

Around Town

For Release 12 noon Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2006

By Billy Ray McKelvy

De Queen Mayor

Street lights are a popular city service. They light up the highways for motorists driving at night, discourage criminal activity and enable early-morning walkers to use the city streets for their daily exercise.

Recently, we received a report from some regular walkers who had changed their route because several street lights were out. After some calling, the power company got the lights going again. But the lights have to be reported by the number located on a metal tag attached to each pole. Once we learned to report these lights by number, the job was much easier.

These night lights are a big part of the city's annual budget. This year, the city will spend approximately \$60,000 for street lights. That's enough to pay for two full-time employees with benefits. This year the city spent just \$75,000 on paving streets.

Non-working lights are sometimes reported by police or city employees, but usually the report comes from a resident who lives nearby. If you know of street lights that are not working, you may report them to city hall by calling 584-3445 or e-mail me at mayor@dequeen-ar.us.

Residential night lights and lights on commercial property are not the city's responsibility.

The decorative street lights in downtown De Queen are owned by the city and maintained by a contract electrician. The city also owns two street lights at the intersection of Hwy. 70B and Treating Plant Road which were recently repaired.