

[View this email in your browser](#)

Spring 2017 Newsletter

Spring Greetings Friend of KLB,

Can you believe that Keep Loudoun Beautiful (KLB) has been serving Loudoun County and its citizens and visitors for 45 years? Now imagine what Loudoun would look like if KLB founder Agnes Harrison and other concerned citizens didn't attack the growing litter problem despite the lack of concern by the Loudoun Board of Supervisors. Today, we encounter the same apathy and litter challenges, yet, due to many dedicated individuals and organizations donating both time and money over the years, we continue to keep Loudoun beautiful. We couldn't do it without you, so thank you for your support!

Area Leader & Other Upcoming Litter Cleanups

Our dedicated Area Leaders are cleaning-up litter all around the county these days, and we're happy to report that we have four new Area Leaders this Spring. Yippee! Please visit our [Area Leader Events page](#) for opportunities to get involved. Since not all Area Leaders post events, feel free to connect

In this issue:

- Area Leader & Other Upcoming Litter Cleanups
- Essay & Poster Contest
- Board of Directors and Committee Updates
- Green Tips

Donate Now



Share



Tweet



Forward

with them by visiting our [Area Leader page](#). And while you're there, if you or if you know someone (or group) that can fill an Area Leader vacancy, please let us know as there are several areas around Loudoun that are not getting much-needed attention and beautification.

Registration will open on April 1 for our classic **Goose Creek Watershed Cleanup**, coming up on Saturday, May 6, from 9AM to around 3PM. This is a free, professionally-guided canoe float down a Middleburg-area section of the scenic Goose Creek to remove litter from the creek and shoreline. Space is limited, so save the date and learn more about the event at www.keeploudounbeautiful.org/KLBcanoe.html.

And speaking of April 1, please see [this flyer](#) for a student-led, KLB-supported cleanup around the Beaverdam Creek Reservoir. We're really excited to help our young citizens step-up and make a difference in our community.

Remember that all of these activities should qualify for those seeking community service hours, so we're happy to sign-off on the hours if you provide the forms.

Essay & Poster Contests

We had a relatively good elementary school response in 2016 to our annual Essay and Poster Contests, so we're hoping for an equal or better turnout in 2017. If you have elementary school-age children, and even if you don't, please encourage your local school to get involved as planting the seed of environmental stewardship at an early age is critical for a lifetime of earth-friendly behavior. While these contests have traditionally focused on Loudoun

County Public Schools, they are open to all Loudoun County-based private and home schools, so please check-out the contest rules and deadline at

<http://www.keeploudounbeautiful.org/KLBPosterIndex.html>. And while you're there, be sure to view the

inspirational work by our youth over the years.

There's much we can learn from their candid view on the environment and what we need to do to take care of our planet.

Board of Directors and Committee Updates

KLB currently has 11 Board members, which is strong as compared to recent years, but pale in comparison to the 30+ Board members from the 80's. There's no question that the current Board has been accomplishing a lot, but just imagine all the impactful things we could be doing with even more jazzed-up members, so if you would like get involved in a leadership position, we would love to hear from you!

Now while our Board of Directors commitment is pretty light beyond meeting once a month and event participation, if serving on the Board doesn't work out for you but you would like to be more involved in advancing our mission, all of our committees are looking for some much-needed help, which includes Communications (public relations), Development (fundraising), Finance, Nominating, and Programs. So if you have some talents that you can contribute, please let us know.

Green Tips

Since Spring has officially arrived, attention for many of us now turns to the Spring cleaning and maintenance of our yards, so here are some tips to beautify your outdoor space while being kind to your planet and saving money in the process – a true win-

win-win.

1. **Mowing:** All or most walk-behind lawn mowers available these days, as well as many riding mowers, have a mulching mode, so you should take advantage of this zero-cost way of nourishing your yard. Plus, mulching eliminates the need to bag your clippings, so you will save a bunch of time. If you need to get a new mower, consider a non-gas powered model (with a mulching mode, of course) to eliminate emissions and the hassle & expense of maintaining a gas engine.
2. **Composting:** Even if you're smart and choose the mulching mower mode, chances are you will still have some yard debris to dispose of. But before you toss it all, you should consider composting whatever can be composted. It's pretty cool to dump some yard waste into a composter and in a short while, see it turn into free, nutrient-rich material that you can use in your garden, potted plants, and elsewhere around your property.
3. **Responsible Yard Waste Disposal:** If you must dispose of yard waste curbside, make sure you skip the tree-killing disposable yard waste bags. Instead, get a few inexpensive reusable trash cans and write "YARD WASTE" on them. In addition to saving your planet, you can stuff more in them, they won't turn to mush in the rain, and you will save a boatload of money in no time. Plus, you can use these cans for other tasks throughout the year. Of course, never use plastic bags for yard waste destined for a composting facility.
4. **Fertilizing:** Rule #1 is that you don't need to keep up with the Joneses to have a healthy lawn. It's always best to analyze your soil using

readily available test kits/services instead of just assuming what it needs. If you must fertilize, be sure to use something that is slow-release and organic and don't over-fertilize as these are contributing factors to our local watershed and Chesapeake Bay mess we have been dealing with for many, many years.

Lastly, here's a useful [EPA document](#) that I stumbled on that reinforces the tips above as well as provides some additional ones.

I hope you found this newsletter helpful. As always, your candid feedback is always appreciated.

Thanks again for your support and please spread the word!

Mark Lenko
President, KLB Board of Directors



Copyright © 2017 Keep Loudoun Beautiful, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

MailChimp.