

JUNE 2021

CHAPIN *Neighbors*



The Robinsons

**PRAYER, PATIENCE,
PERSEVERANCE, & POSSIBILITIES**



Best Version Media

Cover Photo by Jessie Shealy of Shealy Photography



It's Time to Take the Trash Out

BY LAURA BLAKE-ORR, KMB'S CORE PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATOR, LOCAL RESIDENT



KEEP THE MIDLANDS
BEAUTIFUL
KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

South Carolina is blessed with a geographically and ecologically diverse landscape from the mountains to the sea. Here in the Midlands, we are fortunate to have in our backyards a national park, a state forest, three beautiful rivers, and the Jewel of the Midlands, Lake Murray. Nothing spoils a ride along a winding country lane, a walk along the river, or a picnic on an island more than stumbling upon trash left by uncaring individuals.

Litter - a common source of pollution - threatens the health and beauty of our treasured public places, including roads, waterways, and parks. For over 32 years, Keep the Midlands Beautiful has partnered with neighbors, the public sector, and community groups and businesses to achieve our vision of a trash-free and beautiful Midlands. We are an environmental and community non-profit with a mission to help people and nature flourish. KMB, an award-winning affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc., is a national organization dedicated to preserving the natural beauty and environment in American communities.

As a small, local, non-profit, KMB can only make a big difference when concerned citizens don't just complain but instead take action. We rely on volunteers to do the hard work of picking up litter through our many litter prevention programs, including Adopt-A-Highway, Street, Waterway, and Bus Stop; all require a two-year commitment. Those who can't make a long-term pledge can join the Great American Cleanup through June 20th or our year-round One-time Cleanups. KMB provides individuals and groups with everything needed for a safe and fun litter pickup.

Of special interest to our water-loving Chapin area residents is the Adopt-A-Waterway program, sponsored in part by Dominion Energy. Volunteer groups including schools, local businesses and corporations, fishing, boating or paddling clubs, scout troops, civic organizations, churches, and sports teams can be a part of the solution by choosing a Lake Murray island, shoreline, boat landing, or park to conduct litter pickups at least two times a year for two years. Groups are recognized on KMB's website, and a sign acknowledging the volunteer organization may be placed near their adopted section of the waterway. Mark your calendar for a post-summer cleanup of islands and shorelines to coincide with the annual Beach Sweep River Sweep on September 18th. No boat, no problem, you can still participate.

Established in 1989 to serve Richland and Lexington Counties, the mission of Keep the Midlands Beautiful is to engage, inspire and educate the Midlands to invest in our community through litter prevention, recycling, and beautification. Our goal is to improve the quality of life for citizens from all backgrounds and ages. Keep the Midlands Beautiful envisions a Midlands where every community is a clean, green, and beautiful place to live, work, and play.

Since January 2021, 1991 volunteers donated 7573 volunteer hours to remove over 71,499 pounds of trash from our communities- an all-time record! Want to learn how you can get involved with our litter prevention programs?

Contact Laura Blake-Orr, KMB's Core Programs Administrator at 803-733-1139 or lblakeorr@kmb.org. Help fund our mission by donating gently worn, used, and new shoes to our spring shoe drive. Visit our website kmb.org or follow us on Facebook.



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