

Residential trash pickup program O.K., but how about public cans?

Hudson's Corner

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My husband had a broken foot this summer. He is just now back in his tennis shoes and resuming part of his regular walking route up Roland Avenue.

When he came home a few days after the new residential One Plus One trash program had begun, he said the public can at Roland Avenue and Ridgewood Road was emitting foul odors, mostly of dog feces.

It made me wonder about public cans.

While One Plus One is working well at our house, save for one stinky piece of cheese, which could not be composted, I've seen several overflowing public cans, including one at Kittery and Cold Spring Lanes.

I've heard the cans are still being emptied frequently, but so far, the one at Roland Avenue and Ridgewood Road has been picked up only on trash days on Wednesdays.

On Tuesday, July 21, I took a tour of Roland Avenue trash cans. The wire one at our corner, even in the early morning hours before the sun was on it, smelled from yards away.

On closer inspection, yellow jackets swarmed over a pizza box inside. A trash can on the east side of Roland Avenue at Cold Spring Lane was not quite as full but equally pungent.

At the water tower, a more decorative can was empty. No smell at all.

Although many public trash cans once lined Roland Avenue to Deepdene Road, most are gone now.

In front of the Roland Park Library, two are still in place. When I looked, they were almost empty, save for a few bags of dog droppings.

The wire trash can at the bus stop by Roland Park Country School was a little more full but not yet smelly.

Across the street, by Roland Park Elementary/Middle School, the wire can was only one-quarter full, but school is out of session.

Under the parking garage by the post office, a non-public, plastic garbage can brimmed over.

Someone had deposited a gigantic plastic bag, which was spilling trash into a parking space.

The can by the Wachovia Bank branch was also completely full, topped by a fragrant banana peel and a yellow jacket-covered doughnut.

A neighbor I saw told me those cans were not the city's responsibility but the responsibility of the nearby Eddie's.

And indeed, the other cans in front of Eddie's were almost completely empty.

After the second Wednesday pickup day on our street, the fragrant trash my husband complained of was gone, but somehow the can was left in the street.

Now that can seems to have been hit by a car. It is squeezed half-closed, but still receiving regular deposits.

On Tuesday morning, July 28, it was full, with plastic gloves and white cloths lying in the street.

When I called 311 to request a new can, an operator told me the city is out of corner trash cans.

With the current "cleaner/greener" theme, let's hope the city receives a new shipment pronto and that all public cans in the city will be emptied often.

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