

Mebane's not leaving around this holiday season

BY KELLY HUNTER
SPECIAL TO THE MEBANE ENTERPRISE

As the temperature starts to cool and the days get shorter, we can say goodbye to summer and hello to fall. Fall means sweaters, hayrides, pumpkin patches, pumpkin spice, bonfires, and the changing

Mebane City BEAT

of leaves. Fall also officially signifies the beginning of the holiday season for months to come. As the City of Mebane prepares for a joyous, magical time of year, we want to ensure our citizens are aware of the holiday collection schedule and how to dispose of leaves and brush properly.

Currently, Mebane's garbage trucks can hold 31 cubic yards (about the volume of a large U-Haul truck) of trash. This means one garbage truck can go around the city and collect 750 garbage carts before heading to the landfill. The Mebane Public Works Department operates on a routing system, meaning certain sections of the city are collected on specified days. Every year, the department provides an annual Holiday Garbage Collection Schedule in November (which can be found on the City of Mebane website under the Public Works Department) detailing city holidays and any impacts on residential collection.

In scheduling collection days around a holiday, Public Works attempts to shift collection days so their crews collect one route daily. During that route, the crew collects residential garbage, bulk items, brush, and leaves (when in season). Collecting one route each day does not overly strain the Public Works staff or equipment, but when they must collect two or more routes in a day, then they must shift staff from other divisions to help with the collection process. Residential garbage collection is the priority on such days, so they may be unable to collect all bulk items and brush left out.

Brush or yard waste will be collected on your regular garbage collection day. Yard waste is described as vegetative matter resulting from standard landscaping maintenance performed by the homeowner, including leaves, twigs, grass, limbs, shrub clippings, hay/pine straw, pinecones, and small logs. You do not need to call for a special collection unless you are requesting a large quantity of yard waste to be disposed of and want city staff to review the amount to ensure the city's collection of material.

If you wish to request a large quantity, please call the Public Works Department at 919-563-3401. The City of Mebane requires that brush and yard waste be placed in a permanent, reusable can or receptacle. Please refrain from using brown or plastic bags, as the disposal sites are reluctant to accept bags. Disposable plastic bags or other disposable containers will be serviced; however, this option is not environmentally friendly.

The city will not pick up yard debris from contracted work. The contractor is responsible for removing all yard waste and construction debris from the property, right-of-way, or public easement. When hiring contractors to perform any yard or construction work, please make sure they know they are responsible for removing any waste or debris. Contractors cutting and trimming trees and shrubs are responsible for removing all tree trunks, stumps,



and limbs. It is necessary that you verify that debris removal is included in the price quote for the job. Please review the city's guides and policies for more information. "Mebane citizens can help assist with collection operations by ensuring the garbage cart items placed on the street for collection are properly sorted and away from obstacles. Assure the items are not placed near a parked car, under a power line, or mixed with other trash or debris," stated Public Works Director Chuck Smith.

Starting in early October, Public Works will collect leaves around the city. The program allows residents to have loose leaves collected at the roadside without the need for bagging during this collection schedule. The loose-leaf collection program concludes in late February to early March and operates on the city-wide routing system. The routing system is based on city staff completing one leaf collection route of the entire city. Once the city route is completed, Public Works returns to the beginning of the same planned route and starts again.

A typical loose-leaf collection route around the entire city takes about three to four weeks, depending on the number of leaves placed for collection. This equates to about six complete loose-leaf collection routes around the city. Once your leaves have been collected, the truck will not stop again to pick up your leaves if you place more by the curb. Instead, the truck will return to where it left off before taking the previous pile to the dump. Thus, if a resident misses a loose-leaf collection, they will have to wait until the next loose-leaf collection day.

The proper way to dispose of your leaves is to place them at the street's edge, in rows parallel to the road. Leaves should be carefully placed so as not to disrupt pedestrian safety on the sidewalk. All leaves should be kept away from ditches, storm drains, fences, water meters, and sewer cleanouts. Vehicles should be parked away from leaf piles to ensure that the leaves are not obstructed in a way that blocks city vehicles' access to collect them safely. All sticks, rocks, trash, gravel, glass, or other solid matter must be removed from leaves so as not to damage city equipment. If staff encounters debris in the leaf pile, they will discontinue collection at said property.



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF MEBANE

If you are interested in receiving collected leaves, contact the Public Works Department at 919-563-3401. To receive leaves, you must have a clear dump site for leaves, provide clear access to the leaf truck, be able to receive approximately three to four tons of wet or dry leaves, understand that leaves are collected from city streets and that the leaf loads may contain impurities, and accept the loads at no charge.

Once the garbage/leaf trucks are full, the city complies with state-required mandates for proper disposal of leaves and garbage. Full garbage trucks are hauled to the state-permitted Alamance County landfill for disposal. The city pays a tipping fee of \$42 per ton to dispose of the city's trash. Leaves are either taken to farms for composting or to a state-permitted facility. Since the Mebane Public Works Department operates large garbage and leaf collection equipment, they tend not to fare well in snow and ice conditions. Therefore, in the case of severe weather, the city may delay collection until the streets can be safely traversed. We take the safety of our city crews and the public very seriously and do not want to bring harm to staff or citizens by placing personnel on unsafe streets.

The City of Mebane looks forward to another wonderful holiday season, and we appreciate all your patience and assistance with maintaining all service levels of sanitation collection to ensure Mebane stays positively charming.

Program to focus on minority life on the Eno River

The Mebane Historical Museum will host a reading that explores the history of life on one of the region's most well-known bodies of water.

"Ribbons of Color Along the Eno River: The History of African Americans and People of Color Living on the Eno," will be presented at 7 p.m. on Sept. 18.

From prehistory to the present day, Judge Bevely Scarlett will read and present the Eno River's vast history from the perspective of the people of color who have made the Eno home for hundreds of years.

The event will be at the Mebane Historical Museum at 209 W. Jackson St. in Mebane. For more information, call 919-563-5054, or go to www.mebanehistoricalmuseum.org.



Judge Beverly Scarlett

growing market, and there's no competition there," said Vijay Shah, CCIM.

TradeMark Properties has been working with Alpaca Chicken since 2019. The commercial real estate firm has helped co-founders and owners Ranbir Bakhshi, Nora Palma, and Ruby Bakhshi to secure three locations.

"We are fortunate that we've had a great relationship with Alpaca for many years, and that has developed into a very successful partnership," said Shelley Bhatia, CCIM. "However, what we value most is the friendship we've developed over the years and are very grateful for that."

Alpaca Chicken's Mebane location is expected to open in early 2024. The space is owned by Chat Enterprises, LLC.

ALPACA CHICKEN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tenant retail building. Signature Flooring is the other tenant in the building.

Alpaca Chicken has restaurants in Raleigh, Garner, Durham, Morrisville, Apex/Sanford, Chapel Hill, Knightdale, and now Mebane. The business uses only all-natural chickens that are not given any added hormones and offers a variety of options that are free of many of the most common allergens.

"The Mebane location is a good fit for Alpaca Chicken because it is across the street from a Walmart, it's a

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