

Quarterly Newsletter  
 Summer 2016  
 Issue #7

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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**  
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**Presentations:** If you would like to have a speaker for your school, church or organization about litter prevention, recycling or beautification, please contact us. There is no fee for programs.

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



Close the loop...Buy recycled!



**Thank You 2016 Corporate Sponsors**

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- Village of Cedar Creek,
- Village of Manley,
- Village of Union

## Start with a BOOM; End with a BROOM



Fireworks create litter and debris that contains heavy metals and harmful chemicals. These substances can pollute air, water and soil. When it rains, these pollutants can enter storm drains which lead to local waterways. You can help by cleaning up your fireworks debris this Fourth of July.

**BE SAFE AND FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:**

- Have the right cleanup equipment ready.
- Allow spent fireworks to sit for several minutes—ensure fireworks are completely extinguished before approaching.
- Use a broom to sweep up debris.
- As a final precaution, temporarily place spent fireworks in a metal bucket or a bucket with sand or water.
- Place cool fireworks in regular trash for disposal.

**Be a good neighbor and pick up your fireworks litter!**

### Cass County Litter Index



KCCB recently conducted the annual Community Appearance and Litter Index across 107 miles of Cass County roads, villages and cities. Keep America Beautiful developed this windshield survey process to measure litter. The overall litter score was 1.31 which is about the same as last year, indicating slightly littered. The purpose of the process is to gather information, make yearly comparisons and develop programs to change attitudes and behaviors regarding littering.

Littering is more evident in the county near villages and cities and is especially problematic on county roads near lake communities.

**Why should you care?**

**For your community:** preventing litter is essential to a clean, healthy and safe community. Litter accumulates in places that are already littered, and in littered communities property values go down, crime rates go up and businesses stay away. Local governments spend millions of your tax dollars each year keeping communities clean.

**For the environment:** Litter can be washed down storm drains and into streams, rivers and lakes. This makes our natural areas unattractive and can harm wildlife.

**To be a good neighbor:** Litter rarely stays in one place and can easily be transported by wind, water, people and animals. Residents may have to clean up litter they are not responsible for and it can also be transported to public areas such as parks and roadways where no one may take responsibility to clean it up.

### Have You Used the Litter Hotline?

KCCB has installed nine REPORT LITTERING signs at entrances into Cass County. The signs serve as a reminder to motorists to raise awareness about littering.

When you see litter coming from a vehicle, write down the license plate number, description of vehicle, location, date and time of the occurrence. Then call the number 1-877-665-4887 and report the littering information. Your call will be directed to Keep Nebraska Beautiful who will forward the information to the Cass County Sheriff's office. A letter and litterbag will be sent to the offender stating the potential dangers and expense of litter along with a reminder that littering is a crime and carries a maximum fine of up to \$1000.



### Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Cass County will have three household hazardous waste collections across the county again this summer. **The tentative dates are August 19, 20, 26 or 27.** Watch KCCB media outlets for the exact date, locations and times. The collections will all be held on the same day.

Make sure to store all household hazardous wastes in their original containers and away from animals or children.

This service will be made possible through a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Waste Reduction & Recycling Program and other assistance provided by Cass County, Five Rivers Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), Great Plains Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), KCCB and other local sponsors.

### Disposal of Old Paint

Some of you have asked about how to properly dispose of paint.



It depends whether the paint is water, acrylic, latex or oil based. Latex paint has instructions to clean up with water. Oil based paint may be labeled "clean up with mineral spirits." Paints should never be disposed of down the sewer or sink drain. Although latex paint is considered recyclable, there is currently no program accessible to Cass Co. residents.

Water, acrylic, and latex paints can be disposed of as trash by the following methods:

- Small amounts can be allowed to dry in paint can or brushed onto cardboard or old carpet; let dry and dispose of in landfill trash.
  - Larger quantities: stir kitty litter or sawdust into can and let dry before disposal in landfill trash.
- Oil based paints & stains should be considered Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) & not disposed of as described above. Oil based paints should be properly stored for HHW collection.

If paint is usable, donate to charity, local schools or friends. Note—old paints may contain lead & other chemicals harmful to humans, animals and the environment & **should not** be given away.

## Cass County Waste Plan Completed

The new "Cass County Resource Management Plan" is written to assist the county with current decision-making processes involving solid wastes produced and help evaluate future solid waste management. The plan's goal is to efficiently manage Cass County resources by minimizing and avoiding waste, followed by increasing reuse, recovery, recycling, and composting. It offers a 10-year blueprint of steps and policies to work towards achieving an ultimate goal of continuing to be a land-fill free county.

The document includes the history of solid waste management in the county; waste disposal and the economic impacts; the democracy of waste; where to locally recycle materials and much more. KCCB will be posting the plan on our website for viewer access to all the information.

Dale Gubbels, CEO of Firstar Fiber, Inc. and Danielle Easdale, Environmental Management, were the co-authors of the plan. Funding for the plan was provided by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant Program.

## Thanks to a Great Group of Volunteers!



Weeping Water Public Schools FBLA students collected litter in downtown Weeping Water, around the school, the cemetery, the city lakes and the walking path along the creek.



Thanks to everyone who purchased flowers and veggies at the KCCB fundraiser at the Rural Route Rust Event.



Louisville Girl Scouts planted over 600 flowers at the Senior Center and the Louisville City Park.

Louisville Boy Scouts Troop 353 cleaned flower beds, planted flowers, shrubs and spread mulch at the Louisville welcome and baseball signs.



Manley volunteers collected litter from both road entrances into Manley. Other cleanups were held in Cedar Creek and Avoca.



Union United's Spring Cleanup and Greenup included a litter clean up of the town, Unity Park and Union baseball field. The Village of Union provided trash dumpsters for general trash and recycling was sponsored by Union United.

## Midlands Community Foundation

We thank the Board of Directors of the Midlands Community Foundation for awarding KCCB a \$750 grant. The funding will be used to purchase educational supplies and materials for the fifth grade KCCB Environmental Fair on September 28.

### See you at the Cass County Fair: August 10—13

KCCB will have a booth in the Expo building and we'll be recycling plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and cardboard on the fairgrounds. We'll also be collecting old cell phones and any rechargeable batteries for recycling. Stop by for free information about recycling, litter prevention, the new county resource management plan, a litter bag and, of course, a recycled newspaper pencil.

### BORROW OUR BINS

Did you know that your organization can borrow our recycling bins and cigarette receptacles for a litter free event? Contact us for more details.



Volunteers at Beaver Lake worked hard to collect lots of litter from Murray Road. A total of 142 volunteers spent 323 hours in spring Great American Cleanups across Cass County planting flowers, hosting recycling events and collecting over a ton of litter.