

Keep Blanco Beautiful Newsletter

Issue VI



KBB COVID-19 Updates

KBB's 21st Annual Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off and 14th Annual Blanco River Cleanup has been canceled due to COVID-19.

KBB has decided to officially cancel the spring trash-off event, however, we are planning on hosting the 2nd annual [Fall Sweep event](#). This event will be a clean up day along with the city of Blanco and on the morning of the event one will see Blanco ISD students, teachers, scouts, and citizens walking all over the town collecting litter. The date has not been set yet, but social distancing guidelines will be followed. The health and safety of our volunteers is our number one priority at this time. We will have more information out as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding. KBB recommends following social distancing guidelines during this time. If a citizen or organization is interested in collecting litter on their own this summer, we encourage following these guidelines. Please wear a face mask and disposable gloves and maintain at least 6 feet of distance from passersby. Another suggestion is to use a litter grabber. [Contact](#) KBB prior to the cleanup and we can provide gloves and bags; litter grabbers are available for loan as well. When you are finished collecting litter, please make sure your trash bag is securely tied to protect sanitation workers. Afterwards, please wash your hands with soap and water

after collecting litter and dispose of your single-use face masks and disposable gloves properly. Our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) are great resources for the meantime.

Links for COVID-19 Updates:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
World Health Organization (WHO)
Blanco County Emergency Management

Cigarette Litter Prevention Program (CLPP)



Blanco's [CLPP](#) is in full swing still with the goal to eliminate all cigarette litter. Cigarette litter is the number one item littered. In fact, the overall littering rate for cigarette butts is sixty-five percent. Cigarette butts are composed of cellulose acetate and do not biodegrade. By the end of 2019, over thirty cigarette butt receptacles spread across the historic district. In 2020 so far 2350 butts were collected and recycled with [TerraCycle](#). Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company donates \$1.00 towards the [Keep America Beautiful \(KAB\) CLPP](#) for every pound of cigarette waste collected. KBB's CLPP still has pocket ashtrays, KAB cigarette litter brochures, and "Don't Leave Your Butts Behind" window decals available. A pocket ashtray is a small anti litter device designed to store cigarette butts until they can be disposed of properly. The brochures have helpful tips on how

to reduce cigarette litter along with other helpful information. These products are free just [contact](#) us. If you are interested in joining the KBB CLPP, contact Retta Martin at (830) 833-4720 or send us an email at keepblancobeautiful@gmail.com. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. A page on our website is dedicated to our CLPP and contains lots of facts and information. Don't leave your butts behind and let's keep Blanco beautiful!

Blanco Recycling Center





Don't fret, the Blanco County Recycling Center located at [425 Jones Street](#) is OPEN. Recycling is considered an essential business, however, the center was temporarily closed to protect the employees on April 6. Operation is back to normal but social distancing is strongly encouraged during this time. The center has multiple bins for the different recyclables and each bin has a sign to help identify which item goes where. Because of the different containers, it is really easy for Blanco County residents to drop off their recyclables. Citizens park and empty all of their items into the proper bins. Paper, aluminum beverage cans, cardboard, glass, cooking and motor oils, steel cans, scrap metals and oil filters, are all accepted at this center. Plastic is not accepted at this time due to the lack of market. When the market conditions improve, plastic will be accepted again. Other items not accepted include automotive parts, garden hoses, PVC pipe, blue tarps, paint, and tires. There is a large red sign at the center that lists the items that can and cannot be recycled to help residents out. Since the center is self-serve it remains open seven days a week 24 hours a day. There are surveillance cameras monitoring the center at all hours. Dumping is illegal. Paul Granberg, County Commissioner Precinct 4, is the recycling coordinator. There are also two part-time employees who work at the center along with supplementary citizens with community service obligations. Hand sanitizer and extra caution is being used by all workers. The center is regulated by the county and \$8,000 is budgeted for the total operating costs for the current fiscal year.

[Visit our website today!](#)

KBB's Committees

Our [committees](#) include: Beautification, Civic/Neighborhood, Education/ Schools, Fundraising/Finance, Law enforcement/Municipal, Public Awareness, and Recycling. The

beautification committee sets goals for landscaping projects, tree planting programs and initiatives, wildflower planting, quality of life projects. Our education committee educates school



children regarding litter and waste handling practices and teaches officials, teachers, and staff regarding cleanliness techniques. We do not have an education chair at this time and are looking for someone to fill this position. The business and industry committee educates the business community and develops financial resources for programs. The civic/neighborhood committee focuses on developing special projects for local community and neighborhood groups and involving

people in the projects and to educate people about litter. The law enforcement/municipal committee serves as the “Gatekeeper” of the trash handling practices in the city and works with the local government agencies to educate citizens and enforce environmental codes and ordinances. Our recycling committee explores all solid waste options for the community and provides education to the general public about recycling. All of the committees help with the clean up committee. The focus is on clean-ups and addressing the symptom, litter, rather than the problem, littering. Awareness and education and ongoing programs like Keep Blanco Beautiful Trash Off and [Adopt- A - Highway](#) fall under this committee as well. There is not a chair at this time. We are always looking for new volunteers to join the other committees as well. Our members range in age from 28 to 82 and you do not have to live in Blanco to be a volunteer. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us!



KTB Silver Star Affiliate

Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) Press Release



[KTB](#), a statewide grassroots environmental and community improvement non-profit organization, recently named Keep Blanco Beautiful a Silver Star Affiliate, a designation granted to only 27 of KTB's nearly 300 affiliates. Silver Star recognition is the second-highest status any community affiliate can achieve. To remain in good standing with KTB, community affiliates must submit a report, pay dues, attend training and participate in a KTB-endorsed activity annually. In 2004, the organization introduced the concept of Silver Star recognition to reward those communities who sought to go above and beyond the established requirements. To achieve this status, affiliates must share information on their mission and goals, answer questions about their populations, or participate in Awards or Governor's Awards programs and provide a letter of support from their community. KTB will formally recognize Silver Star communities during its 53rd Annual Conference in Houston on September 28-30, 2020. "Our affiliates are the backbone of our organization. We are proud to honor those going above and beyond to keep their communities clean and beautiful," says Suzanne Kho, Executive Director of Keep Texas Beautiful. "Our Silver Star Affiliates are educating members, actively recruiting and managing volunteers, hosting cleanup and beautification events throughout their community and so much more." In 2019 alone, KTB affiliates engaged 71,586 volunteers who contributed 351,953 hours to collect 4 million pounds of waste and recyclables and clean 16,212 miles of Texas roadway, trails, and waterways. Keep Blanco Beautiful successfully implemented programs to clean up litter, reduce and recycle waste, educate local citizens and beautify and enhance the local community.



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Reduce, Reduce, Reduce

What does it mean to reduce? Reduce is defined as making something smaller or using less which results in a smaller amount of waste. According to the NIH, "If all the other people on the Earth used as much "stuff" as we do in the United States, there would need to be three to five times more space just to hold and sustain everybody." That's a lot of waste in America! Reduction has a lot of benefits, such as sustaining the environment for future generations. Another benefit is that it prevents pollution and also reduces the amount of waste that will need



to be recycled. It's really easy to start reducing your everyday life by making a few daily changes. One simple way to reduce waste is by buying products you actually need and continuing to use the item. When purchasing a product, you should also take note of the packaging. Products that come in flashy containers actually create waste disposal difficulties while adding no value to the actual item. When you have an option to buy bulk, do it because this will reduce packaging and can also save you money! Purchasing items that include recycled content will help reduce environmental impacts. Another tip when it comes to purchasing an item is to buy more durable products. For example, instead of buying regular batteries, opt for rechargeable batteries. One last way to reduce while shopping is to purchase used items which include refurbished electronics. Don't worry, there are a lot of ways to reduce waste in your everyday life. You can reduce the amount of water you use daily by simply turning off the water while brushing your teeth and taking shorter showers. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) recommends opting out of unwanted catalogs and other junk mail. Most of the 80 billion pieces of junk mail end up in landfills each year. Most essential mail is accessible for viewing through the Internet these days anyways! Catching a carpool to work also helps reduce waste. These simple daily tasks can really make a positive impact on our environment! ***A version of this article was published in the Blanco County News by Rachel Lumpee in the fall of 2017**

KBB hopes that everyone stays safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Make sure to dispose of used masks, gloves, tissues/paper towels, etc. properly. Wash your hands and stay safe!
#SafetyisBeautiful #FightCOVID19

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