



## Trashy Issues...

*What's a homeowner to do?*

*by Kat Rowoldt*

You could almost catch a whiff of the stench in the air that greets Linda Grace as she comes home in the hundred degree weather this time of year. She took the mic to share how her neighbor's trash can currently contains deposits from their new

baby and how the warm temperature accentuates the odor she endures as she exits her car to go into her home. ...and did I mention the flies? That's just one, or two, of the numerous reasons that were shared at the Trash Forum held at the Convention Center, opting to return the trash cans back to the alleys from which they came.

The majority of folks discussed the unsightly appearance the cans give to the neighborhoods. One gentleman talked about how it is easy to misconstrue our streets as alleys with all the cans along the way. Another man asked the attendees how many wanted their cans back in the alley via a show of hands. Then he asked how many want them in the streets. Only one hand went up for the street versus the alley in this impromptu polling process.

People discussed the impossibility of handling yard waste with the current cans. When the trash was in the alley, you simply bagged your leaves and things and left them to be removed in just a few days, since we had twice weekly service. Now we only have weekly, and it must fit in the can. Yard waste and other bulk items make it impossible to fit in the provided container. One fellow church member informed me that when she raked her yard, she simply put the leaves and twigs in the recycle can. Oops....that was a no-no.

Bulk pick up was a big issue as well. Who wants an old chair or broken appliance sitting in your front yard awaiting bulk pick up. One gentleman, who spoke several times, held in his hand a printed copy of the information on the website that states that he is to receive bulk pick up that week. The dates stated for his area confirmed that was his week. He set things out on Thursday, the day of the forum, and now wonders if they will be picked up by the end of the day Friday. It's his week! The website simply isn't clear about what's going on and when it will happen exactly.

The audience was filled with many people who were appreciative of now having home recycling and thanked the city for adding that feature. But they weren't happy with now cutting back on it - or adding another unsightly can to their street clutter.

While most of the conversations focused on the visual aspect and functionality of the new cans, one thing was not mentioned and brought forth for discussion. It's a safety aspect!

For me personally, my first and foremost complaint is the ugliness the cans added to our neighborhoods. I still don't like it at all - not when we have alleys that can be used for our trash - which was their purpose when the subdivisions were planned out. But that took second place one afternoon when I noticed small children dodging in and out of traffic lanes trying to walk around the cans on a narrow street on their way home from school. One of the little tykes wasn't as tall as the can. Oh my! What if a driver didn't see her as she stepped out to go around the can?

That was the final straw for me. I truly believe the cans need to be moved back into the alley for many reasons. I would dare say that our postal workers would like that too. Can you imagine the stench they inhale as they weave their truck between cans to deliver the mail?

TDS was there too. They wanted to share their perspective on how we ended up in this mess. While many people were interested in what they had to say, they were out of order trying to use this event to market their company. This event was purposed to give the citizens of San Angelo an opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas on the trash issues. Citizens - not competitive companies - were invited to speak.

Our homes and yards were not designed to have cans in the front. In other communities where they have to put their cans out front because they don't have alleys, they have a courtesy wall or area designed for their trash cans and bulk to collect until collection day. Our homes aren't designed that way.

One of my neighbors decided to park their cans outside one of my bedroom windows. Lovely - on a nice warm day. You can't open the windows any longer and enjoy a nice breeze. We began relocating their cans for them while they were at work, and they finally caught onto our subtle suggestion.

Shane Kelton, City of San Angelo Operations Director, announced they would hold at least one more Trash Forum before taking their discoveries back to council. I would highly encourage everyone to plan on attending the next forum. We will post the date and time of the next trash forum as quickly as we receive it.

Give voice to your concerns. Let them know you want your trash back in the alley. Tell them your ideas on bulk pick up and other trash concerns. It's only one hour of your time and it could make a huge difference in how our neighborhoods look and trash services functions in the years to come.

It's not a topic we enjoy - but it's one that we create every day. Trash! It's a part of life.

Until next time....

*Kat Rowoldt*

Christian Reporter News

[www.ChristianReporterNews.com](http://www.ChristianReporterNews.com)

**If you enjoyed, please forward to a friend and share!**

© 2011-2016 CHRISTIAN REPORTER NEWS. Kathryn G Rowoldt - all rights reserved. You are welcomed to forward and share this KAT NOTES / BRIT NOTES with friends and family, but all rights are reserved and no part of this material may be published in any form without written consent from the CHRISTIAN REPORTER NEWS.