

Recycling upgrade in Liberty

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— It's a solid waste convenience site – not a dump.

The newest Randolph County waste disposal site is open for business at 428 W. Brower Ave., Liberty. Graded, paved and landscaped, the one-acre tract is a welcome addition to the local scene, according to Town Manager Roger Davis, who said response since the July 23 opening “has been very favorable. The neighbors think it's great, a big improvement.”

Before the county built the convenience site, the land was used for storage by the town's Public Works Department. There was no landscaping, so the site was kind of an eyesore.

The county took one acre of the six-acre tract, fenced it in, left several tall trees and planted Leyland cypress and other shrubs along the edges. Crews also sowed grass.

Residents coming into the convenience site first pass the small office, where Rick Andrews collects fees for household waste and can answer questions about recycling. The asphalt circle drive proceeds by large metal containers for waste, aluminum cans, plastics and paper. There are vats for motor oil and antifreeze. Other recyclables taken by the county are used oil filters, tires (off the rims) and batteries.

Davis said the site also collects old furniture and appliances. They don't recycle glass, however.

David Townsend, director of Public Works for Randolph County, said it cost about \$150,000 to build the convenience site. He said there are now just two unmanned and four manned sites in the county.

“We've got a nice site, protected, and it's good for us and for Liberty,” said Townsend. “It should help reduce traffic at the main landfill. This will be here a lot of years.”

Townsend said the goal of the county's solid waste collection sites is to “cover our costs. We aren't making money.”

The county closed its landfill in the 1990s and now pays a company to haul it off. Collection fees at the convenience sites help defray the costs.

“I'm extremely proud,” Townsend said. “Aaron (Carter, staff engineer) did a great job (of building the site). It's good to have the cooperation of the municipality to put this all together.

“We wanted to make it look good,” said Townsend. “We've had several counties come to look at it.”

The convenience site is open Monday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's closed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and holidays.

Brower Avenue is a block south of and parallel with Swannanoa Avenue.

Fees for solid waste are: 13-gallon kitchen bag, 75 cents; 33-gallon bag, \$1.50; 55-gallon bag, \$3; and \$6 each for chairs and small furniture. For information, call 318-6607 or 318-6653.

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Vats for collection of motor oil and antifreeze are two amenities of the new solid waste convenience site in Liberty. The Randolph Guide