

Garbage Collection Returns to Normal

Release Date: 8/17/17

By Royce Armstrong, GCT

It has taken six weeks, but county garbage collection returns to normal this week as CWC inmates will once again be manning the garbage trucks.

Community Work Center (CWC) inmates provide much of the labor in picking up George County garbage each week, serving as hoppers, or the men who ride the backs of the trucks actually picking up trash.

That came to a halt in early July when one of the county trucks was involved in a three-vehicle collision killing one of the inmates. The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) immediately pulled all inmates off the trucks pending an investigation.

The garbage truck driver was not at fault in the accident.

Waste Pro of Jackson County has been supplying George County with garbage workers or hoppers since the accident.

In the meantime, County officials have been working with MDOC to devise a safety plan so inmates could return to work on the trucks, according to Communications Director Ken Flanagan. The plan includes regular safety meetings, reflective vests on the inmates, more warning lights on the trucks and protective cages for the inmates.

Some county residents have seen delayed pickups, but all garbage is being picked up each week, Flanagan said. He noted county residents have been very understanding throughout the six week period.

“The supervisors especially want to thank Waste Pro of Jackson County for their assistance,” he said. “We could not have done what we have done without them.”