

Dear Editor:

Our trash and garbage pick up could be classified as one of our dirtiest jobs. This is where most of the Public Works employees begin their careers with us. They start on the back of the trash truck and move to other jobs that become available.

The refuse crew work under the supervision of Dave Clements. The Refuse Public Works team members are Van Pingel, Mark Weibrecht, Tim Underwood, Weldon (Roy) Broussard Jr., Finley (Joe) Berger, Scott Coppaway, and Michael Chitwood.

Theirs is a heavy job. They collect, lift and haul over 30 tons of our refuse every working day. Each man lifts 8 tons on his work day. This is enough to fill 1 ½ large tractor trailer trucks that are then unloaded at the Perry County Transfer station before ultimately being taken to a landfill in DuQuoin, Illinois. They also collect and dispose of yard waste, bulk waste items, leaves, and tree limbs as well as recyclable materials. The Refuse Department operates at an annual cost of \$700,000.00 or \$3000/working day. They do this job rain or shine, hot or cold, snow or sleet or ice. A tough job for sure.

When you see this hard working team on the street in front of your house give them a friendly smile and a sincere, well deserved thank you.

Your Board of Aldermen and I have authorized our Public Works Department to test a new trash container. We hope the new container will make refuse collection better for everyone. Better for us the customer because it has wheels and can be easily rolled to the curb, will not blow into the street on windy days and prevents animals from getting into your garbage. Better for the 7 men on our trash crew because it can be lifted and dumped with hydraulic power rather than manually.

If the new container passes the customer satisfaction test, that is, if we the people are satisfied, they will be given to all of us to use at no charge.

Ken Baer, Mayor