
MEMORANDUM

TO: BRIAN STINEMAN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

FROM: DAVID POPP, SOLID WASTE MANAGER

SUBJECT: SPRING CLEANUP 2020

DATE: JANUARY 6, 2020

Introduction

The City of Muscatine annually provides a spring cleanup event that allows the citizens of Muscatine and Fruitland to place bulky waste items curbside for collection at no charge during a specified week set by the Council every year. Along with bulky waste items such as furniture, carpet or small quantities of building materials, each resident has been allowed to set out two appliances for collection at no charge during clean up week. In addition to the curbside collection week, an electronics drop off week and a tire drop off week have been offered at the Transfer Station. For no charge, residents have been able to drop off up to three electronics and up to four tires at no cost during the specified weeks.

In addition to spring clean-up week, residents of the City of Muscatine and Fruitland may call in and schedule, on their trash collection day, up to three bulky waste curbside collections every year, at no charge, with up to seven items per collection. These curbside collections are performed with one employee and a small dump truck. Curbside yard waste is available to residents at no charge on their trash collection day and appliance/electronics curbside collection is available on a pre-paid per item basis. Curbside collection of concrete rubble and large brush piles is also offered to residents on a call in basis, these are provided by Roadway Maintenance Division staff.

Background

Crews from both Solid Waste and Roadway Maintenance Divisions work on the bulky waste collection week. In 2019 the cleanup was completed in five days but typically the cleanup lasted two weeks. In 2019, this could be attributed to less tonnage collected, the addition of two rental refuse trucks and improved coordination of staff usage. Roadway Maintenance and Sewer Divisions provided thirteen (13) full time employees, nine (9) temp service employees and fourteen (14) pieces of equipment, the Solid Waste Division provided eight (8) pieces of equipment, eight (8) full time employees and seventeen (17) temp service employees. The total

cost for the 2019 Spring Cleanup week was estimated at \$90,964.08 for equipment costs, employees and disposal costs.

The community sees large piles of waste placed at the curbside for this event. Residents place these piles curbside usually starting the week prior to the cleanup event. Scavengers/scrappers rummage thru these piles scattering items while high winds blow items around. By the time crews get to the last day, some piles may have been sitting at the curb for one to two weeks. Both Roadway Maintenance and Solid Waste Divisions work overtime to try to get each day's route done in a timely fashion. Residents accrue waste at their homes in anticipation of Spring Clean Up Week, often creating unsightly piles of waste in yards and driveways.

Recommendation/Rational

Staff recommends that we expand our curbside collection program that is already offered to residents of Muscatine and Fruitland, thus discontinuing the historic "Spring Cleanup Week". Rather than offering just three bulky waste curbside collections, at no charge, per year. We would allow unlimited bulky waste curbside collections for residents on a call in, scheduled basis. How this would work? Residents would still call in for their free curbside bulky waste collection to be scheduled on their normal trash collection day. We would schedule up to twenty bulky waste collection set-outs per day and use a rear load garbage truck and two employees to perform the collections. Limitations would change from a limit of seven items per set-out to a pile no larger than 10' x 4' x 2', or about the size of a pickup truck load. Bulky waste would now be done with a rear load garbage truck, which we already own. Staff would be one full time employee, who we already have employed and performing the curbside bulky waste collections, and hiring one ¾ time employee to assist with the new bulky waste program. The cost for the new hire of the ¾ time employee would be offset by the funds usually spent on performing Spring Cleanup Week.

Residents would be allowed up to two free appliances, picked up curbside, per year. We would still schedule the free electronics drop off week, up to three at no charge. We would also schedule the free tire drop off week, up to four tires at no charge. These would both take place at the Transfer Station as they have in the past. Curbside yard waste collection would still continue weekly on the resident's normal trash collection days.

Using this process would give us the ability to block out days that collections are scheduled to allow for vacations, sick leave, double holiday collection days, etc. which would require staff from Refuse Collections to fill in and possibly cause overtime to be worked.

This is ultimately an enhanced benefit to providing a cleanup week in the spring because the community would not experience items being stored for up to a year on their premises and there is the opportunity to dispose of more bulky items at no charge curbside than the one cleanup week offers. This would also allow Roadway Maintenance Division staff and equipment to continue with their tasks rather than stopping street repairs for up to two weeks to provide assistance with the cleanup event.

Spring Clean Up Week Proposal

A photograph of a residential yard cluttered with debris. In the foreground, a large yellow and white metal container is tipped over on its side. Next to it is a wooden crate. The ground is covered with a large pile of cardboard boxes, wooden pallets, and other miscellaneous items. In the background, there is a shed with a white garage door, several green trash bins, and houses with bare trees under a clear blue sky.

Brian Stineman
Public Works Director
Council In-depth Meeting
January, 9, 2020

History

- Typically held during last week of April
- Muscatine & Fruitland Residents only
- Used to be able to finish in one week
- Rampant abuse causes delays
- Requires assistance from multiple divisions and temporary workers
- P.W.: 13 F.T. labor, 9 Temp, 14 equipment
- S.W.: 8 F.T. labor, 17 Temp, 8 equipment

Current Clean Up Week Rules

- Muscatine & Fruitland residents can set out bulky waste items like:
 - furniture, carpet, small amounts of building materials
 - Up to two appliances
 - Pile must be 10ft. x 4ft. x 2 ft. (Pickup truck load)
- Tires and electronics must be taken to the Transfer Station

The Issues

- People set out EVERYTHING
- Piles do not conform to size limit
- Piles are set out early and are picked through
- Picked through items are strewn about
- Takes Roadway Maintenance staff away from maintaining roads
- Slows down regular collection of trash
- Added costs for temporary workers
- Items are “hoarded” all year to be set out during clean up week

We Can Do Better

- Discontinue Clean Up Week
- Offer unlimited bulky waste curbside collection at no additional charge
- Bulky waste pickups would need to be called in and scheduled
- Size of pick up would still be 10x4x2 ft.
- Estimated that 20 per day can be picked up with 1 truck and 2 staff

We Can Do Better

- This reduces staff needs from 46 to 2
- This reduces equipment needs from 22 to 1
- This reduces ugly piles sitting around town for weeks
- This reduces stockpiling of waste waiting for cleanup week
- We would still offer drop-off weeks for e-waste and tires

Everybody Wins

- Bulky waste and extra items are picked up year-round, no need to wait until spring
- Roadway Maintenance staff can work on roads rather than picking up trash
- Costs for temporary employees are eliminated
- Ugly messes around town are avoided
- We can start publicizing immediately and begin scheduling in February, 2020