

KCB MONTHLY

JUNE 2024



Why Community Involvement Matters

Communities thrive when their members actively participate in shaping their future. When you engage with your community, you're not just helping others—you're enriching your own life. Whether it's through volunteering, joining local groups or attending local meetings, your involvement makes a difference. Here's why you should consider stepping up and getting involved.

1. Build Stronger Connections

One of the most rewarding aspects of community involvement is the relationships you build. Whether you're volunteering at a local shelter, organizing a neighborhood event, or participating in a cleanup drive, you'll meet people who share your interests and values. These connections can lead to lasting friendships and a robust support network.

2. Enhance Your Skills

Getting involved in community activities provides an excellent opportunity to develop new skills. From leadership and public speaking to event planning and problem-solving, the experiences you gain can be both personally and professionally beneficial. Plus, these skills can enhance your resume and open up new career opportunities.

3. Improve Community Well-Being

Active participation in community projects helps address local issues and improve the quality of life for everyone. Your efforts can lead to cleaner parks, safer neighborhoods, and more resources for those in need. When individuals come together to work on common goals, the entire community reaps the benefits.

4. Create Positive Change

Do you see areas in your community that need improvement? By getting involved, you can be part of the solution. Whether it's advocating for better schools, organizing cultural events, or pushing for environmental sustainability, your voice and actions can drive meaningful change.

5. Boost Your Well-Being

Studies show that volunteering and community involvement are linked to improved mental and physical health. Giving back can reduce stress, combat depression, and provide a sense of purpose. The

satisfaction of knowing you're making a difference can also enhance your overall happiness and life satisfaction.

How to Get Started

Identify Your Interests: Think about what you're passionate about. Is it education, the environment, health, or something else? Finding a cause you care about will make your involvement more meaningful and enjoyable.

Research Opportunities: Look for local organizations, clubs, and events that align with your interests. Community centers, libraries, and local government websites are great places to start.

Reach Out: Contact organizations or attend meetings to learn more about how you can get involved. Don't be afraid to ask questions and find the best fit for your skills and interests.

Commit Your Time: Decide how much time you can realistically dedicate. Even a few hours a month can make a significant impact. **Get Involved:** Take the plunge and start participating! Your first step might be attending a community meeting, signing up for a volunteer shift, or joining a local club.

Your Community Awaits

Every individual has the power to make a positive impact. By getting involved, you not only help your community but also enrich your own life. So, take that first step today—your community is waiting for you! Join us for our next community event on June 15 at 9am. Together, we can make our community stronger, healthier, and happier. For more information and to sign up please contact twinkrunner@yahoo.com Remember, great communities are built by people like you. Let's work together to create a vibrant, supportive, and thriving community for everyone.

It's More Than Just Trash



The impact of picking up trash goes far beyond simply making communities look nicer. Research shows a correlation between greenspace and reductions in crime and gun violence:

- A 2022 analysis of data gathered from the nation's largest cities found greater amounts of greenspace were associated with lower rates of theft and violent crime.
- A 2023 study led by the University of Michigan School of Public Health found that gun violence declined by 12% in areas adjoining newly developed greenspaces in Indianapolis.
- A study by Michigan State University in 2020 determined that, over a 30-year period, greener cities reported fewer homicides.
- A 2020 University of Virginia study found that if green space is well-designed and properly maintained, it has the potential to reduce violent crime and gun violence.

There may also be a connection between more trees and better heart health. An ongoing study, led by the University of Louisville medical professor Aruni Bhatnagar, is yielding tantalizing evidence that trees may filter air pollution that can stiffen human arteries and release chemicals into the air that reduce blood pressure and stress.



Upcoming Events



Volunteers Needed

Come help us clean
Ball Ground Highway!



**JUNE 15,
2024
9:00 AM**

BE PREPARED:

- Wear long pants and sturdy shoes
- Bring your own work gloves
- Youth age 17 and younger must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian
- Safety vests, pickers, and bags will be provided

PARK AT FIRE STATION #21

1190 Evenflo Drive
Ball Ground, GA 30107
Park in the side lot by the
community room

RSVP or send questions to:

twinkrunner@yahoo.com

From the Recycling Center

In our quest to live more sustainably, recycling has become a go-to solution for reducing waste and conserving resources. However, not everything we discard belongs in the recycling bin. A common misconception is that anything we no longer need can be recycled. This "wishcycling" – the act of tossing non-recyclable items into the recycling bin in the hope they can be processed – can cause more harm than good.

The Problem with Wishcycling

Wishcycling disrupts the recycling process and can lead to increased costs and inefficiencies in waste management systems. When non-recyclable items enter the recycling stream, they can contaminate entire batches of recyclable materials, making them unusable and

forcing recycling facilities to send them to landfills. Additionally, these contaminants can damage recycling machinery and create safety hazards for workers.

Common Non-Recyclable Items

Plastic Bags and Films: While many people assume plastic bags are recyclable, they often get tangled in the machinery at recycling facilities. Instead, these should be taken to designated drop-off locations found at many grocery stores.

Styrofoam: Despite being labeled with a recycling symbol, Styrofoam is not accepted by most curbside recycling programs due to its low density and difficulty to recycle.

Ceramics and Non-Container Glass: Items like coffee mugs, window glass, and mirrors have different melting points and chemical compositions compared to bottle and jar glass, making them unsuitable for recycling.

Food-Contaminated Items: Pizza boxes and other food-soiled paper products can't be recycled because the grease contaminates the paper fibers. Composting is a better option for these items.

Electronics and Batteries: These contain hazardous materials and should be taken to special e-waste recycling centers rather than being placed in regular recycling bins.

How to Recycle Right

Know Your Local Guidelines: If unsure if an item is recyclable please contact the Cherokee County Recycling Center. In addition to the items we accept daily, we also host an Electronics Recycling event each year.

Clean and Dry: Ensure that all recyclables are clean and dry. Residual food or liquids can contaminate other items, turning an entire batch of recyclables into waste.

Check the Symbols: Look for recycling symbols and numbers on plastic items. Not all plastics are recyclable through curbside programs, so it's important to know which types are accepted locally.

Separate Materials: Items made from mixed materials (e.g., a plastic bottle with a metal cap) should be separated before recycling. This helps ensure each material can be properly processed.

Educate and Advocate: Spread awareness about proper recycling practices. Encourage friends, family, and community members to recycle correctly and support local initiatives aimed at improving recycling infrastructure.

The Impact of Correct Recycling

Proper recycling practices ensure that recyclable materials are processed efficiently and effectively, conserving resources and reducing the environmental impact. By avoiding wishcycling, we can help make recycling programs more cost-effective and sustainable.

Reduces Contamination: Clean recycling streams produce higher-quality recyclables that can be more easily transformed into new products.

Saves Resources: Proper recycling reduces the need for virgin materials, preserving natural resources and reducing energy consumption.

Supports Recycling Programs: By reducing the burden of sorting and processing non-recyclable materials, we help keep recycling programs

financially viable and more effective.

Conclusion

Recycling is a powerful tool in our sustainability arsenal, but only when done correctly. Just because you don't want an item anymore doesn't mean it belongs in the recycling bin. By understanding and adhering to proper recycling guidelines, we can all contribute to a more efficient and effective recycling system, ultimately leading to a greener, cleaner planet. Let's commit to recycling right and encourage others to do the same. Together, we can make a significant positive impact on our environment.

Troy Brazie
Manager
Cherokee County Recycling Center

Keep Cherokee Beautiful | 470 Blalock Road, Canton, GA
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