

# Keep Blanco Beautiful Newsletter

Issue VIII



## Upcoming Spring Events

Our annual Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off (DMWT) and Blanco River Cleanup [event](#) is scheduled for April 10. Check out our [website](#) or our [Facebook page](#) for more information regarding the city and county wide clean up events. KBB is hopeful to bring back the annual [DMWT Art Contest](#) event to the schools. "The purpose of the Contest is to inspire our future leaders to refrain from littering, advocate for litter prevention, and keep Texas beautiful," states Keep Texas Beautiful. If the pandemic prevents this from happening again, KBB encourages students to participate on their own. Additional information regarding the DMWT Art Contest will be shared when available. National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) which is "the nation's largest celebration of environmental education" will take place April 19-23. EE Week is sponsored by the [National Environmental Education Foundation](#) (NEEF) which is "the nation's leading organization in lifelong environmental learning, connecting people to knowledge they use to improve the quality of their lives and the health of the planet." [Earth Day](#) is April 22; KBB encourages celebrating Earth Day every day.

## Free Items

**Contact us for free Blanco CLPP items!**

KBB's [Cigarette Litter Prevention Program](#) (CLPP) still has pocket ashtrays, cigarette litter brochures, and "Don't Leave Your Butts Behind" window decals available. There are also bumper stickers available that were donated by [Don't Mess with Texas](#) and have sayings such as "Keep Your Butts in the Car." Don't leave your butts behind and let's keep Blanco beautiful! KBB also has business cards, stickers, and personalized pencils available for volunteers.



## Join us in 2021

Our 2021 membership drive is active! KBB appreciates your support and couldn't do all of the projects and events throughout the year without you. 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](#).



Volunteering is another great way to support KBB and we're always looking for new members to join! 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. There are currently two subcommittees under the beautification committee: the [Town Creek Riparian Restoration](#) project and the Blanco Trail of Lights. Beautification members work on flower beds and pots around the courthouse square and in the park on Tuesday mornings in front of City Hall at 9 a.m. weather permitting. The education committee educates school children regarding litter and waste handling practices and teaches officials, teachers, and staff regarding



cleanliness techniques. KBB is currently seeking an education chair. 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. The 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 cleanup 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. One does not need to live in the city limits of Blanco or even in Blanco County to become a volunteer. The current volunteers range from their 20s to 80s with all sorts of backgrounds. KBB welcomes everyone from everywhere! Please send an email to [keepblancobeautiful@gmail.com](mailto:keepblancobeautiful@gmail.com) or visit KBB’s [website](#) if you are interested in joining KBB.

**Our annual spring cleanup event is scheduled for April 10!**

#KeepBlancoBeautiful #BeautifyBlanco #KeepTxBeautiful #BeautifyTx #DMWTTTO  
#KeepAmericaBeautiful#DoBeautifulThings #GAC #DoNotLitter #TrashTag

## Don't Mess with Texas Programs

“[Don't Mess with Texas](#)” (DMWT) is a widely known campaign with a simple message to not litter that started in 1986. The program is sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The DMWT website provides great information and can be found at <https://www.dontmesswithtexas.org/>. There are many ways you can get involved

including Adopt-A-Highway (AHA), "Report a Litterer," and Trash-Off (TO). "Don't mess with Texas has been a great success thanks to our iconic red, white and blue trash cans and the help of fellow Texans who have spread the word about keeping our highways litter-free."

In 1985, the AAH was founded as "a Texas-born program that allows volunteers to adopt stretches of state-maintained roadway to conduct litter pickups." There are currently over 3,500 groups across the state. One can become a participant today by adopting a two-mile stretch of highway for a minimum of two years; at least one volunteer within the organization must live in the county. Safety training and supplies will be provided by Adopt-a-Highway; an Adopt-a-Highway sign will also be posted with the name of the organization. Volunteers must pick up litter at least four times per year. If you are interested in adopting a highway, there is an application available at

<https://www.dot.state.tx.us/apps-cg/aah/contact.htm> and additional information can be found at <https://www.dontmesswithtexas.org/get-involved/adopt-a-highway-information/>. One can also call (800) 200-0003. "Although nearly 90 percent of litter on Texas highways is removed by paid contractors, volunteer efforts significantly reduce litter cleanup costs and save taxpayers money," states the AAH website. Participating in AAH will benefit

Blanco in many ways and Keep Blanco Beautiful (KBB) encourages citizens, businesses, and organizations to adopt a highway. In 1994, the DMWT "Report A Litterer" program was created which allows a person to report a litterer; the overall goal of this program is to educate and prevent littering. One can fill out a form which can be found at <https://www.dontmesswithtexas.org/get-involved/report-a-litterer/> to report a litterer. In 2012, the "Litterer" app was introduced for phones to make it even easier to report a litterer. The user can either type in a manual entry or voice submission to fill out the information; 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 which 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. The information is then compared to the Department of Motor Vehicles registration database to find the litterer which 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. All reports are confidential. The DMWT TO event is a part of TxDOT's litter prevention program and "supports efforts to clear Texas roadsides of trash and includes cleanups taking place April 1-30," according to Keep Texas Beautiful's website. Each year, Keep Blanco Beautiful hosts a DMWT TO event and this year it is scheduled for April 10 at 9 a.m. On the morning of the event, one will see Blanco ISD students, teachers, Girl Scouts, and families walking all over the town collecting litter. The Boy Scouts can often be found cleaning the Blanco River on kayaks and canoes. Volunteer groups for the event are asked to register prior to the event. Volunteers can fill out the registration/permission form for the cleanup event via <https://permission.click/PpQea/us>. One can also register by sending a message on any of the KBB social media accounts, website, or send an email to [keepblancobeautiful@gmail.com](mailto:keepblancobeautiful@gmail.com). Don't mess with Texas and keep Blanco Beautiful!

**Helpful Links for COVID-19 Updates:**  
[Blanco County](#)  
[Centers of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)  
[Texas Department of State Health Services \(DSHS\)](#)  
[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

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