

Around Town

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By Billy Ray McKelvy

De Queen Mayor

It's not glamorous, but trash pick-up and disposal is a vital services provided by the City of De Queen.

Ordinance 807, passed in 2000, made garbage collection mandatory within the city limits of De Queen. That ordinance also sets some rules for disposal of solid waste. The ordinance requires that residential customers to put their cans at the curb or in front of the house, except where alleys are used, then it should be put at the edge of the alley.

Waste must be put in containers no bigger than 32 gallons. The size limit is to protect against cans being so heavy that sanitation workers risk injury when picking them up. Containers larger than 32 gallons may not be picked up.

Sanitation workers also try to eliminate big pieces of wood, brush or steel which can damage the truck's packer mechanism when it cycles.

For those who have large volumes of waste, dumpsters are available in four, six or eight-yard sizes. Fees vary depending on the number of times the dumpsters are emptied each week.

The city administration has discouraged placing street-side containers to keep dogs out of garbage. If waste is put in cans with lids, such containers are not necessary.

Weekly solid waste pickup is part of the city utility bill and the \$7.25 fee is among the lowest in the state. The city is able to maintain economical rates because the county's solid waste sales tax means there is no tipping fee at the landfill. Also, the system relies heavily on community service workers from district court.