

MARTIN COUNTY YOURNEWS

## KMB launches new Clean Your Block Party initiative



Photo provided Members of the Rio Civic Club cleaned up the Rio Nature Trail during the Great American Cleanup.

By Tiffany Smith, YourNews contributor

PALM CITY — With a mission to create and sustain a cleaner, greener, more beautiful community, Keep Martin Beautiful, a non-profit, volunteer based organization is excited to announce the launch of the 2016 Great American Cleanup through the end of April. Along with other Keep America Beautiful affiliates across the nation, volunteers will be participating in various activities such as litter and marine debris removal, new community garden preparations, neighborhood landscaping and beautification, home repairs and painting, and household hazardous waste removal and new recycling initiatives.

Now in its 18th year, the Great American Cleanup is the country's largest community improvement program with more than 4 million volunteers in 20,000 communities across the nation taking action to create positive change and lasting impact in their own neighborhoods.

"People from all walks of life participate in our local Great American Cleanup, from civic clubs and schools groups, to businesses and homeowner associations to families and retirees," explained Keep Martin Beautiful president, Craig Ahal. "Our goal is to help engage and mobilize large numbers of volunteers throughout Martin County who will be able to make impactful improvements around town."

This year's new theme for the Great American Cleanup is "Clean Your Block Party." This initiative provides best practices, activity ideas, and online toolkits to help volunteers coordinate a cleanup event on their own "block" of their neighborhood. In addition to the traditional road, beach, park, river and neighborhood cleanups, here are some other ways that volunteers can participate in local Great American Cleanup activities in Martin County:

Brush with Kindness — Habitat for Humanity of Martin County: Saturday, April 16, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers needed to paint and revitalize 20 homes in Golden Gate.

Students 4 H2O Stuart Beach Cleanup — Keep Martin Beautiful and Students 4 H2O: Sunday, April 24, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Stuart Beach.

H2O Expo "Saturday in the Park" Water Fest — City of Stuart and Students 4 H2O: Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m. to noon in Memorial Park. This is an educational outreach event for awareness of water conservation and Earth Day. Includes exhibitors, activities, demonstrations, food and entertainment.

Any cleanup project that occurs from now through and the end of April can receive recognition as part of the Great American Cleanup. Volunteers will be provided with trash bags, gloves, water and T-shirts (while supplies last).

For more information call Keep Martin Beautiful 772-781-1222, email [events@keepmartinbeautiful.org](mailto:events@keepmartinbeautiful.org) or visit <http://www.keepmartinbeautiful.org> or Facebook message us at [facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful](https://www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful).

Thank you to the 2016 Great American Cleanup sponsors: Ace Hardware Stuart; Captec Engineering, Inc.; The City of Stuart; Cook Electric, Inc.; Jenkins Landscape Co.; Lowe's; Martin County Solid Waste and Utilities Division; Niagara Water; Pinder's Nursery; Reich, Mancini and Zequeira; Sailors Return; The Firefly Group; Wallace Mazda; Wallace Nissan; and Whiticar Boat Works.