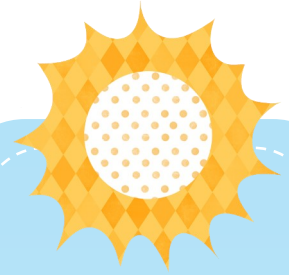




April 2017 Newsletter
Volume 1, Issue 1



Keep Brazos Beautiful

April 2017 Newsletter

Texas Trash Off 2017

A big thank you to all of our Texas Trash Off 2017 volunteers! We had 264 volunteers serve over 525 hours on March 4 to help keep our community clean, green and beautiful! With your help we collected over 4,260 pounds of litter and more than 230 discarded tires! Over 17 miles over of roadways were cleaned and 77 acres. THANK YOU again to all of our amazing Trash Off teams!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4H Bridle and Bit Club | A&M Consolidated High School Student Council |
| Bryan Collegiate High School | Bryan Rotary Club |
| Dragonfly | Environmental Issues Committee |
| Girl Scout Troop 9517 | Glitter Done |
| iCerv | Jalapeno's |
| Team Red, White and Blue | Litter Bug Crushers |
| Sigma Lambda Beta | The Penguins |
| Trash me outside (how bout dat) | Xylem Watermark |
| Young Men's Service League | |
| Freshmen Leaders in Education and Development | |



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Upcoming Dates

- 04/17/17 Nominations are due for the KBB Annual Awards Luncheon
- 04/22/17 Brazos Valley Earth Day
- 05/1/2017 Keep Brazos Beautiful Annual Awards Luncheon





Brazos Valley Earth Day Festival

On April 22, 2017 Keep Brazos Beautiful will assist with the Brazos Valley Earth Day Festival! We have volunteer slots open and look forward to serving the community through this family friendly event!

The first 100 volunteers will receive a t-shirt (all sizes are generic adult sizes).

For more information on the event visit the website at

www.brazosvalleyearthday.com!

Sign up to volunteer on the Keep Brazos Beautiful website at

www.keepbrazosbeautiful.org/volunteer!

2017 Annual Keep Brazos Beautiful Awards

Keep Brazos Beautiful will honor and celebrate local environmental heroes whose time, resources, and energy have made Brazos County and the cities of Bryan and College Station a clean, green, beautiful, safe and healthy place to live, work, and play.

The awards luncheon will be held on May 17, 2017 from 11:30 am—1:00 pm at the College Station Hilton. Nominations are open now and anyone can nominate an individual or business! More information to nominate can be found on our website at

www.keepbrazosbeautiful.org/awards/



Energy Saving Tips



Summer is just around the corner lower your electricity bill and help the environment with these ecofriendly tips!

1) Seal your air conditioning pipes

Look over your pipes, connections and vents in your home to make sure there is adequate sealing and caulking in place. If you are unsure of how to do this contact an HVAC professional for help.

2) Have your air conditioner cleaned in the spring or winter when the demand for maintenance and repairs are low.

Replace air filters monthly and move furniture away from air intakes and air ducts.

3) Keep direct sunlight out of your home .

Pull your window treatments closed when you leave your home or during the hottest times of the day.

4) Install energy efficient light bulbs

Change out your incandescent bulbs to more efficient bulbs, such as compact fluorescent bulbs. Compact bulbs shine brighter, use less energy, and last longer.

Facts from The Department of Energy

- *Water heating accounts for about 18% of the energy consumed in your home.*
- *Electronics, Lighting and Appliances account for about 30% of the energy consumed in your home.*
- *A ceiling fan will allow you to raise your thermostat setting about 4 degrees with no reduction in comfort.*

5) Take quick, cool showers.

Turn down the temperature on the hot water heater to save energy. You can also decrease the duration of your shower to save on hot water usage.

6) Run the dishwasher, dryer and washing machine at night.

Let your dishes air dry to reduce heat and wash your clothes in cold water. Run only full loads of clothes and dishes to cut down on water waste.

7) Use alternate methods of cooking.

Consider grilling out more this summer, instead of using your oven everyday! Heating up your oven everyday will add more heat to the interior of your home and create more work for your air conditioner. If you are going to be using your oven consider baking in the morning hours when temperatures are cooler.

8) Unplug your appliances and electronics when they are not in use.

You can plug your TVs, DVD players, computers, etc. into power strips and turn them off when they are not in use.

9) Turn off ceiling fans when you leave a room and use your bathroom fan.

Ceiling fans are used to cool people and not reduce the temperature in a room. Use your bathroom fan to remove humidity when you take a shower or bath.

10) If you have a pool, run your pool filtration system less.

Reduce your filtration system run time by 30 minute increments daily as long as the water appears clean. You may be surprised to find your system only needs to run 6 hours a day!





Kid's Corner—

Do you ever find bottle caps or buttons on the ground?!

Turn these discarded pieces of trash into an outdoor treasure!

What you'll need:

Bottle caps (crown bottle caps), bells and buttons, outdoor craft paint and paintbrush (optional), fishing line, glue, flower pot and a hot glue gun.

Make It

1. Paint bottle caps in the colors of your choice. Let dry. (Skip this step if buying colored bottle caps.)
2. Cut seven 18" pieces of fishing line. Tie a bell to the end of each strand.
3. Put a dot of tacky glue on bottle cap, set the fishing line in the glue (starting about an inch above the bell), and sandwich it with a button. Repeat five or six times per strand, about 12" up the piece of fishing line. Let dry.
4. Feed the ends of all strands through the holes of a large button (it must be bigger than the pot's drainage hole) and secure with a knot about 4 1/2" above the top bottle cap. Feed the strands up through the drainage hole.
5. So that the strands don't cluster in the middle, hot-glove fishing line to the inside edge of the pot, evenly spaced around the circumference.
6. Tie another piece of fishing line in a tight knot to the top to hang.

You can find this fun wind chime and more ideas in [Parents magazine!](#)

Litter Toolbox

If you are looking for a self directed service project, Litter Toolbox is for you!

Keep Brazos Beautiful will provide you the supplies needed to facilitate your clean up and you can pick the time and location (or we can offer a suggestion)!

For more information contact Lacy at

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