



Good Neighbor News

For neighbors and friends of Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful
September 2013

Working together to improve our community's environment

KLLCB SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) is an annual event that mobilizes millions of volunteers around the world to clean beaches, lakes, riversides and other waterways. The 2012 cleanup effort included two million cigarettes, one million plastic bags, one million plastic bottles and five hundred thousand glass bottles. As part of this program KLLCB organizes volunteer groups to clean lakes and streams in Lancaster County.

Volunteers Needed for Lake Cleanups

Each year hundreds of volunteers in Lincoln and Lancaster County participate in the International Coastal Cleanup to help keep local waterways healthy and safe. KLLCB recruits volunteers in September and October to help clean litter and debris from local waterways. Groups with boats, canoes and kayaks are needed to reach inaccessible areas. As part of the cleanups volunteers are asked to complete a data card to record the types and amounts of litter collected. Data is sent to The Ocean Conservancy to be included in their annual international report. Data cards, trash bags and other cleanup equipment is provided by KLLCB. If you value healthy lakes, rivers and oceans contact KLLCB at 402-441-8035 or e-mail kllcb@lincoln.ne.gov to volunteer.

I live in Nebraska,

why should I care about the oceans?

It's true that the nearest ocean to Lancaster County is over one thousand miles away. Yet Lancaster County litter can travel from storm drains to local lakes and rivers and potentially reach the ocean. Oceans full of trash affect the quality of life for people in Nebraska in several ways. They produce the air we breathe, are a food source for millions of people, transport the goods we enjoy every day, are a source of medicines and cosmetics, sustain millions of jobs and provide recreational opportunities. Trash is also harmful to ocean animals by destroying habitat, harming animals through entanglement and ingestion and transporting invasive species.



Did You Know?

80%

of ocean trash
starts out on land.

Pictured: A surfer rides through a wave of garbage off the coast of Indonesia.

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THREE OPPORTUNITIES REMAIN TO DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Lincoln and Lancaster County residents have three opportunities remaining this year to dispose of unwanted chemicals at a household hazardous waste collection:

- ★Saturday September 21, Lincoln Industries, 600 West E St
- ★Saturday October 19, Woods Park, 31st and J St
- ★Friday November 15, Appointment only (call 402-441-8021)

All collections are 9am-1pm. The events are sponsored by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and are for households only. Business waste is not accepted.

Residents can also participate in a Usable Latex Paint Exchange on September 21 at EcoStores Nebraska, 530 West P St, from 9am to 2pm. Households (not businesses) can donate paint in cans without rust or leaks. Households, businesses and community organizations can take free latex paint from the Exchange. Donated paint cans must be at least half-full with intact, readable labels. The paint cannot be lumpy when stirred, and should not have been frozen. EcoStores will dispose of non-usable paint for \$2 per gallon. For more information, contact EcoStores at 402-477-3606 or www.ecostoresne.org.

COMMUNITY CLEANUP CORNER

In each issue of Good Neighbor News, the Community Cleanup Corner will focus on a litter prevention or waste reduction issue that impacts the natural environment of Lincoln & Lancaster County. The topic for this issue is recycling.

Discover how your garbage gets another life....

With the City of Lincoln currently developing its solid waste management plan for the next 25 years, community residents have heard a lot about recycling in the past few months. Keep America Beautiful (KAB) has created a new public service campaign that takes a fresh new look at why recycling is important for a clean and healthy community. The campaign uses a plastic bottle and aluminum cans - recycled, respectively, into a bench and a sports stadium - to illustrate how recyclable materials can be given a second, useful life.

From KAB: "By putting your recyclables in the recycling bin, you give them new life. Some materials can travel through the recycling and manufacturing process to be back on the store shelf in as little as 30 days! Your aluminum can, water bottle, or cereal box can become many different things." Visit KAB's new recycling website to learn the five key steps materials go through to become new products.

iwanttoberecycled.org



KLLCB NEWS

**Current and upcoming projects: KLLCB is organizing volunteers for lake cleanups in September and October. The Cleanest High School Campus Competition starts this fall, with the first judging session in November. In the near future KLLCB will begin collaborating with Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center to coordinate the Center's annual Green Holiday event.

**Volunteers are wanted to assist with KLLCB programs. Litter cleanups, storm drain marking and assistance at household hazardous waste collections are some of the ways community members can support KLLCB. Volunteers are critical to the organization's success, with over 1,000 volunteers providing 4,500 hours of service in 2012.

Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful

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