

KCB MONTHLY

JULY 2023



Letter from the KCB Board

We deeply appreciate all the groups that have committed to the Adopt A Mile program. Additionally, there are many volunteer groups dedicated to preserving the natural resources that make Cherokee County the best place to live and work. Lake Allatoona Warriors, Friends of Toonigh Creek, Keep Cherokee Beautiful and many similar groups meet regularly to police, protect, and improve the county and the landscape around us.

But having a great cause and folks interested aren't enough. We all know that it's the volunteers who make these types of great programs happen. Getting a group of like-minded and committed folks together for a common cause is what creates the "action" behind the great intentions. Volunteering is the act of rendering selfless service to a cause. It's about giving time to a good cause, specifically to help an organization, your community, or an individual you are not related to.

Please consider joining a group to help with a cause in your area. It's easy to do, is a fun event to get together for a few hours on a Saturday, and really **MAKES A DIFFERENCE** in how our county looks and makes us feel. Nothing is better than transforming a litter-strewn section of roadway that looks rundown and unattended into a shining example of a clean roadway. Or starting a "community" garden project near your home. Transforming a barren lot into an agriculture MECCA for those in the area. Helping at an animal rescue, taking abandoned and stray animals and finding homes for them can be very rewarding for an animal lover or someone concerned about animal overpopulation!

If you have a number of civic-minded folks that are willing to get involved to make a better place for us all to live, then you have the makings of a volunteer group! Talk it up at work, around your neighborhood, or at church, wherever you get together with friends and neighbors. You'll find there are more folks willing to get involved than you think!

Cherokee County has so many fantastic and diverse groups that all have one specific need- **VOLUNTEERS!** Please consider finding a cause that excites you and can make a difference in our great county. Seek them out and **JOIN** their efforts, no matter how much or how little time you have.

Volunteering **CAN** and **DOES** make a huge difference! Think about

Recycling In The Bathroom

The bathroom is full of recyclable products, but many people overlook this area of the house. Improve your bathroom recycling and learn about the many items in this space. From shampoo and lotion bottles to toilet paper rolls, there are many recyclable items you may be missing.



How do I know which products in the bathroom can be recycled and which ones can't? In general, plastic bottles marked #1 or #2 (shampoo, lotion, mouthwash), bandage boxes, tissue boxes, and toilet paper rolls are accepted. On the other hand, toothpaste tubes, pumps from bottles, dental floss containers, and toothbrushes are less likely to be accepted, but many of these items have mail-in programs you can use.

Do I need to rinse all the shampoo out of a bottle before I recycle?

It helps to get as much shampoo out as possible, but a quick rinse is fine — don't worry about squeezing out every last drop.

Do I need to remove the labels from bottles? In general, you don't have to scrape the labels off the bottles in order to recycle them. Use the same practices you would for a water bottle, juice bottle or milk jug. Leave the lids and labels on.

What about the plastic wrap that items like toilet paper are often packaged in? This is usually treated the same as plastic grocery bags, which are often accepted at major retailers and other drop-off locations, but not in curbside pickups.

How can I improve my bathroom recycling? Consider adding a recycling bin to your bathroom — the 2016 Recycling in the Home Survey, found that while 70% of Americans report keeping a bin in the kitchen, only 20% have one in the bathroom. The lack of a bin was cited as a big barrier to recycling, so take the simple step to add one in this important spot.

Does recycling bathroom products really make a difference? Yes! Recycling saves energy and space in landfills. Plus, the more materials that are recycled, the more companies can create their products out of recycled materials, ultimately saving resources and helping the environment.

Event Recap

June was a great month for our Adopt-a-Mile groups. Every weekend in June a roadway in Cherokee County was being cleaned. Thank you to:

Universal Alloy
Bridge Mill
The Falls Cherokee
Canton Optimist Club
Lake Warriors
Electrify EVSE
Georgia Academy Baseball / Softball



Collectively these groups removed 3024lbs of litter and debris from the roadway. Every little bit adds up and makes a difference. Is your group planning a cleanup? Would you or someone you know like to adopt a roadway? Please visit our web page for information.

From the Recycling Center

Recycling is a Double-Edged Sword

I recycle. If you are reading this newsletter chances are you recycle as well. Recycling is good, at least that is what we have been told. I have written many articles about the benefits of recycling including statistics and data to back up the argument for recycling.

Today, I invite you to question what you have been told about recycling and consider alternative viewpoints. Here are three arguments against recycling that deserve thoughtful consideration:

1. **Questionable Environmental Impact:** Recycling is not always the greenest option. The process itself requires significant energy, transportation, and resources, contributing to carbon emissions and pollution. It can also be inefficient and complex for certain materials, leading to environmental harm.
2. **Economic Inefficiency:** Recycling programs often burden local governments and taxpayers with high costs. Expenses associated with the collection, sorting, and processing of recyclables can outweigh the benefits of selling recycled materials, straining public budgets.
3. **False Sense of Environmental Responsibility:** Relying solely on recycling can create a misleading belief that we are doing enough for the planet. It is crucial to prioritize waste reduction, sustainable production practices, and other environmental initiatives alongside recycling.

I will continue to recycle as I hope you do. I cannot control what

happens to the material I put into the recycling system once it leaves my hands. My hope is the material makes it through the system and is reborn as my next drink bottle or cardboard box. I truly don't know if it makes a difference, but I'm still going to try.

Troy Brazie
Manager
Cherokee County Recycling Center

Keep Cherokee Beautiful | 470 Blalock Road, Canton, GA
www.cherokeega.com/recycling-center/

Cherokee County Recycling Center | 470 Blalock Road, Canton, GA 30115

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