

https://www.gillette newsrecord.com/news/local/article_6ee9a58a-e938-50ff-a3ff-788afd3d07a7.html

TOP STORY

City garbage crews up to the task during Camporee

By JONATHAN GALLARDO News Record Writer jgallardo@gillette newsrecord.net
Aug 12, 2024

1 of 3



Hunter Deaton, a worker with the city's streets division, rolls a trash can up to a truck Friday.
News Record Photo/Jonathan Gallardo

The city of Gillette's solid waste division knew that the week of Camporee was going to be challenging, but the crew was excited for the opportunity.

Skylar Riehemann, solid waste manager for the city of Gillette, said that considering all of the unexpected things that happened last week, his crew did well.

There were 180 dumpsters at Cam-plex, along with many rollout containers. At times they got to the point of overflowing, but Riehemann said the Pathfinders were understanding.

“Everybody’s been real cool, they’ll wave and smile at you, they’re extra friendly,” he said Thursday afternoon. “I think they’re extra nice to us because they’re happy to see us coming. We haven’t had anybody get sideways with us. Or anything, they understand it’s a lot to do, we’re doing our best to get to everything.”

Riehemann said that as far as he knows, residents’ trash service was not affected during Camporee. But there were a few issues out at Cam-plex.

The first day proved tricky, because that’s when most Pathfinders arrived at Cam-plex and set up camp.

“We wanted to get to where we needed to go to empty the cans, but with all the traffic and the influx of people it’s hard to do,” he said.

The next day, last Tuesday, things started out OK, but then the storm hit. The plan had been to send the trucks throughout the camps while everyone was out at the nighttime program at Cam-plex Park, but because of the storm, people headed back to their camps.

Riehemann decided not to have the trucks try to navigate through the swarms of people that night. From there, the crews played catch-up.

“This morning, I didn’t see anything on the ground, so we’ve been able to keep up pretty good,” he said.

And for the first couple of days, many of the Pathfinders were still getting used to the site of garbage trucks coming through their campsites.

“They’ve made announcements in all the morning meetings, to let them know, if it looks like a trash truck, it probably is a trash truck,” he said.

The crews driving the trucks got through the long week. Despite fatigue, “they’ve been really positive,” Riehemann said. “It’d be really easy to be negative about being out here so long and fighting through the crowds, the mud and all that stuff. But everybody’s been doing a really good job of having the right mindset out here. If you don’t, it could make things a hundred-percent worse.”

Jonathan Gallardo