

**Mayor's column for
The Enterprise
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During my "neighborhood tour" this spring, I was often asked why the City of Edmonds doesn't do a "spring cleanup" event like some of our neighboring cities. This type of event has different meanings to each person who asked the question, but generally it meant City crews coming through neighborhoods to pick up whatever residents wanted to get rid of. Typically it was large yard waste, appliances, tires, paint, batteries and old electronics items.

Years ago the City did actually participate in some form of this type of all-city cleanup. It was discontinued because the cost became so high. Labor costs and dump fees became prohibitive. We asked the County to come to Edmonds with the appropriate containers and manpower and do a hazardous waste cleanup weekend. They quoted us a cost of \$125,000. Thanks, but no thanks!

We also took a look at the costs that the City of Lynnwood incurs each year to do their cleanup event. In 2004 the cost reached an all-time high of \$72,000 for their event. They scaled back last year to a more limited event, and the cost was \$44,000. They still are fine-tuning their plans. Dump fees and employee costs limit what the City can do.

We are still looking at ways to coordinate opportunities for citizens to participate in a spring cleanup event in the future. As we study our options, consider that you already have the ability today to use existing facilities to rid your homes of unwanted items. The County has two transfer stations close to Edmonds that will take most everything that you would like to get rid of.

The transfer stations take the following items: all electronics including TVs, VCRs, monitors, microwaves, etc.; fluorescent light fixtures, mattresses, motor oil, scrap metal, and tires. Call them first if you have any questions. There is a hazardous waste drop in Everett that takes antifreeze, paint, batteries, pesticides, tanks, and many other chemicals. If you would like to get rid of old appliances, call Jaco Environmental for a free pick-up at curbside. They can be reached at 800-414-5072. And finally, if you want to get rid of an old vehicle, call a wrecking yard.

So while we continue to look at the feasibility of a cleanup event, you still have the ability to do your own cleanup, and I would encourage you to do so. I know that I could clear some space in my own garage if I made a couple trips to the transfer station. Happy cleaning!