

Recycling Comes to Bibb County

Until early this month, I had longed for some time to recycle but had little opportunity to do so. West-central Alabama offered few opportunities. The only option was to drive an hour or more to a recycling center---an expensive proposition that, while saving a little landfill space, would have simultaneously starved me to death and generated excessive carbon for the atmosphere.

Now I'm happy to say things have changed, and all of us here in Bibb County have the opportunity, beginning Tuesday, April 22 to recycle sizeable portions of our trash! Please join me in putting shredded paper, aluminum cans and plastic into separate bags, then placing the bags into designated recycling carts at the Bibb County Chamber of Commerce office in Centreville. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, city trucks will transport the carts to Walmart, where the contents will be baled and transported to Birmingham for recycling.

I salute and thank the following partners who are making this happen---Walmart, the Chamber of Commerce, the Oakmulgee District of the Talladega National Forest, Friends of the Cahaba National Wildlife Refuge, the Bibb County Commission, the City of Brent and the City of Centreville.

Let's take a look at what we must do as individuals to make this work---first, as mentioned above, discard your trash at home into separate bags---one for plastic, one for aluminum cans and another for shredded paper. If you don't have a shredder, chances are you know someone who either has a shredder at the office, or has an idea for re-using the paper (line your animal cage with a daily newspaper, but never the Centreville Press!).

As for aluminum and plastic containers, you may want to rinse them, or keep the collection bags outdoors or in a separate storage area to keep the smell down. You may be wondering "which kinds of plastic?" as there are different kinds. However, Walmart Manager Matt Kamplain said ANY kind of plastic is welcome---drink bottles, milk bottles, plastic food containers and even plastic bags!

Then, once you've filled your bag(s), or if you just happen to be heading toward the Centreville and/or the Chamber office, take your bags and place them in the properly designated containers. To some folks, all of this may seem like extra work, and maybe it is in some ways. But if you feel that way, consider that in some states residents are cited for not pulling the paper off plastic drink bottles! Thankfully, Mr. Kamplain says we do not have to do that.

If you live in northern Bibb County or other parts distant from Brent-Centreville, and this new recycling effort doesn't seem to benefit you at this time, please be patient and stay tuned. The partners first want to see if the effort works for Brent-Centreville. If it does work, they will look into expanding the effort by putting carts in Woodstock, West Blocton, Randolph and possibly other areas.

Finally, remember that April is clean-up month in Bibb County. To borrow a line from Auntie Litter who is presenting programs to Bibb County Schools youth on Friday May 9, help us employ the "three Rs" so that we leave a decent environment behind for our youth---re-use materials, reduce waste and recycle.

Feel free to contact our office at 205-926-3117 with any questions you may have.

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