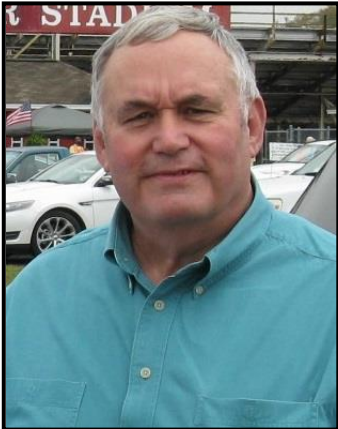




Keep Greater Lake Charles Beautiful~Team Green January 2017 – March 2017



Message from the President, Mason Lindsay

After Easter, I was thinking about how to begin this newsletter and I remember a recent conversation about litter concerning cigarette butts I had. This individual felt that cigarette butts are not a problem. He says, "They are just a filter." True they are a filter, a filter that has trapped toxic substances.

Cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate, a slow degrading plastic. Cellulose acetate fibers packed tightly together make a cigarette filter. Cigarette filters are designed to absorb vapors and to accumulate smoke components. Toxic chemicals are trapped in the filter. Cigarette butts are the number one littered item in the world. Smokers discard billions of cigarette butts yearly, tossing many directly into

the areas where we live. Cigarette butts collect on the grounds of buildings, in parking lots and roads where they are transported to our water ways. Imagine the toxins that are accumulated in 1.7 trillion pounds of cigarette litter that we have produced. Cigarette tars produce more than 3,500 chemical particles and 500 gases by each burning cigarette that contains arsenic, vinyl chloride, acetone, mercury, and lead. Modern filters trap roughly 1/2 the tar while capturing 1/3 of a cigarette's formaldehyde and 2/3 of its hydrogen cyanide. Pick up a few dozen butts and take a big whiff. Smell the scent of bitter almonds? That's hydrogen cyanide. The nicotine trapped inside 200 used filters may be sufficient to kill a 160-pound adult human.

My point, cigarette butts are much more than just a filter. There are lots of good reasons to dispose of cigarette butts properly. Dispose of cigarette butts in their proper place and together we can make a difference!

Upcoming Events.....

- **Residential Trash Bash**
Saturday, April 22
8:00am – 11:00am
Chennault International Airport

This is an annual event where citizens drop off trash at collection stations located on Taxiway G located at the end of Merganser Street. Stations include paint (labeled recyclable, reusable latex and oil), confidential paper, shredding, mercury and/or products containing mercury, oil and antifreeze, automotive batteries, electronics, miscellaneous trash, and reusable items such as clothes and furniture.

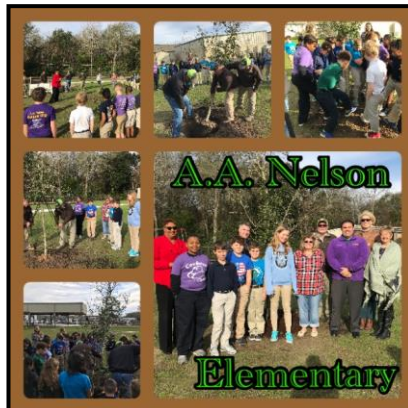
Recyclables collected....

January	49.84 tons
February	34.59 tons
March	52.05 tons
Total	136.48 tons

Earthkeepers Tree Planting

Week of January 23-27, 2017

To reward the 9 Lake Charles schools taking part in the Earthkeepers Program and "going green", Stine coordinated efforts to plant trees at each of these schools. In January of 2017, Stine and Wilkinson Tree Farm teamed up to plant Live Oak trees at these nine schools. The principals and the teachers have been such a big help in engaging students in the recycling program and teaching them why it is important to recycle and not waste. Schools receiving trees in 2017 were J.J. Johnson, Oak Park, St. John, Prien Lake, Nelson and Kaufman elementary schools; S.J. Welsh and F.K. White middle schools; and Barbe High School.



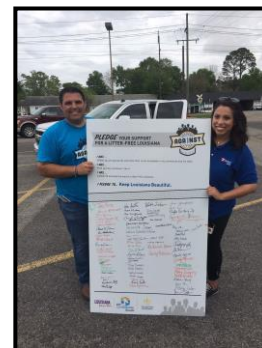
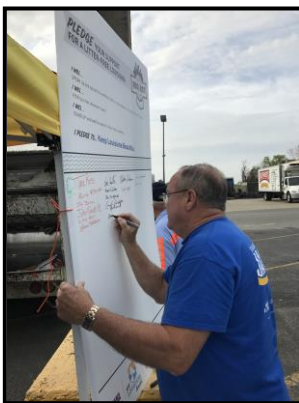


Leaders Against Litter

March 10, 2017

Leaders Against Litter is Keep Louisiana Beautiful's annual signature event that calls on hundreds of our state's elected officials, business leaders and public servants to stand in unity for a litter-free Louisiana. Keeping Louisiana beautiful is a civic responsibility that rests equally on all of our shoulders. Over the past three years, nearly two-thousand of our state's leaders have taken part in *Leaders Against Litter*, a combined effort that has resulted in removing over 25,000 pounds of trash from our state's roadways and green spaces. Even more importantly, these leaders have pledged to "Speak Up, Pick Up, and Stand Up" for a litter-free Louisiana.

Many people don't realize that litter and pollution deter business growth and tourism, reduce property values, and increase criminal activity. A healthy local economy relies on a clean, vibrant community and a commitment from those who live there to care for it. By bringing attention to the problem of litter and neglect in our state, we can safeguard its reputation as our nation's singular and magnificent Sportsman's Paradise.



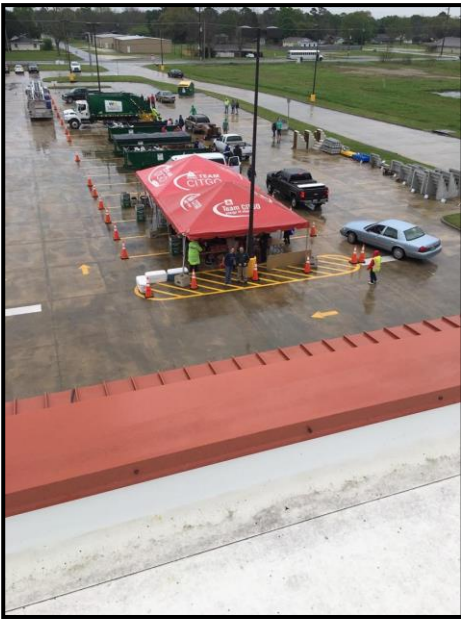
E-Recycle Day

March 11, 2017

Southwest Louisiana united Saturday, March 11, to recycle unwanted electronics at the 9th Annual CITGO E-Recycle Day at the Stine in Sulphur. CITGO Lake Charles Refinery partnered with the City of Sulphur, Keep Calcasieu Beautiful, Waste Management, Stine and Keep Greater Lake Charles Beautiful-Team Green to bring the community together in recycling their "E-waste," completely free of charge.

During the event, 355 vehicles lined up to drop-off e-waste. Collection totals included eight roll-off boxes of e-waste, as well as approximately 767 light bulbs, 20 pounds of mercury items and 100 pounds of batteries.

E-waste items collected today included TVs, cell phones, appliances, computers and other household electronics, including items containing mercury. CITGO E-Recycle Day is one of many initiatives sponsored by CITGO as part of its commitment to a cleaner and healthier environment. Recycling electronics allows residents to be environmental stewards and ensures that harmful metals in electronics are kept out of landfills.



Adopt-a-Spot March 2017

Adopt-a-Spot is a Keep Greater Lake Charles Beautiful-Team Green activity where at least twice a year, in spring and fall, community groups and organizations take to the streets throughout Lake Charles in an effort to keep the streets and sidewalks looking their best. Several groups and organizations took it to the streets in March to help with this effort in helping keep Lake Charles beautiful.



Team CITGO 30th Anniversary March 30, 2017



Team CITGO, established in 1987, is comprised of employees, retirees, and their families to improve the quality of life in the local communities. These volunteers average about 4,000 volunteer hours each year. Keep Greater Lake Charles Beautiful-Team Green has contributed to these hours by participating in some of the events throughout Southwest Louisiana that have been sponsored by CITGO.



Jr. Team Green

Junior Team Green is a youth advisory committee to Keep Greater Lake Charles Beautiful-Team Green. Kids between the ages of 12-18 are welcome to become a part of Junior Team Green. There are also parents and adult leaders who have committed themselves to educating and encouraging young people to be more environmentally responsible. Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of every month, August through May, from 4:00pm until 5:00pm in the educational building at Tuten Park.

January 2017 Meeting Louisiana's Poisonous Snakes



February 2017 Meeting Watershed Pollution



March 2017 Meeting Sonic Drink Carrier Toolboxes



Keep Greater Lake Charles Beautiful Board Members

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Faith Redwine-Hawkins

Irvin Louque

Jean Youngblood

Jill Liptak

Jimmy Shallow

Linda Breaux

Markle Farber

Ronald Young

Tara Ross

Thelma Hargrove

For more information about Keep Greater Lake Charles Beautiful:

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