

Around Town

For Release 12 noon Wednesday, March 14, 2007

By Billy Ray McKelvy

De Queen Mayor

With the arrival of warm weather, yard sales and garage sales will soon be a popular event around the city.

If a garage sale is in your immediate future, please be aware of the regulations concerning signs that direct customers to these events. Garage sale signs can be no larger than eight square feet and must be placed on a stake or mounted in a free-standing manner.

Only one sign may be placed at any intersection and signs cannot be attached to any utility pole, street sign, tree or fence. Signs must be displayed in a manner so as not to interfere with vehicle and pedestrian traffic

Signs cannot be placed on public property earlier than 6 p.m. the night before the sale and they must be picked up within one hour after the sale, or by 7 p.m., whichever comes first.

Continuous sales are not permitted. According to the city's sign ordinance, no more than one two-day sale is permitted at a residence in any single quarter of a calendar year.

Signs mounted on the decorative street light posts in the downtown area have been an ongoing problem. Tape used to attach signs will remove paint from the light poles when the tape is pulled off. Repainting the poles is an expensive proposition.

The city's code compliance officer frequently has to pick up signs on Monday following weekend sales. Although it not the goal of the city administration, the sign ordinance does give the city authority to issue citations and fines can be levied, if the offender is convicted.