

County Connection for Week of 09/05/2018
By David Smitherman
Pittsylvania County Administrator

One of the largest complaints that our readers have brought forward over the last few months has been one that is entirely about their neighbors. Many complaints have been received about aggressive behavior by individuals and groups seeking to turn your trash into their treasure.

The people talking to us have seen some really remarkable innovation in the ways that their neighbors have found to pull items out of the green boxes and compactors.

Sometimes we see people climbing in and out of the dumpsters themselves. Other times, we see people using fishing rods, homemade grappling hooks, and sheer brute strength to pull furniture, scrap metal and miscellaneous appliances out of the dumpsters.

While we're impressed with the innovation that we see, all of that is illegal. Per the solid waste ordinance, removal of any item from the convenience centers and green box sites is entirely prohibited. Climbing in and out of the dumpsters is also something that we do not allow.

Part of the reason that this is illegal is because it's a privacy issue. Going through other people's trash is not appropriate. The other reason that we don't allow this at our sites is because it's dangerous - especially if someone is physically in the dumpster.

We have people throwing in furniture and fridges and stoves, and they're not looking before they throw them in. If someone is in the dumpster, they could easily be hurt because someone just didn't see them. We do not want anyone to get hurt at our sites.

With our residents' privacy and safety in mind, we are already issuing citations every time we see someone pulling things from the dumpsters, or from other people's hands as they go to throw things away. Our collection sites are not places to swap items. If you want to do that, bring your items to the Pet Center on Hwy 29 where a Thrift Store will soon open.

To get the public's help and show that we are enforcing this ordinance, we have created a Trash Stoppers program. Our Facebook will be posting images of people we have cited, as well as saying what they've been cited for and where. It will also have images of people we are looking for information on.

These images will be taken from our convenience center cameras, and from our site attendants. You can help us keep our sites safe and clean by watching the live feeds of the Callands, Rockford and Brosville Convenience Centers, and filling out the form on the side. This will help us to make sure that we are not missing anything.

We are also still hiring for site attendants for these sites, which will help with all of our enforcement efforts. If you think you might be interested, I would encourage you to apply.

Finally, here's my question for you, which I am asking at the end of each article I write. Is there something you'd like to see us change? Do you have suggestions for what we should add to our convenience centers to make your experience better? We want to know!