



## The Clean Scene

Serving Lee County Since 1989!

Our mission is to inspire, educate, and engage the Lee County community in improving, beautifying, and protecting our environment.

# April Newsletter



## Community News And Upcoming Events



### Earth Day 51st Anniversary April 22

The first Earth Day took place in 1970, since then the world has changed greatly. While some of these changes have improved our lives tremendously, they have had a negative impact on our environment. The increased use of plastics is polluting our waterways and lands at continuously increasing amounts.

Thankfully to days like Earth Day we are managing to increase the number of individuals committed to protecting our environment. Over the past 51 years that this day has been held it has been a day of action to improve and protect the world around us. Billions of events have taken place over the years on Earth Day that range from an environmental cleanup, to planting trees or even starting a pollinator garden. There are many options that you can do to help protect the fragile world we live in.



### Volunteer Recognition Week April 18 - 24

During the week of April 18 - 24 Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc. (KLCB) will be paying special tribute to those volunteers who always show up at so many of our events and give 100% to make a difference. We also want to call out those that are doing their own events all of the time because they see the need, so they take

action to improve the area around them. These people do so much just because the need is there. Please keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#) to see who these wonderful volunteers are.

KLCB would also like to give a big thank you to every person that has volunteered with us in the past. We would not be able to improve, protect and beautify our environment without you. Every one of you truly makes a difference when you volunteer!

If you know that special person or group that always seems to go above and beyond to make a difference in protecting and preserving our environment? Let us know their story so that we can give a special thank you to them on our media sites, and let others know how truly remarkable they are. Fill in their information [HERE](#)



## Clean Your Block Celebrate Earth Month

Since 1970, Earth Day has served as a yearly reminder to take action to help protect our environment. Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc. (KLCB) is encouraging residents and visitors to celebrate Earth Month by enlisting some friends and invest an hour or so in tidying up their block, wherever they live.

KLCB's #CleanYOURblock program is a great way to get together with your neighbors and take pride in your community. A clean community signals and encourages litterers to dispose of their trash the right way. Less litter leads to neighborhoods that are beautiful places and environmentally healthy, socially connected and economically sound.

Litter continues to be a problem plaguing our environment. Lee County is a coastal community where eventually the majority of loose trash will find its way into the Gulf. Whether it's a lot or a little, every piece of litter picked up makes a difference to help keep our communities clean and protect our environment and local waterways.

Celebrate the Earth all month long and get outside, get together and #CleanYOURblock! Participating is easy - simply do your cleanup and then share your results with us either via email at [Tisha@klcb.org](mailto:Tisha@klcb.org) or on the [KLCB Facebook page](#).

Keep Lee County Beautiful will be glad to provide any needed cleanup supplies. Email [Tisha@klcb.org](mailto:Tisha@klcb.org) to schedule a day and time to pick-up the supplies. By working together, we can help to keep the community we love clean, green, and beautiful.



## Join The 2021 "Go Green" Golf Fundraiser Committee

The 30th Annual "GO GREEN" Golf Fundraiser is Keep Lee County Beautiful's Biggest fundraiser of the year and we would love for you to be a part of it.!

We are currently taking applications to join the Golf Fundraising Committee. Committee members must be able to commit up to four hours every month and attend

regular, mandatory committee meetings via google meet.

Meeting dates are always the 1st Thursday of the month.

[CLICK HERE](#) for additional information and to apply for committee membership.



## Build A Super Seed Planter Bottle

With many students still at home and having Earth Day coming up, we have recently had many requests from parents and teachers for information on our super seed planter bottle. This was a project that we first did in February of 2020.

Building one of these planter bottles will show you how easy it is to upcycle a common item like a water bottle to create a sub-irrigated self-watering planter. Once the plant begins to grow the youths can then learn how to care for a growing plant.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view a short instructional video.



## "Leave The Scene Clean" Calendar Art Date Extended to May 14, 2021

With the continuing disruption that COVID-19 has caused to our daily lives, Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc. (KLCB) has decided to extend the deadline that calendar art may be submitted.

KLCB has been hosting this art contest since 1990 in Lee County. Students in grades 1 through 12 are encouraged to participate. They may attend public, private or be home schooled.

Every year we receive amazing pieces of artwork that have the power to make you stop and think about the world around you, often that is the first step towards a person realizing they can make a difference in the world they live in. Your student's or child's artwork may be that piece of art that will reach someone on so many levels, to make a positive impact!

Artwork should be mailed via (Pony Express) to Lee County School District, c/o Susie Hassett.

or

Dropped off at the KLCB office

1415 Colonial Blvd #2

Fort Myers, FL 33907

(There is a mail slot in the door for 10x13 envelopes)

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit our webpage for contest rules and guidelines.

## Mound House Clean Up The Bay - BYOK (Bring Your Own Kayak)

April 22

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm



Help to protect our precious waterways by participating in a cleanup of the Estero Bay. The cleanup will focus on the Matanzas Pass and Hell Pickney Bay cleaning up litter and cutting monofilament fishing line from the mangroves.

This is a bring your own kayak event. Masks are required on land and life jackets while on the water. Gloves, buckets and scissors will be provided to kayakers.

Volunteers will be departing from the Mound House at 451 Connecticut St, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931.

Registration is required at [Moundhouse.org](http://Moundhouse.org)

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## Support Those That Support Us

The business community needs our support now more than ever. Keep Lee County Beautiful would like to encourage you to help these businesses that have been supporters of ours. Through their support, we have been able to carry out our mission to inspire, educate, and engage the Lee County community in improving, beautifying, and protecting our environment.

Below we highlight a few of our business supporters that we hope you will be able to assist in these trying times by giving them your patronage.



**Gulf Coast Kayak:** Kayak and paddle board rentals, guided tours, kayak fishing and a full retail store. Located in Matlacha, from here you will experience the beautiful waters of the Matlacha Pass Aquatic Preserve. Named one of America's 25 best fishing spots by Field & Stream magazine, Pine Island Sound is an angler's playground! 239-283-1125



**Flippers On The Bay:** Located at Lovers Key Resort on Fort Myers Beach, this wonderful restaurant overlooks the waters of Estero Bay. It has been named the "best waterfront restaurant" on the island. Open Sun - Thu from 7:30am to 9:00pm and Fri-Sat from 7:30am to 10:00pm. 239-765-1025



**Sam Galloway Ford Lincoln:** Sam's grandparents sold Model T Fords in southwest Florida as early as 1927. That family relationship certainly will continue, as Sam's children are already involved with this incredible dealership. Since 1993 when Keep Lee County Beautiful began our Monofilament Madness event, Sam Galloway Ford has been our partner in helping us clean and protect the waterways of Lee County. Call 239-936-3673 or visit their [website](#) for information on your next vehicle.

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## Event Updates



### FGCU Students Score A "Home Run" With This Park Cleanup!

On March 17th students from the University of Florida Gulf Coast University did a cleanup of the Three Oaks Park. During their cleanup they found that the interior of the park was fairly clean with mostly small items of trash. When they began to clean the perimeter of the park, especially the baseball fields, they began to find a large amount of old, half buried baseballs. A total of 62 were uncovered and added to all of the other debris that was collected during their cleanup.

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## Matlacha Waterway Cleanup March 20, 2021

Fifteen volunteers participated in this cleanup of the waterways in Matlacha. They went out in kayaks and gathered a significant amount of debris, and also removed fishing line that was entangled in the mangrove trees. While they were doing this cleanup, they found a large item half floating in the water. It was made of PVC pipe, metal and wood. Later it was tied off so it would not float into the main channel and damage a boat that could pass over it. We later worked with the Calusa Blueway to assist us in getting this item removed.



## Bonita Beach Road Cleanup March 20, 2021

Volunteers from the Cafe of Life in Bonita Springs cleaned Bonita Beach Road from Livingston to I-75. This is the road that they've adopted through Lee County's Adopt-A-Road program.

During their cleanup they gathered approximately 500 pounds of trash and debris. This included the usual plastic bottles, food containers, plastic bags, cigarette butts, and other smaller items. Along with this debris, they also picked up many car bumpers, assorted car parts, large wood pieces and a couch cushion.

[CLICK HERE](#) for information on how you can get involved!

## Great American Cleanup March 2021





This year's Great American Cleanup was a massive success! All of our volunteers worked hard to make a positive impact on our local community, and the environment that we live, work and play in.

We had over 500 volunteers participate in 34 cleanup events that targeted our local shorelines, roadsides, waterways, and parks. A total of 13,861 pounds of litter was removed from the Lee County area during this project that had groups participating throughout the month of March.

With Lee County being a coastal community, it is vital to remove this debris before it enters our local waterways. Soon, our rainy season will be upon us and much of this trash would have started its journey towards the Gulf. Thanks to our hard-working volunteers this litter will now be properly disposed of. Keep Lee County Beautiful would like to say thank you to everyone that helped us gather over 6 tons of trash and debris during this event.

## Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc. Great American Cleanup



Keep Lee County Beautiful would like to thank Tropical Smoothie Cafe (TSC) for being our presenting sponsor of this year's Great American Cleanup. Not only were they the presenting sponsor, they also gave out free samples and TSC items to our volunteers at the Fort Myers Beach location.

We would also like to give a big thank you to Surfing Evolution & Preservation Foundation, Waste Pro, Waste Management (formerly Advanced Disposal), Lee County Solid Waste, Hot Tub Specialists of SWFL, City of Fort Myers, Town of Fort Myers Beach, U.S. Anesthesia Partners, Paradise Iowa Club, Suncoast Beverage Sales, Safeguard Shredding, Coca-Cola Beverages Florida and the many organizations that assisted us in making this event a success.

For additional information concerning the Great American Cleanup, and links to all of our sponsors and supporters please visit our event page [HERE](#).

Follow us on Facebook

## Would you like to help keep Lee County beautiful!

Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc. is a non-profit that has always strived towards coordinating programs and events that will beautify and improve our local community. We are also strongly focused on protecting the environment by removing litter and debris throughout our county. One of our main goals is improving both our residents and visitors awareness of proper trash disposal and recycling procedures. Our ultimate goal is to someday not need to have large scale cleanup projects. To achieve all of our goals we could use your help. If you would like to make a small, tax-deductible donation, please visit our membership page by [Clicking Here](#).

**We thank you for your support!**

239-334-3488 | [Trish@klcb.org](mailto:Trish@klcb.org) | [Mike@klcb.org](mailto:Mike@klcb.org) | [Tisha@klcb.org](mailto:Tisha@klcb.org) | [Sajel@klcb.org](mailto:Sajel@klcb.org) |

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