

Around Town

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By Billy Ray McKelvy

De Queen Mayor

The holiday season usually includes lots of good food shared with friends and family. While there is a lot of extra cooking going on, it might be a good time to remind residents not to put oil and grease down household drains.

Fat, oil and grease are a natural consequence of cooking and can occur naturally in many foods. It can be found in meat fat, cooking oil, shortening and food scraps.

When cooking grease is poured down the drain, it causes serious problems for the city's waste water collection system. Grease can be easily poured when it is warm, but as it cools, it solidifies and causes buildup inside the pipes. The hardened mass can restrict the flow of sewage and eventually clog pipes. These clogs can cause sewage to back up inside homes or overflow in lawns and ditches.

Spills are a potential health hazard for residents. They also represent increased cost for the city's sewer department when employees must be called out to flush the drains to get them flowing again.

Grease should never be put down the drain or toilet. Instead, scrape grease and food scraps into a can and dispose of it with the trash.

Small amounts of grease can be wiped up with paper towel and disposed of with the trash.

Grease can be collected in jugs or frozen in containers that can be disposed of with trash.

Do not flush solids like coffee grounds down the drain as these can be trapped in grease and make the problem worse.

If you need more information, contact the De Queen Waste Water Plant at 642-5231 or call city hall at 584-3445.