

'Trash weekend' dates set.... Austin's amount of trash can be reduced with recycling efforts

Written by Marty Randall

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Most residents in Austin appear not to know that city officials have added another day on which recyclables can be collected at curbside.

“Our second pick-ups haven’t been going so well,” observed Mayor Doug Campbell recently. “We’re beginning to think that most people don’t know that they can have their recyclables collected not only on the second Thursday of the month but also the fourth Thursday.”

The Austin Board of Works added the extra day in an effort to encourage residents to recycle what they can from their trash. Recycling some items from household trash saves the city money by holding down the amount of garbage it must transport to a transfer station south of Scottsburg. The city pays by truckload to dump trash, and those costs increase yearly.

From there, trash is taken by a contractor to a landfill near Medora. If everyone recycles, that landfill won’t fill up as quickly, officials have pointed out. More of the landfill will be available for garbage which cannot be recycled.

The next date that recyclables will be collected through the city’s curbside program is on Thursday, February 26. Items must be placed at curbside by 7 a.m.

The curbside recycling program accepts clean, dry newspapers, metal cans, number 1 and 2 plastics jugs and bottles, aluminum cans, glass jars and batteries.

Residents may contact City Hall to obtain recycling bins.

All residents are also welcome to leave cardboard, magazines and phone books for recycling. In Austin, newspaper can be recycled by bundling it or placing papers in a box and putting them beside other trash on regular garbage pick-up days.

Items that are not acceptable for curbside recycling include latex paint, televisions, microwaves, carpeting, springs and mattresses, electronics, furniture, pesticides, driveway sealer, construction debris, window glass and regular trash.

In other, trash-related news, the first weekend of each month has been selected as the time when residents may bring larger objects to the city’s drop-off site at the corner of Christie Road and U.S. Highway 31 North.

The next weekend for such drop-offs will be on Friday, March 6, and Saturday, March 7. Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Such larger objects as furniture, worn-out appliances and tires may be brought to the site. A recycling fee of \$12 will be charged for appliances using refrigerant which has not been removed and tagged.

Persons wishing to dump larger items on these special weekends must provide

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a valid driver license and a current sewer bill to prove they are Austin residents.

Anyone having questions about recycling can contact the Mayor's office at 794-6646 for more information