

Convenience Center to Close at end of July



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONVENIENCE CENTER TO CLOSE AT END OF JULY *OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS*

GREAT FALLS, Montana – The City Commission adopted the Fiscal Year 2013 budget on Tuesday, July 17, 2012. Included in the budget adoption was the closure of the Citizen's Convenience Center. The City would like to notify users of the Convenience Center that the last day of operation will be Sunday, July 29. However, there are a number of private resources available here in the community to address recycling needs and for those residents who have additional trash needs, there are options available to them as well.

The City has been operating the Citizen's Convenience Center since 1992 for recycling and trash disposal (transfer station) needs. Since that time the Sanitation Fund has lost over \$1 million due to its operation. Over the years, in an effort to break even and minimize losses fees have been adjusted, the hours of operation have been changed and staffing levels have been examined. It is also important to note that 37% of the customers utilizing the transfer station were county residents, not city residents. The closure of the Convenience Center, while not ideal, was necessary, in order to put an end to the ongoing drain to the Sanitation Fund.

There are options available for residents who utilized the transfer station at the Convenience Center. Those with additional trash pick-up needs (yard waste, extra trash, etc.) are encouraged to rent an additional container from the City of Great Falls for a minimal monthly charge of \$5.65. Residents also have the option of renting construction trash containers (available in various sizes) for their miscellaneous clean-up needs and projects. Items can also be taken directly to the High Plains Landfill, located just north of Great Falls or County drop off sites located throughout Cascade County. The closest County drop-off sites are located in Ulm, Stockett and Vaughn.

There are a number of options available throughout the community for those who want to continue to recycle. City staff is continuing to examine more convenient disposal options for waste oil. Those providing recycling opportunities include:

City of Great Falls, Sanitation Division – 1005 25th Avenue NE, 771-1401

Hours of Operation: Provides weekly commercial cardboard pick-up for \$15 a month.

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What they accept: Corrugated cardboard only.

Oily Waste - 172 N. Manchester Rd, 761-4503

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

What they accept: Oily waste including motor oil. Please call ahead before dropping off your oily waste.

Wal-Mart - 701 Smelter Avenue N.E., 761-5426

Hours of Operation: Available 24-hours a day (recycling bin is located in their parking lot area)

What they accept: Plastics #1 PET or PETE & #2 HDPE

Plastics #1 are usually clear or green, glossy, rigid containers that sink in water, clear and green soda bottles, cooking oil bottles, peanut butter jars, salad dressing bottles and other food and drink containers.

Plastics #2 are usually milky or solid colors and rigid containers, plastic bags, milk jugs and yogurt or margarine tubs, detergent bottles, shampoo bottles and other containers.

Patrons are reminded to clean and rinse all containers and ensure that their drop-offs are free of trash. Please note that this is not a trash drop off site.

Pacific Steel & Recycling - 1624 12th Ave N, 791-8550

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Summer hours include Saturday from 8 a.m. - 12p.m.

What they accept: Scrap steel, stainless steel, magnesium, titanium, nickel alloys, lead, batteries, aluminum, aluminum cans, copper, insulated copper brass, scrap cast iron, radiators, corrugated cardboard, newspaper, office paper, magazines, deer & elk hides (seasonal), cattle hides, and deer/elk antlers. Some appliances are also accepted including: washers, dryers, refrigerators (if the freon is evacuated properly by a certified tech) and ovens.

Steel Etc. – 1408 52nd St N, 761-4848

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

What they accept: Copper, aluminum, brass, lead, lead acid batteries, aluminum cans, tin, appliances, radiators, vehicles, iron, stainless steel, insulated copper wire. If it is made of metal Steel Etc. will buy it. They will also be accepting corrugated cardboard and paper in the near future.

Filipowicz Brothers Salvage - 3120 Rainbow Dam Road, 727-0535

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

What they accept: All metals. They do not accept batteries, plastic, glass, cardboard or paper.

Montana Waste Systems – 3201 15th Street NE, 761-2545

Hours of Operation: They provide curbside recycling (twice a month pick-up) as an option for their residential sanitation customers only for an additional \$2 a month. This is only an option for those located within the City limits.

What they accept: Cans (aluminum and tin), corrugated cardboard, newsprint, magazines and junk mail. They do not accept plastic or glass.

The Convenience Center was also a location many residents used to drop off their re-usable household items. However, there are currently many local organizations that will take, as well as benefit from re-usable household donations including:

- Habitat for Humanity Restore – 816 20th Street North
- Salvation Army Thrift Store – 616 1st Avenue NW or 4910 10th Avenue South
- St. Vincent DePaul – 426 Central Avenue West
- Goodwill Industries – 1210 9th Street South
- YMCA – 220 2nd Street North
- Rescue Mission – 326 2nd Avenue South

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Our community has many partners who are currently providing recycling services and the City encourages residents to begin utilizing their services. For those residents interested in obtaining an additional trash container, please contact the Public Works Department at 771-1401.

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Supporting Documents

 [Press Release - Closure of Convenience Center](#) (315 KB) (PDF)

 [Flyer - Convenience Center](#) (358 KB) (PDF)

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