

Keep Brunswick County Beautiful / Brunswick County Recycling

KBCB NEWSLETTER

Free Week / HHW

As a reminder, this week from Monday, September 13 through Saturday, September 18 is free dump week at the Brunswick County Landfill.

The Landfill hours of operation are Monday through Saturday from 8 am until 4 pm. This event is for residential use only. Commercial businesses/vehicles will not be permitted to dump at no charge. All residents will be required to have proof of residency. This can be in the form of a drivers license with your Brunswick County address or a picture I.D. along with a utility bill, tax paper or any document mailed to the local address with your name on it.

Free dump week only pertains to the Brunswick County Landfill. Regular charges do apply at the County Convenience sites.

On Saturday, September 18 we will also be hosting the fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Electronics Collection and Clothes Drive. This event will take place at South Brunswick Middle School. The event will run from 9 am until 2 pm.

All residents bringing materials to the HHW Collection will be asked to show proof of residency.



County Clean-Up

I'm certain most people are familiar with the picture above. This is a pretty famous picture used by anti-plastic bag activists. I'm not going to go on a rant about plastic bags (see page two for that) but I am going to ask for volunteers to participate in this year's Big Sweep.

In Brunswick County we have a countless number of waterways and some of, what I consider, the most beautiful beaches on the east coast. Not to mention the rivers and the small streams and creeks that give Brunswick County such a charming appeal. Please come out and help keep Brunswick County beautiful.

To learn more about Big Sweep or to find the designated clean up area near you contact the Brunswick County Solid Waste/ Recycling office at 910-253-2524 or send an email to kthompson@brunscoco.net.

Paper or Plastic

No Thank You!

Have you ever stopped to think about the number of plastic and paper bags your household uses in a year? I recently read that the average American uses between 300 and 700 plastic bags per year. If Americans were to tie their annual consumption of plastic bags together in a chain form, it would reach around the Earth 760 times! Wow, that's scary and to thank all that plastic is made from petroleum. Another fact, according to the American Forest and Paper Association, in 1999 the U.S. alone used 10 billion paper grocery bags. This required 14 million trees to be cut down. What a waste.

Most bags both plastic and paper are not even recycled. They end up in our landfills, waterways and trees. The plastic bags are of particular concern to the environment because so many of them do end up in waterways and loose in the environment. I know from being at our own landfill/transfer station, here in Brunswick County, that these bags are a real annoyance. Take a visit to the landfill after a slightly windy day. You too will see the problem. The entire area will be decorated in plastic. What happens is trash is delivered by truck and emptied in the transfer station. In between dumping the trash and getting it loaded in a transfer truck wind catches these bags and distributes them throughout the landscape. Some of these bags are retrieved by cleanup crews but many escape. Not only is this an eye sore but it is an environmental hazard. Bags that end up loose in the landscape cause many problems for wild life and marine life. Animals can get tangled in the bags and injure their selves or suffocate and birds and marine life often mistake plastic for food, it is not digestible.

Landfills are not the only way plastic bags end up as litter. They often blow out of car windows and truck beds.

There are simple solutions to these problems. One very obvious solution is to make sure all bags both paper and plastic are recycled. Paper bags can go into your recycling container. Plastic bags have to go back to the store for recycling. Wal-Mart, Food Lion, Lowes Food, Piggly Wiggly and Harris Teeter all have plastic bag recycling containers at the entrance to the store. Another, even better, solution is to not use these bags at all. When you go to the store take your own reusable bag. Many stores offer reusable bags for a small price or you can purchase a few of your own preference to use at any store. Most merchants are very accustomed to the reusable bags and prefer them. Remember merchants must pay for those paper or plastic bags that they are using so you are saving them money. Also, I will say from my experience once you have gotten used to taking your own bags you get so you just don't care for the disposable bags. Reusable bags are easier to carry and unload, they don't dump out all over the car and they do not rip on the way into the house (I know everyone has had that happen at least once and it never fails there is always something breakable in that bag).

The next time you go for groceries or shopping take along a reusable bag. It makes unloading easier and it feels good knowing that you are doing something good for the environment and the economy.



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