

Keep Blanco Beautiful Newsletter

Issue IV



Upcoming Spring Events

Our [21st annual Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off and 14th annual Blanco River Cleanup event](#) is scheduled for March 28. It is a weekend earlier than previous years, because April is a busy month for the students and teachers. We want this year's event to be the biggest yet! Check out our [website](#) our [Facebook page](#) for more information regarding the city and county wide clean up events. We also have plans for an [Earth Day](#) event, so get ready for a fun spring!



2019 in Review

Another year has flown by and Keep Blanco Beautiful was as busy as ever!

Earlier in the year, KBB contracted [ArborCare and Consulting of the Guadalupe River Valley](#) to help with the restoration of the Byars Live Oak Tree. Work began Feb. 1 and finished up the following week. This tree is estimated to be between 500-700 years old and the maintenance and pruning of the live oak will help make sure that this beautiful tree will be standing in 500 more years. April 2019 was rainy and therefore the 20th Annual Don't Mess with Texas Trash Off and 13th Annual Blanco River Clean Up was composed of several events on different days. These events are the following: KBB's Annual Trash-Off and River Cleanup (4/27), [City of Blanco](#)'s Trash-Off (4/1-4/6), and Blanco Countywide Household (4/27). The city yard remained open as scheduled on April 6. Citizens who had signed up at the city for assistance were also taken care of on Saturday by volunteers with trailers who went around town collecting the trash. Members of [Boy Scout Troop #497](#) gathered on April 13 to clean up the Blanco River. The rain held off at the beginning so the boys paddled in kayaks and canoes to collect trash in the river, but eventually, it began to storm. The final event took place on April 27 with volunteers from different organizations joining to pick up litter from the city easements. The Blanco County Wide Household event took place at [377 Transfer Road](#) in Johnson City that Saturday as well. A total of 149,859 pounds of litter

was collected during the April events. KBB hosted the Don't Mess With Texas Trash Off Art Contest at the Blanco Elementary School for students in grades kindergarten through fifth. On April 16, members from [Tejas Art Club](#), volunteered to judge the contest entries and winners were presented with a certificate and cool sunglasses on April 25. In May, KBB began implementing (with help from [Keep America Beautiful](#)) a Cigarette Litter Prevention Program



(CLPP); the motto of this program is “Don’t Leave Your Butts Behind.” The program’s goal is to decrease the amount of cigarette butts around town by providing more receptacles/personal ashtrays and educate community members. New standing receptacles were purchased and placed around the square; there are now over thirty receptacles spread across the historic district. 400 pocket ashtrays were also bought to pass out to smokers. On Oct. 19, KBB had a market day booth and promoted the KBB CLPP at the Blanco Market Days. Pocket ashtrays, cigarette butt litter brochures, business cards, “Don’t Mess with Texas” stickers, buttons, and pencils were handed out. This was a successful PR event for KBB with over 100 pocket ashtrays distributed and the message “Don’t Leave Your Butts Behind” was spread to many. KBB’s first Fall Sweep took place on Sat. Sept. 28 with over fifty volunteers in attendance. The Boy Scouts cleaned the banks of the Blanco River while the Girl Scouts cleaned the historic district including Bindseil Park. The FFA students broke into smaller groups and tackled the schools and around the town. Other volunteers joined the FFA groups or helped with the food. On Dec. 14, KBB had a



float for the Blanco Christmas parade put on by the Blanco Chamber of Commerce. KBB's annual Christmas party was a fun time held at Old 300 BBQ on Dec. 17. Instead of giving gifts this year, KBB members brought food donations for the Blanco Good Samaritan Center Inc. food bank. This year KBB has had over 100 volunteers help out with their events and projects and had a successful twentieth year. 2019 has been a wonderful 20th year for KBB and the organization is looking forward to 2020!



Report a Litterer Program

Throwing litter out of a car window needs to end. Litter includes cigarette butts which are one of the most common items tossed out. In fact, according to [Don't Mess with Texas](#) (DMWT) sponsored by the [Texas Department of Transportation](#) (TxDOT),’s website “62 percent of Texas smokers admit to tossing their cigarette butts out the window of their cars.” DMWT has a report a litterer program where you can report a person for littering. All you need to do is to go to dontmesswithtexas.org/get-involved/report-a-litterer/ and fill out the form. The

form asks the following: license plate number, make/model of vehicle, time of day, location, date, who tossed the litter (driver, passenger, or accidental) and what was tossed. If you are a passenger in a car while witnesses the littering, write down as much information as you can. This information is then compared to the Department of Motor Vehicles registration database to find the litterer. It can take anywhere from two to four weeks to process. The litterer will not receive a ticket, however, he/she will receive a letter in the mail about the incident, information about state litter laws, and a litterbag. TxDOT has introduced a "Litterer" app for phones to make it even easier to report a litterer. It gives the user two options to fill out the information: manual entry or voice submission. The app will use the phone's GPS location and record the date and time. The questions are the same as the website's form. The "Litterer" app allows a person to make the report it right away, however, if you are driving, please pull over before using your phone. The app is free for both Apple and Android phones and has 5 stars (based on 8 reviews) on Apple Store and 4.4 stars (based on 42 reviews) Google Play Store. Don't worry, your submission is confidential and the litterer will not be able to find out who submitted his or her name. The overall goal of this program is to educate and prevent littering.

[Report a Litterer Here](#)

Membership Drive

Our membership drive is starting up shortly. We couldn't do any of this without your support. We will be handing out our 2020 brochure shortly, so get excited! The membership prices are: \$300-Sponsor, \$150-Patron, \$75-Business, \$25-Individual, and \$0-Students. If you'd like to fill out the membership form online, please fill out this [link](#). KBB is always looking for volunteers. Join us on Tuesday mornings in front of City Hall at 9 a.m. weather permitting. We work on flower beds and pots around the courthouse square and in the park. No special skills needed! Ages range from 27 - 81! You don't have to live in Blanco to be a part of this wonderful organization. All are welcomed!

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