

KCB MONTHLY

MARCH 2023



Letter from the KCB Board

Spring is in the air! We are already seeing daffodils, wild violets, and other sun-seekers. After the grey of winter, these bright colors bring joy and a yearning for freshness... and spring cleaning. While there is plenty of that to do in our own homes and yards, the biggest impact we can have is in cleaning our community. Can you imagine if every road and park was clean and free of litter? How would that make you feel? How would that affect your community?

Last May, my friend Denise and I adopted a road near our homes. This is a busy road with several subdivisions, three schools, and two parks. Between May and December, we collected over 100 bags of garbage, plus car parts and other debris too large for a bag, and so many signs. Most of the garbage was hard to see when driving by. Every time we cleaned, I was amazed at how much we found. It is similar to when you start cleaning your house -- then you realize how much dust is hiding under the stove and behind the refrigerator and a dozen other places.

When you start any cleaning project, yes, it can be daunting. But there are payoffs. On our adopted road, as I walked through places that usually whizzed by in a blur at 40 mph, I was amazed at the beauty I encountered -- the creeks flowing under the roadway, the frogs peeping from their marshland, and the birds. This is the beauty of Cherokee that we are working to keep and maintain. Once you are immersed in nature, you can't help but want to preserve it. Now I love to drive down our adopted road after cleaning it. I feel a pride of ownership and a deep-down sense of "good will toward men" which I thought only came at Christmas (ha). I truly hope that the cleaner road brings our community joy.

So, are you ready to do some major spring cleaning? The roadsides and parks need you. The Great American Cleanup starts March 20 and ends June 21. This is the program's 25th anniversary. We are encouraging our Adopt-A-Mile teams to schedule cleanups during this time, and we are planning some pop-up events to freshen some special spots. Please join us! It takes a whole community to get this job done.

Lisa Johnson
Board Member

Appreciate

Are the Dogwoods early this year? Winter can't be over, March is just starting. Hopefully, you are giving serious thought to your spring event, now is the time for planning.



Here at the Recycling Center, we are feeling the press of the season with our roadway cleanup requests. Over the past few weeks, we have received dozens of calls to clean roadways throughout the county.

Our Community Service team usually only cleans roadways on the weekends. In an effort to keep up with demand, we are now out during the week, weather and manpower permitting.

We appreciate our citizens letting us know roadways within the county in need of attention, we will get to them as soon as we can. We appreciate our Keep Cherokee Beautiful Adopt-A-Mile partners and the great work they do on their adopted stretches of roadway. We appreciate the Cherokee Marshals office enforcing the commercial truck ordinances as it pertains to keeping their loads covered and reducing littering blowing out upon the roadways.

But most of all, we'd appreciate it if folks would just stop throwing litter out of their vehicles.

Troy Brazie
Manager
Cherokee County Recycling Center

Upcoming Events

- **Bells Ferry Community Cleanup** - Saturday, March 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Volunteers will meet at JD's on the Lake at 6979 Bells Ferry Road in Canton. Email twinkrunner@yahoo.com to register.

Spring Gardening Tips

Planning your garden yet? Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose and Reduce can play a part in your garden by incorporating some of these handy tips.

Seed Sowing and Labeling

- Old yogurt pots are the perfect size for seed sowing – just puncture holes into the base for drainage.
- Toilet roll tubes are ideal for starting off deeper-rooted veggies such as peas, beans and corn.
- You can also sow rows of peas into surplus lengths of gutters.
- Polystyrene cups make fun-sized containers for kids to grow small salad crops such as radishes. Pinch holes out at the base of the cup to make drainage holes
- Newspaper can be easily made into pots. Fold one page in half lengthways and roll it around a toilet roll tube so that the tube sticks out above the folded edge of the paper. Gather up and push in the loose ends of the paper, remove the tube then fill with potting soil. At planting time, leave the paper pot in place; it will just rot away in the ground.
- Make your own plant labels by cutting out strips of yogurt pot, or re-use lollipop sticks. Write on the labels with a permanent marker.
- **Protecting Plants**
 - Many plants need protection from the wind, especially when first planted out.
 - Cut clear plastic drinks bottles in half to make two miniature greenhouses to pop over individual plants. Keep lids screwed on during cold nights or remove during the day to prevent the seedlings from overheating.
 - Bubble wrap from postal deliveries makes fantastic temporary insulation on frosty nights.
 - Polystyrene fish or cooler boxes provide a cozy microclimate around seed trays, especially when combined with a heat mat underneath.
 - Old windows can be used to make a cold frame. Attach them to a wooden frame using new or second-hand hinges, then screw in handles at the front. Slant the window to face the sun. A lick of paint will spruce up the frame and gives a really professional finish.
 - Once in the ground, crops can be protected from pests such as pigeons by draping netting over canes topped with upturned pots.
 - Alternatively, dangle old CDs on colored string, or cover young squashes or other plants with hanging basket frames.
 - Make a low tunnel for protecting rows of crops by pushing down lengths of old plastic water pipe onto sturdy upright pegs to create the hoops. Fix netting, fleece or mesh over your hoops.
- **Creative Containers**



- Literally anything that holds potting soil makes a good container.
- Quirky pots include **old pans, colanders, laundry baskets**, chests of drawers - anything and everything, including the kitchen sink!
- Metal objects such as **repurposed milk churns, coal buckets or water tanks** can create a lovely rustic look.
- Recycle **food tins** as they are, lightly accessorized, or painted to give an injection of color. As with any pot, you will need to make sure your intended container has enough drainage holes, or add your own.
- Use **old potting soil sacks** for root veggies such as carrots or potatoes, and enjoy a final crop from summer growing bags by sowing a flush of winter salads into them once your tomatoes or peppers have finished.
- Other ideas for recycled bag containers include **sturdy grocery store bags**, rubble or builders' bags, and hessian sacks, which give a handsome natural look.
- **Recycled Wood**
- Old planks of wood are widely available. They come steeped in character, are less likely to warp than new wood and by reusing them you'll avoid the need to cut down more trees. Untreated wood is best, as some older wood treatments may contain toxic chemicals that can leach into the soil.
- Make a compost bin by nailing planks to corner posts, create a plant stand by securing timber onto A-frames, or screw battens together to form a crop protection frame. Make seed trays, fences, window boxes, or even the garden shed—the possibilities are endless!
- Timber makes excellent raised beds, insulating the roots and providing a handsome backdrop for your vegetables. Simply fix thick planks to each other or screw thinner lengths of timber to corner posts hammered into the ground to anchor the bed.
- **Other Ideas...**
- Any number of scraps and garden cast-offs could be used to create a handsome hotel for beneficial bugs.
- **Tires lined with garbage sacks** make instant raised beds and can be stacked up for vegetables such as potatoes that need lots of root space.
- Salvage **old pavers** to create stepping stones or paths between beds.
- Box in compost heaps with corrugated metal sheets.
- There are so many ways to make the most of what you might otherwise throw away!

Keep Cherokee Beautiful | 470 Blalock Road, Canton, GA
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