

Paper: Kansas City Star, The (MO)
Title: Dumping prevention program isn't a waste
Author: LYNN HORSLEY
Date: July 20, 2005
Page: B3

An illegal-dumping prevention program that started in January has netted its first major success, Councilman Troy Nash said Tuesday.

Attentive neighbors, police and the city's dumping prevention coordinator helped identify those responsible for dumping about 119 tires and 50 gallons of motor oil on the public parkway at 35th Street and Bales Avenue, he said.

"We have declared war on illegal dumpers for ravaging our community," Nash said. "We will win, even if we only take back one neighborhood at a time."

Illegal dumping is a big problem in the urban core, and Nash has tried to start a prevention program in the past. But this is the first year the program has really taken off.

Kansas City identified about \$31,000 in funding this year to pay for Donna Rollo-Leap, a retired police officer, to serve as coordinator of the Rat-on-a-Rat (ROAR) program. It encourages people in the community to alert the authorities to illegal dumping.

That's what happened July 12, according to Rollo-Leap, when a Palestine neighborhood leader noticed 16 tires at 35th and Bales. By the next evening, the pile had grown to more than 100 tires, plus leaky cans of motor oil stretching down the parkway.

Community representatives identified the vehicle hauling the items and called police. Officers discovered the items had come from an old shop at 3700 Prospect, owned by Newsome Realty.

Newsome's proprietor told police he had paid a company more than \$600 to clean out the building and dispose of the items properly.

An agent from the Environmental Protection Agency determined the oil was not leaking into the sewer system and later made sure the tires and oil were properly disposed of.

Rollo-Leap said the site was cleared by July 14, and the case has been referred to the Jackson County prosecutor for possible charges.

Since she was hired in January, Rollo-Leap has worked to eliminate other illegal dump sites in the Prospect Corridor, but she said this was the most significant.

"It's going to take involvement of the community and the partnerships in order to get this stopped," she said.

To reach Lynn Horsley, call (816) 234-4317 or send e-mail to lhorsley@kcstar.com.

Author: LYNN HORSLEY

Page: B3

Copyright 2005 The Kansas City Star Co.