

KBCB NEWSLETTER

Keep Brunswick County Beautiful & Brunswick County Solid Waste/Recycling

2014 is a Wrap!

Brunswick County Solid Waste & Recycling and Keep Brunswick County Beautiful has had a great year with the kick-off of several new recycling programs, community outreach, and our litter prevention programs. With the assistance of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Keep America Beautiful, we were able to offer more recycling options and litter prevention tools to our county's residents.

We are excited to see what 2015 has to offer and we hope you will continue to support us and our efforts.

We Thank You

We would like to take this time to say thank you to all of the communities that allowed us to participate in their festivals/events. It was nice to meet so many of our neighbors and we commend you all for your interest and your hard work in reducing your waste and recycling more.

Seeing the communities rally together to enjoy great food, entertainment, crafts, etc. should make us all proud to say we reside in Brunswick County.

America Recycles Day

As many of you know, Keep Brunswick County Beautiful celebrated America Recycles Day this year with a contest. The contest, "Guess the number of bottle caps", was a great success! If you visited our tent at any of the local festivals, you were asked to "Take the Pledge", the pledge to recycle that is. By taking the pledge, you were eligible to make a guess on the number of bottle caps that were in the recycle bin. We are proud to announce that we had a grand total of 278 pledges made and while nobody guessed the exact number of caps, we had two residents that were very close. We would like to congratulate Helen Kapalka of Calabash and Jacob Lewis of Supply on making the closest guess. We were happy to present Ms. Kapalka with an Attractions Book full of coupons and savings in our area and Jacob received a \$25.00 gift card to be used at any Walmart store. It was nice to see so many residents participate in our game but more importantly it was great to see so many children and adults take that PLEDGE TO RECYCLE!





Don't be the Grinch that trashed Christmas!!

Did you know that Americans throw away 25 percent more household garbage during the holidays? From the feast we cook, the gifts and decorations, to traveling we tend to consume more resources and generate more waste than any other time of the year. The holidays are a special time for us all but it doesn't have to negatively impact our environment. Here are several ways that you can help make this a "GREEN" holiday:

- ◆ **Send holiday e-cards instead of paper greeting cards or make sure the ones you buy have recycled content material.**
- ◆ **When shipping, reuse foam peanuts or drop them off at your local delivery store.**
- ◆ **Use reusable grocery and shopping bags and make sure to recycle the non-reusable ones at your local grocery store.**
- ◆ **Eliminate using disposable plates, cups, napkins, and silverware. If you do buy disposable products look for ones with recycled content.**
- ◆ **Compost your left over food- it's easy and a great fertilizer! Find out more information about compost here at <http://ww.p2pays.org/compost/>**
- ◆ **Save all gift-wrapping and decorations to reuse later or wrap gifts in old maps, posters, sheet music, fabric scraps or wallpaper scraps.**
- ◆ **If your holiday gifts include new electronic gadgets and you need to discard your older electronics, you can recycle them at the Brunswick County Landfill year around at no charge.**
- ◆ **Recycle or properly dispose of all cooking grease at the Brunswick County Landfill.**
- ◆ **Make sure to turn off or unplug holiday decorations when they are not in use. Timers work perfect for this.**
- ◆ **Use LED holiday lights. They use about 99 percent less energy than traditional holiday bulbs and last up to 100,000 hours when used indoors. Plus, if one bulb goes out, the rest of the string still works!!**
- ◆ **Remember to recycle your Christmas tree, the Brunswick County Landfill will be accepting them between 12/26/2014 and 1/31/2015, free of charge from all county residents and property owners.**
- ◆ **Finally, as the holidays come to a close, have everyone go through their old items and recycle or donate any unwanted items to a local charity.**

Cigarette Litter Prevention

Courtesy of our Chairperson, Steve Cherry, we would like to share with you an article he wrote recently on our cigarette litter prevention program.

Depending on your age, you've heard for most of your life that cigarettes are bad for your health, but might not know about the mess cigarette butts make when it comes to our environment. Not only do cigarette butts release toxic waste into the soil and surface water, they can also take between 7 to 10 years to decompose. Just take a look at any intersection where there's a traffic signal. Or take a walk on the beach and notice the small, but dangerous filters sticking out all over the place. It's pretty sad, really. Ciggy butts are unsightly, unhealthy and take a long, long time to degrade. Enter Keep Brunswick County Beautiful, a non-profit affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, and its efforts to curb ciggy butt littering and related items such as cigarette packaging, matches, lighters, etc. Earlier this year, the organization received a grant from Keep America Beautiful to purchase ash/butt receptacles for several beach communities in the county. Shop owners were delighted to get a butt bin free of charge. Now they take pride in sweeping up the few butts that remain around their storefront, whether a restaurant, bait store or beach gear retailer. The biggest problem we face is education and awareness that cigarette butts are litter. As such, anyone caught littering – even a cigarette butt tossed from your car window or on the beach – any place in the county is subject to a fine, community service or both. For more information on litter prevention, feel free to contact Keep Brunswick County Beautiful at 253-2524. Steve Cherry, board chair, Keep Brunswick County Beautiful.

Thank you Steve for all your hard work, we appreciate your dedication over the years to the board.

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Keep Brunswick County Beautiful is always in need of volunteers to help with our many projects. With the new year starting, so do our clean ups in the spring, so we'll have plenty of opportunities for you to jump in and get your hands dirty for a good cause!



If interested, contact the Brunswick County Solid Waste & Recycling Department at (910)253-2524.



Merry Christmas, and Happy New Years from all of us at Brunswick County Solid Waste & Recycling and Keep Brunswick County Beautiful. We hope everyone has a memorable and safe holiday.



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