The three cardboard recycling containers at Stanton’s recycling site, located at a city parking lot on the corner of Walnut and Camburn streets, are frequently overflowing and can create a mess on the properties of residents and business owners. The Stanton City Commission on Tuesday discussed options for solving the issue.

Stanton officials looking for solutions to ongoing recycling site mess

BY MEGHAN NELSON
Daily News staff writer

STANTON — This city’s recycling site is frequently overflowing with recyclables, even though Republic Services has increased its pickup to twice a week.

The overflow causes problems during severe weather when the wind blows the items from the city parking lot at the corner of Walnut and Camburn streets onto properties of nearby businesses and homes.

“Trash is ending up even in Madison’s Park,” City Manager Elizabeth Pynoert reported during Tuesday’s Stanton City Commission meeting. “When the wind blows, it takes the trash all over town.”

The overflow is also a deterrent for people who want to recycle but drive to the bins only to discover they’re too full for any more items.

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RECYCLING

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“There are so many times I go down to drop off recycling and have to go back home with it because the bins are full,” Commissioner Jane Basom said.

Pynaert plans on talking to Montcalm County officials about the issue, but she wanted to hear from city commissioners about possible solutions.

“It’s a good thing to have it here, but there are a lot of problems,” Commissioner Chuck Miel said. “Is there a way we could put a small fence up to keep it from blowing?”

Pynaert said a fence could be a possibility, but it might be an issue for the recycling trucks when they come to empty the bins.

City commissioners also discussed adding another pickup day or having stricter enforcement of only allowing residents, not commercial businesses, to use the service.

The city recycling service is part of an agreement with Montcalm County, which provides the service to residents for free. The four general and one cardboard recycling containers belong to the county, and Stanton owns two additional cardboard recycling containers.

Since Montcalm County is responsible for the service, Commissioner John Seaman suggested the city let the county handle the issue.

“It’s a good service for our community,” Basom said. “I think if we can work with them (Montcalm County), we should continue to offer it.”

No action was taken on the recycling issue, but Pynaert reassured city commissioners she would work with Montcalm County officials to see what options would be available.

Montcalm County officers four additional 24/7 recycling sites at the following locations:

- Department of Public Works, 818 N. Williams St. in Carson City
- Crystal Community Center, 206 S. Main St. in Crystal Township
- Southwest corner of former Hitachi property on Quicksilver Lane off Neff Road in Edmore
- Department of Public Works, North Street (new location) in Lakeview

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