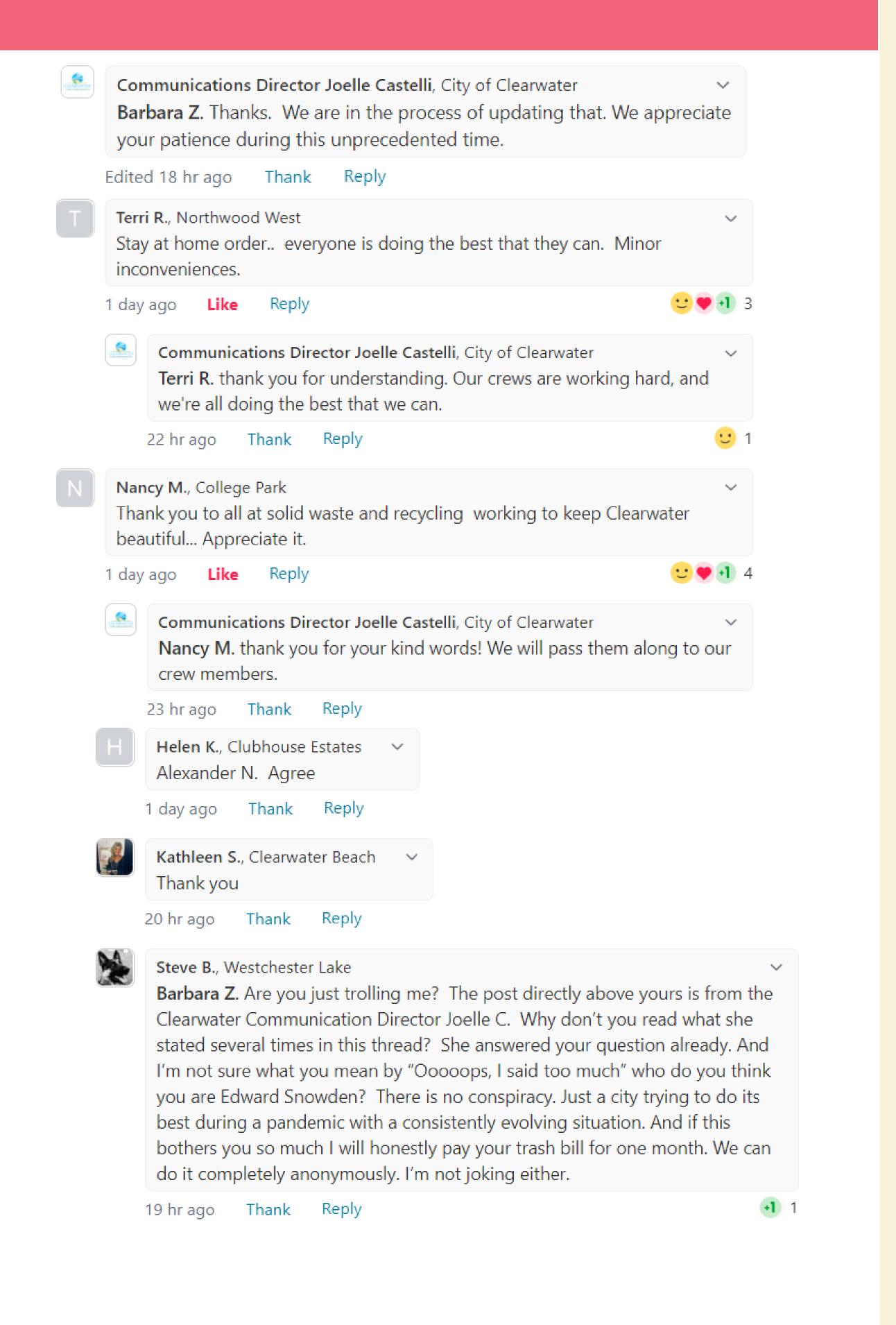


Communications Director Joelle Castelli, City of Clearwater Barbara S. regarding the Sunshine Lines utility bill insert, we sent the April issue to the printer on March 24 (which was about 5 days later than usual due to COVID-19). The first day the city made changes to its solid waste service (by suspending yard waste/bulk item collection) was three days later on March 27.

Sunshine Lines is a staggered mailing, meaning some residents receive the April issue April 1 and every day until April 30. Even if we had the time to put the service changes in Sunshine Lines (which we didn't), we didn't know if this was going to be for a week, a month, or more. We had no idea at the time, and we are doing the best we can to communicate service changes to our residents during this unprecedented time. Our top priorities are the health and safety of our residents and employees.

23 hr ago Thank Reply







Jan M., Old Coachman

As for the trash to power incinerator facility, I hope they have a better record of not sickening the surrounding population and environment than they had a while back. If not, then they are actually contributing to the further degradation of our environment resulting in harming any life within the reach of the output of their chimney stacks with those recyclables which are being diverted to that facility in the guise of environmental preservation and conservation. It would be excellent if ABC would do an investigative follow up on that issue.

11 hr ago Thank Reply



Marc S., Bellevue Lake

The city wants only one thing from you. Your money. They have to pick up your garbage in order to get it but they're figuring out a way around that right now. It's called covid-19.

8 hr ago Thank Reply



Karen J., Keene Park

City of Clearwater Waste Management has suspended the pick up of yard waste and bulk items until further notice. They direct you to self-haul and self-unload your yard waste to the treatment plant if you don't want to wait for this service to be reinstated (which could be a month or more). They waived the fees for 2 weeks, but has now reinstated the disposal fees - \$3 per car; \$10 per truck and \$39.75 per ton. If they want us to do it ourselves, there should not be a fee or continue to charge us for this service on our monthly bill. I would think the City of Clearwater during the coronavirus "Stay-at-home" order would want its citizens to take the effort and time to make their yards and homes look nicer. Picking up the yard trash seems pretty essential to me. My neighbors have a large amount of stinky carpet and some other items that they worked hard to get this big job done and now the debris will be on the street until further notice. Please call the Waste Management or the City of Clearwater to complain about this situation.

3 min ago Thank Reply