

[View this email in your browser](#)



May 2018 Newsletter

Hello Friend of KLB,

Finally! It feels like Spring now or maybe more like Summer, so chances are that you've seen some jam-packed orange trash bags and blue recycling bags along county roadways or within towns, villages, and communities as dedicated Keep Loudoun Beautiful (KLB) volunteers have been very busy all across Loudoun during our Spring litter cleanup campaign. Since cleanup reports are flooding us now (a good thing), we'll post the results in June, but we've already removed over 4 tons of harmful trash and recycling from our communities, roadways, and waterways, in our mission to keep Loudoun beautiful, so it's been a very successful 2018 so far. To keep you "in-the-know", this eNewsletter includes opportunities for you to get involved, news, and green tips.

Goose Creek Watershed & Area Leader Litter Cleanups

We still have some canoes available for our classic Goose Creek litter cleanup, coming-up **this**

In this issue:

- Goose Creek Watershed & Area Leader Litter Cleanups
- Essay & Poster Contests
- Earth Day 2018 Article
- Loudoun Board of Supervisors Recognition
- Green Tips

Please Donate



Saturday, May 5. We selected a Middleburg-area stretch that we haven't had a chance to clean for 5 years and we need your help to get it done! This unique and effective litter cleanup costs us over \$2,000 to hold, no matter if 10 volunteers answer the call or 60, so in addition to cleaning as much as possible, it only makes sense to fill every available seat, hopefully by you. Learn more about this no-cost, professionally-guided canoe float down the scenic Goose Creek and register today on our [Watershed litter cleanup page](#).



Tweet



Forward

Since our dedicated Area Leaders are cleaning-up litter all around the county, not only in the Spring, but throughout the year, be sure to visit our [Area Leader Events page](#) for opportunities to get involved. Since not all Area Leaders post events, feel free to connect 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. Plus, in addition to the published vacancies, if you are in a community or area that needs some help in keeping it litter-free, we'd be thrilled to add a new area and provide assistance. Just let us know.

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

Elementary school students from all around Loudoun participated in our annual Essay & Poster Contest, so if you'd like to see the posters in person, they are still on display for another week in the County Court

House lobby, just past security. The KLB Board of Directors will judge them at our May board meeting and will announce the winners in June, so stay tuned.

Earth Day 2018 Article in the Purcellville Gazette

KLB was thrilled to have the opportunity to write an Earth Day article for the April 27, 2018 publication by our good friends at the Purcellville Gazette.

Environmental education is a key ingredient in keeping Loudoun beautiful, so we welcome all opportunities to connect with citizens through all available media channels to inspire the readership to be responsible caretakers of our planet. So [here's the article](#) if you missed it or you're not fortunate enough to get this fine community publication.

Loudoun Board of Supervisors Recognition

KLB was honored to be notified in March that we were selected as Chair Randall's Voice for a Cause. Since there has been an uptick in litter concerns around Loudoun, Chair Randall wanted to help raise awareness about this county-wide problem and encourage citizens to get involved by volunteering with KLB. Hopefully, our podium presentation to the Board of Supervisors on March 22nd and the Voice for a Cause newsletter will not only motivate volunteerism, but will also lead to a meaningful partnership with the county to combat and prevent litter as it would be a win-win for everyone that lives in, works in, and visits Loudoun. Time will tell, but it would be quite helpful for you to let your Supervisor know the value that KLB brings to Loudoun year after year since 1972.

Green Tips

Refuse: Another 'R' variation of Reduce

As you know, KLB is a firm believer and follower of the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle methodology as a simple and common-sense way to be good stewards of our fragile environment, so here's one of many variations on the Reduce theme to keep in mind: Refuse! It's simple – if you don't need or want something that is offered, refuse to accept it.

The first example that comes to mind is the typical store clerk that automatically wants to put even the smallest single item into a disposable shopping bag. Do you really need a bag? And besides, if you do need a bag, didn't you bring along your own reusable shopping bag, anyway? If you didn't, now's the perfect time to start.

Similarly, there are businesses, organizations, governments, and families that think you can't survive without them giving you bottled water, as if there's no other option, like the water fountain a few steps away. Places like hotels, rental car outfits, professional offices, wineries, non-profits (excluding KLB!), sporting events, gatherings, etc. come to mind. They may feel that they are doing you a favor or are trying to score points, but don't be fooled as there are many eco-friendly alternatives to the environmentally-disastrous effects of bottled water, like the reusable bottle that you wisely brought along, right? But if you forgot your reusable bottle, get into the habit of taking it with you everywhere, starting today, and say "no thanks" to bottled water. And if these places really cared about you, they would point you to the nearest water fountain or provide water in something reusable, not disposable.

Another example is the unrelenting barrage of junk mail. I'm sure you get a bunch from local businesses, credit card companies, national

nonprofits, and so on. Instead of tossing it all into the recycling bin (you do recycle paper, right?) over and over again, take a few minutes and make an effort to stop it as junk mail wastes your time, wastes natural resources, and creates pollution. You can Google “stop junk mail” and learn several techniques to try. You can also use Google to zero-in on a particular junk mailer by name, like “capital one stop sending me mail”. In some cases, you can use an online form to stop the solicitations, but sometimes it’s easier to just chat with a customer service rep. A last-resort technique is to write "Do Not Solicit" on the offer and mail it back in their postage-paid envelope. Since they’re paying to create the mailer, paying for postage to mail it, paying for return postage, and then paying for someone to open and read your note, there’s a good chance that the solicitations will stop.

One more incredibly wasteful, pollution-causing, innocent wildlife-killing thing to refuse is disposable drinking straws that are forced on you at most sit-down restaurants and bars, and are freely available at other food and beverage establishments.

According to www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/no-straw-please, over 500,000,000 plastic straws are used each day in the United States. Each day! And what happens to them when you’re done? It gets tossed into the landfill, of course, or turns into litter. So in addition to just saying ‘No’ to this nonsensical waste, the link above has additional practical tips, so take action today if you haven’t already kicked the disposable drinking straw habit.

I could give you many more everyday examples to consider, but I trust that you see the pattern and can understand the problem and environmental impact of things that you really should be refusing.

Bike to Work Day, May 18, 2018

As an avid lifelong road rider and mountain biker, I jump on any excuse to get on my bike to run some errands or to simply get some exercise & fresh air. And when we lived in eastern Loudoun, I would ride my bike all year long to one of the local [Metro-bound commuter bus stops](#), so I just want to remind you that Bike to Work Day is coming-up on May 18. You can read more about this special day at <https://www.loudoun.gov/biketowork>, but hopefully it will inspire you to climb aboard your trusty two-wheeled friend more than once a year as one less car on the road benefits all of us.

Native Plant Sale: May 19, 2018

Lastly, here's a natural way to keep Loudoun beautiful: Native plants. Native plants are not only beautiful, they benefit wildlife and help to displace invasive plants. You can start or augment your native plant garden at the [Spring Native Plant Sale](#) on May 19.

I hope you found this newsletter helpful. As always, if any of this resonates with you, it would be great to hear your thoughts.

Thanks much for your support and please share this with your network.

Mark Lenko
President, KLB Board of Directors



Copyright © 2018 Keep Loudoun Beautiful, All rights reserved.

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

