

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Beautify, Make it Litter-Free
CLEAN COMMISSION NEWS
The Newsletter of the Cookeville-Putnam County Clean Commission

Summer 2007

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Cookeville-Putnam County

Clean Commission

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Nadine Armstrong

Executive Coordinator

Dates to Remember

Sept 7 & 8 Fall FunFest

Sept 22 Household

Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Oct 8 Property of the Year

Nov 15 America Recycles Day

New Executive Coordinator

The Clean Commission has a new Executive Coordinator, Nadine Armstrong. Mrs. Armstrong has eleven years of experience in solid waste management, gained from her employment with the City of Jacksonville, Florida. She coordinated several litter prevention programs there for Keep Jacksonville Beautiful, as well as countless neighborhood cleanups. She is a photographer and has a background in graphic arts. She likes working with children, art, quilting and going to the YMCA.

Throughout the year, she will visit schools to provide information to students and have fun playing games with the students that instill an interest in a litter-free environment and recycling. Our litter prevention and recycling education goes out to the public, media, government offices and businesses, as well as to the students of Putnam County.

New Work

There are several new approaches to existing programs and activities that are being examined. The Director of Solid Waste, Keith Street, and Nadine Armstrong did a quick windshield survey of a few areas in the city, to identify littered roadways to establish a list of target sites, for volunteers looking for a community service project. The most accessible and littered roadway noted was Pine Street, from 4th to 7th Street, bordering the Cookeville Housing Authority complex. A call was placed to the Police Substation in that area, requesting help with a cleanup.

The Long Arm of the Law

Sergeant Mike Smith returned the call immediately and reported that the residential service coordinator of the Housing Authority, Joan Dilldine, was looking for a community service project for her Teens Need Training (TNT) Program. The next week a cleanup was held and a partnership was formed between three agencies. Nine youth, Sgt. Smith, Officer Mark Loftis, Joan Dilldine and Nadine Armstrong took to the streets for a cleanup, which netted four bags of litter and two bags of recyclables, from just a few short blocks. The cleanup crew had lunch from Burger King and seemed to have enjoyed being outside and making a difference. Upon returning one of the trash grabbers, Sgt. Smith laughed and said it was "The long arm of the law".

Phone Book Recycling

The Commission and the Solid Waste Department are researching the feasibility of developing a phone book recycling program next spring 2008, through a partnership with Frontier Pages, Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperative Corporation and the Yellow Book.

Spanish Translator Needed

A new information flier has been completed for "Recycling from Home", for Putnam County. This two page piece offers up-to-date specifics on what can be recycled and where, along with litter prevention tips. It will be distributed during special events and during recycling and litter prevention presentations. There is a need to reach out to our Spanish speaking community. The Commission is looking for a volunteer translator for "Recycling from Home" and other flyers.

Cigarette Butts

The Tennessean newspaper reported at the end of June, that a new state law has been passed to allow law enforcement officers to write tickets for littering with cigarette butts. The fine is \$50.

Edith Heller, the state leader for Keep Tennessee Beautiful, reported that 16 large billboards will be rotated around the state with a hot line number to report littering. Radio stations received public services announcements this past July. Citizens are encouraged to call in with the tag number, type of vehicle and description of the occupants, what was thrown out, the date and time and the location of the littering.

"The hot line is meant to educate people", TDOT spokeswoman Julie Oaks said. Offenders will be sent a letter, including a little trash bag, a "stop litter" card with trash facts; and if a cigarette was thrown out, a portable ashtray. Tennessee spent more than \$11 million last year on litter cleanup and prevention. To date, 2,061 reports of littering have been made to the six months old hot line or through e-mail, most of them about people tossing cigarettes. To report littering from a vehicle, call **1-877-8litter**.

CityScape's Fall FunFest 2007 presented by U.S. Cellular

The time for one of Cookeville's favorite events, the Fall FunFest is quickly approaching. The dates are September 7 and 8. Visit the web site, www.fallfunfest.com, for a schedule of events. Committees are now working hard to organize the event and provide entertainment and fun for everyone.

The goal of the Clean Commission is to make this event litter-free, with the help of the Cookeville High School Interact Club, Scouts and other dedicated volunteers. Barrels for recycling and waste will be placed throughout the area. Our volunteers, wearing "Litter-Free Team" T-shirts, will monitor the streets for litter, and will be a reminder not to litter. This year sand filled buckets for cigarette butts will be a welcome addition. Look for them on every corner.

The Clean Commission will have an information booth on the corner of Broad and Jefferson.

PROPERTY AWARDS

The countywide property enhancement award program recognizes residences and businesses that have exceptional landscaping and maintenance. Beautifying properties in turn beautifies the community. Properties are judged and awarded by board members on overall landscaping, wildlife support and aesthetics, April through September each year.

Congratulations to the Winners

April: Presented by board member Marty Kissane: Loretta and Glen Bilbrey of Herald Street, Diana and Danny Strange of E. 6th Street and the Joy Buck Gothard Law Office of South Lowe Avenue

May: Presented by board member Dale Stapp: Rosemary and Albert Ponte of Hillside Drive and Baxter Elementary School

June: Presented by board member Kim Phann: Judy Smith of Martin Creek Road, The Upper Cumberland Christian Homes and The Poet's on the Square Coffee House

July: Presented by board member Anita Bay: Sally Grimes of North Maple Avenue, Dave and Kay Swindell of New London Drive and the new Funky & Fine Art Gallery on Church Avenue

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, September 22nd, is the date for this year's household hazardous waste collection, at the Putnam County Fair Ground. This program is sponsored by the State of Tennessee Department of Environmental and Conservation, Division of Solid Waste Management. It is in compliance with the 1991 Solid Waste Management Act. Please participate.

"Look under the sink". Look for labels that say, "Poison, Danger, Warning or Caution". Household hazardous waste is any unwanted or spent household product that can catch fire easily (flammable), eat away at or irritate living tissue (corrosive), react violently with water or other chemicals (reactive), or is poisonous to humans and animals (toxic). Usable household products may exhibit hazardous properties but until they become waste, they are not appropriate for the Household Hazardous Waste Program.

When hazardous household products are discarded improperly, they can contaminate surface and groundwater systems. Often these household wastes contribute to air pollution as well. Treatment plants or septic tanks may not be able to break down the complex chemicals in some household products that are poured down the drain. When hazardous materials are sent to the landfill, they may explode, catch fire, give off fumes or leach through the soil into groundwater. Trash collectors and landfill workers are also placed in danger from fires, explosions and leakage of hazardous substances.

A good way to reduce use, handling, and disposal of hazardous products in the home is to substitute less hazardous alternatives. Sometimes these alternatives require a tradeoff of time or convenience; however, there are fewer risks and less need for special disposal. If you mix your own cleaners, stick to published recipes. Be sure every container has a date and label.

Household cleaners, automotive products, home maintenance and improvement products, lawn and garden products,

electronics and various miscellaneous items will be collected. The program will no longer accept alkaline batteries. They are no longer manufactured with mercury and should therefore be disposed of in the trash. In an effort to reduce expenses, rechargeable batteries will be accepted by the county and recycled by the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation. E-waste will continue to be accepted. Call the Clean Commission office with questions regarding the status of an item. **537-3278**.

CLEAN BUSINESS CHECKLIST

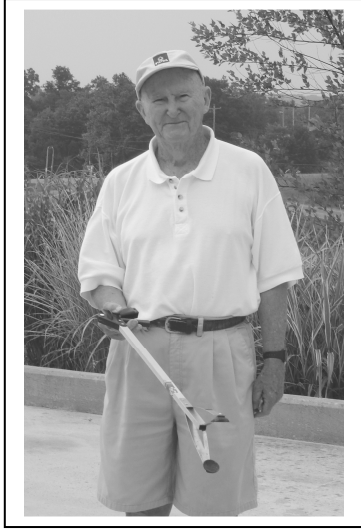
Litter moves from one place to another by: wind, water, weather, traffic and animals. Property damage and personal injury can result from poorly maintained commercial areas. Litter attracts crime, causes fires and prevents economic development. Littered areas degrade business and property values by indicating a lack of concern and loss of local pride. Tourists don't visit as long and avoid returning to littered areas, decreasing potential business revenue. Check your business and see how it measures up.

Inside and Outside

Inside establish a written routine maintenance schedule. Are receptacles emptied regularly? Are qualified items being recycled? Are hazardous waste materials disposed of properly and in accordance with federal, state and local governments? Is litter cleaned up as soon as it happens? Are receptacles emptied regularly?

Outside pickup debris around dumpsters, loading docks and fences to prevent windblown litter. Make sure scheduled trash container pickups meet the volume needs. Check daily to make certain that dumpsters or containers are covered and watertight. Painting, landscaping and seasonal decorating will enhance the image of your business. Regularly clean the sidewalks and parking areas. Unsecured cargo results in injury and death. It is a liability. Vehicles should be secured to prevent dropping, shifting or blowing. Do not place illegal signs or distribute flyers in parking lots or on public property. Drivers and warehouse staff should be trained to securely strap, tie and cover vehicular cargo.

These practices improve safety, can reduce insurance claims and will win the respect of employees and customers; instilling pride for a business and neighborhood.



O.T. Estes

For over 40 years the Kiwanis Club has engaged in litter pickup. The late Keith Crawford led the club in the early years. A regular participant now is his son, Walt Crawford. Since the Clean Commission started over 22 years ago, O.T. Estes, pictured above, has led the Kiwanis annually, in litter pickup. He is a former Clean Commission board member.

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**Nadine Armstrong
Executive Coordinator**

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BACK PAGE BITS AND PIECES

♻️ “Ever wonder how much of ‘nature’ your lifestyle requires?” Learn your ecological footprint. Go to www.redefiningprogress.org Click on Projects, Ecological Footprint. Go to the bottom of that page, click on Quiz.

🌱 One person out of every three on the planet today lacks reliable access to freshwater. VF

♻️ “Last year, Americans bought more than 4 billion gallons of water in individual-portion bottles.” NPR Morning Edition

🌱 Almost half of China’s municipalities have no system in place for treating waste at

♻️ The State of TN will post 187 signs along interstates and state highways this year informing motorists of the watershed they are driving through- to remind us of the importance of protecting water resources from pollution.

🌱 **The Gray Bat is on the State and Federal Endangered Species List. Look for them in Putnam County.**

♻️ Sustainable is a popular word in the media these days.

🌱 **“People cause litter and people can prevent it”. Edith Heller, KTNB**

THE BROKEN WINDOW THEORY

Police officers tend to agree that if a window in a building is broken and left unrepaired, all the rest of the windows will soon be broken.

The Cookeville-Putnam County Clean Commission is partially funded by a litter grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

The Commission also sincerely thanks all its Business, Individual and Family sponsors.

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