??? True to their word, Austin Mayor Doug Campbell and the City Council are creating a Disposal Center that will be open two days each month to accept large objects from Austin residents.

Any resident of Austin may use the new service at no extra charge. The Council and Mayor offered the idea of allowing people to haul large items to a central location when they overhauled the city's trash collection system earlier this year. The ordinance creating the new system, whereby most residents will be charged $10 per month for trash pick-up, will go into effect on Monday, December 29. The new charge will be listed on residents' sewer bills starting in January.

Austin's Disposal Center will be located on city-owned property northeast of the intersection of Christie Road and U.S. Highway 31 North. Hours on Friday and Saturday, January 9 and 10, will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Any person wanting to drop off items at the center must present his/her driver license and a recent sewer bill.

Items accepted include unwanted furniture, appliances and other large pieces of trash. Appliances which use freon must have had the freon removed and be tagged. Car tires will be accepted at a cost of $1 each. Glass will also be accepted as will construction material from Austin residents only. No construction material from commercial builders can be taken.

Those needing a place to take small trees and brush from their yards can also use the Disposal Center. Starting Friday, December 26, live Christmas trees will be accepted at the monitored site. Those trees must be stripped of all decorations and lights since such items will harm equipment used to chip them into mulch.

The Disposal Center will be monitored. Those attempting to drop off items on days other than those scheduled will be prosecuted.

Residents with questions about the new Disposal Center are welcome to call the Mayor's office at 794-6646.