

KCB APRIL 2022 MONTHLY



Welcome

Welcome to the Keep Cherokee Beautiful Newsletter!

As CEO of KCB, I'm happy to reach out to Cherokee County residents to let them know what KCB is all about.

KCB was reorganized and reintroduced to the county in early 2021. The Board of Commissioners, in particular District 3 Commissioner Benny Carter, felt this organization had a need and would serve the residents well if it could be "brought back to life." After many months of hard work by a dedicated group of volunteers, we are up and running. During the first year, we've established a Board of Directors, secured legal assistance from the county, filed and received our 501(c)(3) status, and started fundraising. We held two community cleanups along Bells Ferry and Kellogg Creek Roads, two very littered areas. Over 3,000 pounds of trash and litter was picked by more than 60 volunteers during these two events. That's 3,000 pounds that DIDN'T go into our streams, creeks, and Lake Allatoona!

We now have nearly 20 miles of roadway under contract for Adopt-A-Mile (AAM), and more businesses and local groups are getting in on the program. The Cherokee County Marshal's Office is going to challenge other Law Enforcement and Fire groups to join as well.

Please consider starting up an AAM program in your office or local group. Families, car clubs, tennis, HOA's, and businesses are all good candidates to help us KEEP CHEROKEE BEAUTIFUL!

And lastly, do you know anyone who would be interested in knowing more about Keep Cherokee Beautiful? If so, feel free to forward this newsletter and ask them to sign up for it so they receive all the latest news about KCB! [Sign up here](#)

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Mark Preetorius
Chief Executive Officer
Keep Cherokee Beautiful

Cherokee County Recycling Center offering roadside clean-up supplies

As a reminder, the Cherokee County Recycling Center will supply all necessary items for a roadside clean-up event including garbage pickers, safety vests, road signs, and garbage bags.

The recycling center will pick up the bagged trash once the event is completed and will coordinate the pickup of large roadside items such as couches and deceased animals.

Below are tips to make a roadside clean-up event both safe and productive.

1. Ensure all participants are familiar with what is to be collected and what should be left.
2. Require all participants to wear safety vests.
3. Only use tools for their intended purpose, no large or heavy items with the trash pickers.
4. Designate a "Spotter" to keep an eye on traffic in busy areas.
5. Notify the local Sheriff's Office precinct of the event and request extra patrols.
6. Keep track of participants, don't leave anyone behind.
7. With warmer weather approaching, be aware of wildlife including snakes.
8. Focus on what can be seen from the road, meaning leave smaller items such as small scraps of paper or cigarette butts so that participants will cover more ground during the scheduled pickup time.
9. Bags of collected garbage should be easily accessible by the recycling center's pick-up team. Please leave bags close to the roadway or all together in a common location.
10. Have Fun! Make the event something participants look forward to doing by including a garbage scavenger hunt, after-event snacks, and small prizes for most items collected.

Adopt-A-Mile Update

Keep Cherokee Beautiful currently has 13 groups who are actively cleaning 16 miles of Cherokee County roadways.

KCB's goal is to double the distance and finish 2022 with at least 30 miles of Cherokee County roadways being adopted by groups, businesses, and individuals.



With this newsletter, KCB would like to recognize all of those who have

volunteered and thank them for their hard work. Please send event pictures to cleancherokee@gmail.com to help the organization in continuing to recognize those who are keeping the roadways clean.

Have an event coming up? Email cleancherokee@gmail.com to advertise it in the "Upcoming Event" section of the newsletter.

Also, don't forget to send in after-event stats. These stats get reported to the state as trash removed from the roadways.

As a reminder, the Keep Cherokee Beautiful road signs include the adoptor's name along with the organization's name. This means that both parties have a vested interest in ensuring the roadways look good. Although there is a four-times-a-year requirement for clean-ups, many roadways require attention more frequently. If a stretch of roadway needs cleaning but volunteers are unable to put together an event, please contact the Cherokee County Recycling Center for assistance. The County's community service crews clean roadways each weekend and can add the road to the request list to be cleaned at a later date.

Current Adopt-A-Mile members are:

Peggy Simpson & Bo Wallace
North GA Pickleball Club
Waleska UMC Outreach
Calco Engineering
BridgeMill Community
Encompass Ministries
Charlice Byrd
Manous Family
Bridge Mill Heights
Williams Family
Electrify EVSE
Ga Academy Power
Georgia Gas & Light

Single Stream Recycling

The Cherokee County Recycling Center utilizes Single Stream Recycling at both of its drop-off locations.

There has been much confusion regarding Single Stream Recycling, after all, how can all these items go in the same container together?

Single Stream, or Commingled Recycling, was developed to make recycling easier and reduce hauling costs.

Paper, plastic, cardboard and cans are all placed in the same container and later sorted into their respective categories, this eliminates the need for the consumer to separate.

The biggest misconception with the Single Stream containers is that

any recyclable can be put inside. Many items that are "Recyclable" end up in landfills because they are put into the Single Stream system.

Approximately 20 percent of the items placed into Single Stream are sent to landfills. This 20 percent consists of contaminated items, non-recyclables and recyclables improperly added.

Consumers are the first step in reducing that 20 percent going to the landfill.

Please ensure all Single Stream Recyclables are clean and dry and reference the graphic below as a guideline when it comes to what not to put in the Single Stream system.

Help make a difference and Keep Cherokee Beautiful and green.



CCWSA - Hard to Recycle Plastics

In October 2021, you may have noticed a package in your mailbox labeled Hefty-EnergyBag that included a bright orange trash bag inside. These bags are part of an initiative by the Hefty company to find a solution for "hard to recycle plastics." This family of plastics, numbers 4-7, includes items such as plastic dinnerware, foam food containers, and plastic packaging. The Hefty company has identified that these items are untapped resources that can be utilized instead of tossing them in the trash. Some of these uses include replacing coal for cement production and converting them into fuels like diesel through a process called pyrolysis. Other uses included grinding them into small pieces to make new plastic, including building products, construction material, and plastic lumber.

Although this program is new to Cherokee County as of August 2021, it has been around Georgia since 2018. Cobb County was the first in Georgia to participate in this program, but as of August 2021, the City of Atlanta, Cherokee County, Forsyth County and Gwinnett County are also participating. Georgia is now one of three states nationwide that is participating. Nebraska and Idaho are the other two, and it is just in their metropolitan areas.

"How does this program work?" you may be asking yourself. An

international company named Westrock Recycling Solutions has a receiving facility in Marietta that accepts the orange bags and separates them for processing. Getting these bags from your home to this location is where a communication breakdown has occurred. The website instructs the consumer to leave the bags out with your recycling, and your recycling/trash company will pick them up. Unfortunately, this is not the case in Cherokee County; some companies have temporarily discontinued their recycling collection, but they had not agreed to participate even before then.

Residents can take their orange bags to the Cherokee County Recycling center at either 470 Blalock Road in Canton or Hobgood Park at 6688 Bells Ferry Road in Woodstock. These orange bags can be put in with the single-stream receptacles and then will be separated back out at the Westrock facility. Troy Brazie, manager of Cherokee County Recycling, gave a helpful tip about the orange bags for residents - "Put hard to recycle items in a good trash bag and then put that bag inside the orange ones." One typical complaint patrons to the recycling center have is that the bags tend to rip easily. There is no limit to the number of bags residents can bring to the center. However, if you are already separating your other recyclables, generating more than a couple of bags per month of these items is not common.

Currently, Kroger is the only retailer listed on Hefty's website as a place you can purchase these orange bags in person. Another option is to buy them online from www.target.com. Luckily Cherokee County has seven locations where you can buy them. To access this list, go to <https://www.hefty.com/products/hefty-energybag/energybag-communities/georgia/greater-atlanta-program>. The cost of 26 bags is \$9.99+ tax, which comes to about \$0.40 per bag.

According to the Hefty website, "The Hefty® EnergyBag® program is an easy addition to what you are already doing recycling-wise. You can feel good about helping make a difference in the amount of plastic that would otherwise end up in landfills and be a part of a community that cares about preserving our world for future generations. By participating, you are helping reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increasing the efficiency of your recycling facility."

Just to clarify, this program is not intended to replace the recycling you are currently doing. The intention is to supplement the efforts you are already making to protect our community. The CCWSA would like to encourage our customers to participate in this and any other green activities that help make our environment better for future generations.

Will England
Environmental Affairs Lab Analyst
Cherokee County Water and Sewer Authority



ENERGY BAG PROGRAM

Check this list for the many hard-to-recycle plastics that can go in your Hefty® EnergyBag® orange bags. All items must be clean, dry and free of foil lining:



PLASTIC PACKAGING - NO FOIL LINING

- See-through chip bags
- Snack food bags
- Plastic pet food bags
- Fresh/frozen vegetable & fruit bags
- Salad bags
- Shredded cheese packages
- Cheese stick packages
- See-through granola & energy bar wrappers
- See-through candy wrappers
- See-through stand up pouches
- Pudding cups
- Yogurt tubs
- Butter/Margarine tubs
- Sour cream tubs
- Dry mix liners (cake, powder mixes)
- Cereal box liners
- Cookie/cracker box liners



PLASTIC BAGS & WRAPS*

- Plastic air pillow packs
- Plastic bubble wrap
- Plastic grocery bags
- Plastic food wrap
- Food storage bags



FOAM PRODUCTS

- Foam cups, plates & bowls
- Foam to-go boxes
- Foam packing peanuts
- Foam egg cartons
- Foam block packaging



PLASTIC DINNERWARE

- Plastic straws and stirrers
- Plastic utensils
- Plastic colored cups
- Plastic plates and bowls
- Rigid plastic clear glasses



The following items ARE NOT accepted in the orange bags

NO NO batteries or electronics NO food, liquid or coffee grounds NO cans, glass or plastic bottles NO 1, 2, or 3 plastics NO paper cartons or boxes NO medical products or hazardous waste NO hoses, tubes or rope NO foil or aluminum

*Please include plastic bags & wraps if store drop-off recycling programs are not available locally.

Upcoming Events

- 4/22 Electronics recycling event at the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce
- 4/22 Adopt-A-Mile cleanup event on Old Nelson Road
- 4/30 Electronics recycling event at the City of Woodstock

470 Blaylock Road, Canton | www.cherokeega.com/recycling-center/