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The mission of Keep Cass County Beautiful is to educate, enable and encourage all Cass County residents to take greater responsibility for enhancing their community environment.

KCCB Board of Directors

President: Terry Lorensen
Vice President: Debbie Vidlak
Secretary: Roger Behrns
Treasurer: John Baroni
Members: Mary Harding,
Angela Mueller and Richard Yoder
Executive Director: Linda Behrns

Presentations: Please contact us for a speaker about an environmental topic for your organization or school. There's no fee.

Financing provided through the Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Cass County and the generosity of our donors and members. KCCB is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Close the loop...Buy recycled!



"Thank You" 2018 Business Partners

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Village of Cedar Creek,
Village of Eagle,
Village of Elmwood,
Village of Manley,
Village of Murray,
Village of Union

Keep Cass County "Beautiful News"

Quarterly Newsletter * Spring 2018* Issue #14 * www.keepcasscountybeautiful.org



Keep Cass County Beautiful has launched the Great American Cleanup (GAC) which marks its 20th year in 2018. Keep America Beautiful inspires people to take greater responsibility for their local environment by conducting grassroots community service projects that engage volunteers, local businesses and civic leaders. This year's Great American Cleanup theme is "Clean Your Block Party" which encourages volunteers to build a sense of community pride with family, friends and neighbors, while making a lasting, positive impact – block by block.

KCCB will partner with local schools, 4-H groups, and community organizations to plan volunteer events that beautify parks, reduce waste, increase recycling, remove litter and plant trees. Contact us for trash bags, safety vests, gloves and other litter cleanup supplies for a Great American Cleanup event in your neighborhood.

Litter Cleanup Funds

Did you know that we have funds available for picking up litter? KCCB's Clean-up Grant Program awards mini-grants to community groups who collect litter in public areas along streets, curbs, alleys and sidewalks at schools, parks and in rural areas including county and country roads. We cannot fund *Adopt a Highway* events.

KCCB will award organizations up to \$50 per mile and \$10 per acre for cleaning up litter. Funding for this program is limited and provided by a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Contact us soon for an application.

If you'd like to volunteer at a Great American Cleanup (GAC), here are some scheduled events that could use your help. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.

Cedar Creek GAC—April 14, meet at Fire Barn at 8:00 a.m.; **Elmwood GAC—April 21** from 9:00—Noon; register by email at villageofelmwood.msn or call Elmwood Village Office 402-994-6705. Other communities have spring cleanup events for their residents on the following dates:

Weeping Water: April 21 from 9—1:00; **Union Spring Clean-Up Green-Up: April 28—29**; **Louisville: May 5** from 7—2; **Murray: May 5**; **Plattsmouth: May 5—6** from 8 a.m.—6 p.m. Take advantage of these opportunities to make your community clean, green and beautiful.



SAVE THE DATE: Cass County Electronics Recycling Event— June 2

Bring any electronics and small appliances for recycling or refurbishing to Elmwood, Nebraska from 10—2:00 on June 2. Location TBD. Cross Electronic Recycling will be assisting KCCB with the event which is open to all Cass County residents. Materials

accepted include computers, monitors, televisions, printers, key boards and mice, cell phones, small appliances, vacuum cleaners, power tools, and anything with a cord or battery. Large appliances and metals will be collected by a local recycler.

The following items will have a recycling disposal fee: alkaline batteries: \$1.50 per pound; microwaves: \$20; all styles of Televisions and CRT items: \$20 up to 20 inch; \$30 up to 30 inch; \$40 up to 40 inch, \$50 up to 50 inch, and so forth. **KCCB will pay half of the recycling fee of one item per household up to a total of \$500 for the collection.** All other items will be taken at no cost. The event is made possible by Cass County, the Village of Elmwood, Cross Electronic Recycling and KCCB. The collections are open to Cass County residents only; no commercial quantities.

KCCB Plant Sale Fundraising Event at Rural Route Rust

Spring is here and KCCB will be selling locally grown Plantman Nursery flowers, hanging baskets and veggies at the Rural Route Rust Market on **May 5th** at the *Bloom Where You're Planted Farm*, rural Avoca. Thanks for your support of our annual fundraising event!





Volunteer/Member Appreciation Event

Keep Cass County Beautiful hosted the fourth annual Volunteer/Member Appreciation Event on March 29 at the Louisville Community Center. Fifty-three guests attended the evening celebration of speakers, awards and a complimentary dinner provided in-part by Plattsmouth Hy-Vee. Senator Rob Clements, left, addressed the audience with updates from the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature.

Kurk Shrader, Executive Director of the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation, Elmwood, was the guest speaker. Mr. Shrader provided a slide show and commentary about the foundation’s local history, restoration of the building, future displays and updating of the gardens. Twelve garden spaces named after Mrs. Aldrich’s books have preserved the history of the time period and create a space for family gatherings and weddings.

Linda Behrns, KCCB Executive Director, thanked all members and volunteers for their time and support of all KCCB events during the past year. An appreciation award was presented to Mindy Rush-Chipman, right, for her years of service as a board member. Mitch Pearrow, who recently moved to Florida, was also recognized as a founding board member of the organization.



Great American Cleanup Leader awards were presented to (lt. to rt.)Jolene Dalton, Village of Manley; Debbie Vidlak and Mindy-Rush Chipman, Union United, Inc.; and Rick McIllece, Village of Cedar Creek for their efforts to organize and lead litter cleanup events in their communities. The Great American Cleanup, signature program of Keep America Beautiful, includes thousands of volunteers who work to end littering, host recycling events and provide community greening and beautification projects.



The Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Charles Jones, Executive Director of the Plattsmouth Main Street Association. Charles was recognized for volunteering many hours of service to the KCCB Green Business Program that provides resources for local businesses to save energy, water and develop sustainability plans. The program was made possible through a USDA grant.

Meet our new board members



Angela Mueller is the owner of the Herban Coffee Lab which opened in November of 2016 in downtown-Plattsmouth. Angela and her husband Rob have four children. When she’s not cooking, Angela enjoys working with youth volunteers and is active with the First Lutheran Church often helping with litter cleanups. She also serves on the Plattsmouth Public Library Board and volunteers with other local community projects.



Debbie Vidlak, Union, was born and raised in Omaha where she received a BS in Biotechnology and a MS in Pathology/Microbiology. She’s been employed with UNMC for 20 years, working in various disciplines from basic science research to clinical research. Debbie currently works as a Project Coordinator for the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Clinical Trials Office at UNMC. She enjoys spending time with family, friends, traveling, antiques/junking, gardening, and volunteering with Union United, Inc., as well as the Nebraska Humane Society.



Mary Harding has been a member of the Nebraska Public Power District Board of Directors since January 2003 and also serves on the Plattsmouth Planning Commission. She has held the positions of Executive Director of the Nebraska League of Conservation Voters and founding Executive Director of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund. Mary and her husband Richard moved to Plattsmouth from Lincoln two years ago. They have four children and enjoy spending time with their three grandchildren who live in Omaha and Lincoln.

KCCB Receives Recycling Bins



As part of the 2017 Coca-Cola/Keep America Beautiful Public Space Recycling Bin grant cycle, 3,250 bins are currently being distributed to communities, including 10 recycling bins to KCCB which helped bring the total count of recycling bins donated to local communities by Coca-Cola to 1 million, in total.

“Coca-Cola has a long history of supporting community recycling programs in an effort to ensure that our packaging is recycled and reused,” said Bruce Karas, vice president of sustainability, Coca-Cola North America. “Through partnerships like Keep America Beautiful, we are able to improve access to recycling while also continuing to make progress towards our global goal of collecting and recycling a bottle or can for every one we sell.”

KCCB will help the city of Louisville expand their Zero Waste Initiative by adding bins in the downtown area, the city park and at the new Ash Grove Ballfield. Louisville Mayor Roger Behrns (left) stated, “The outdoor recycling bins are a wonderful addition to the community to encourage people to recycle frequently, and make sure they have the proper bins available in public spaces.”

It's not too late to become a member of KCCB. Your membership donation helps support education, collections and many events. Use our DONATE button or the membership form on our website at <http://keepcasscountybeautiful.org/>. Checks are also accepted to KCCB, 513 Vine St., Louisville, NE 68037. Thank You!

