

THE RECYCLER

Newsletter of Recycle Rutherford, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Spring 2018

Tiny Homes Offer Solutions to Multiple Problems

New Meeting Place:

**Heritage Center, 225 West College St.
Monday, April 23, 2018, 7:00 p.m.**

In today's uncertain world, many thoughtful individuals are seeking ways to minimize their impact on our burdened environment. Part of this growing minimalist movement is a trend toward tiny homes.

Smaller homes cost less because they require less land on which to build, less materials for construction, less furnishings, less energy to function, and less maintenance and cleaning, and they generate less waste. Tiny homes don't disrupt the balance of nature nearly as much as traditional houses.

Come to our annual meeting on April 23 and learn about a local aspect of the developing move toward living in less space. Speakers Rob Mitchell, Rutherford County property assessor, and Frank Caperton, local businessman who provides information technology services and computer repair, will explain the role small dwellings can play in helping veterans.

**Note new meeting location:
Heritage Center
225 West College Street
Park across the street in
Pinnacle National Bank
Parking Lot**

Known throughout his professional career as a problem solver, Mitchell applied those skills to getting homeless vets off the street. However, "instead of giving them a home, let's encourage them by letting them know we are there to hold their hands through the minefield of—are you ready for this—home ownership," Caperton explains.

Caperton says that the tiny homes would not be free but instead would follow the Habitat for Humanity model with the investment of sweat equity and some financing.

The photograph above shows Katrina Cottage, a design concept developed by students from the Nashville School of Art and Design. The speakers will provide details of their proposal.

Mitchell's professional career includes

management positions at Service Merchandise, Zales Jewelry, and Dillard's. Tiring of the corporate world, Mitchell pursued small business ownership as an insurance agent, serving in the local community for more than 15 years.



He has been involved in problem solving efforts locally since 1989, starting in flood remediation efforts in Rutherford County. Wishing to improve people's lives and working with aid from the Governor's office, Senator Al Gore, and Congressman Bart Gordon, Mitchell wrote a grant of \$60,000 from the Corps of Engineers to fund remediation to mitigate a drainage problem.

Mitchell holds a degree in business management from MTSU. He and his wife Kim have two sons and a daughter.

Caperton has been known in Rutherford County as 'Frank the Computer Guy' since 1983. He brings an extreme sense of service to any project within his reach. His community involvement includes, in addition to advocacy for Tiny Homes for Vets, service as president of the Rutherford County Historical Society, board member of the Friends of Stones River National Battlefield, board member of the Rotary Club of Murfreesboro, president of Murfreesboro Evening Rotary Club, advocate for Middle Tennessee Civil War Roundtable, and volunteering with Salvation Army and Rutherford Senior Connections.

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Tips for Responsible Living: Environmental Protection Agency

A beautiful and healthy lawn is good for our environment. It can resist damage from weeds, disease, and insect pests. Pesticides can be effective but need to be used according to the directions on the label and should not be relied on as a quick-fix to lawn problems. Here are some tips to follow:

- **Develop healthy soil.** Make sure your soil has the right pH balance, key nutrients, and good texture. You can buy easy-to-use soil analysis kits at hardware stores or contact your local County Cooperative Extension Service for a soil analysis.
- **Choose the right grass for your climate.** If your area gets very little rain, don't plant a type of grass that needs a lot of water. Select grass seed that is well suited to your climate and other growing conditions such as the amount of sunlight and rain your lawn receives. Over-seed your lawn each Fall by spreading seeds on top of the lawn. A thicker lawn helps to crowd out weeds. Your local County Extension Service can advise you on which grasses grow best in your area.
- **Longer is better.** Make sure the lawn mower blades are sharp. Grass that is slightly long makes a strong, healthy lawn with few pest problems. Weeds have a hard time taking root and growing when grass is around 2½ to 3½ inches for most types of grass.
- **Water early.** It is time to water if footprint impressions stay in the lawn and do not spring back. Water early in the morning and only for short periods for time so the soil may absorb the water. Longer grass has stronger roots and retains water better.
- **Correct thatch buildup.** Thatch is a layer of dead plant materials between the grass blades and the soil. When thatch gets too thick, deeper than 3/4 of an inch, water and nutrients are prevented from getting into the soil and reaching the roots of the grass. Overusing synthetic fertilizer can create heavy layer of thatch, and some kinds of grass are prone to thatch buildup.
- **Recycle grass.** Don't pick up the grass clippings after you mow. Clippings will return nutrients and moisture to the soil. Consider buying a mulching lawn mower. This will cut the grass clippings finer and blow them into the lawn.
- **Let your lawn breathe.** Once a year, remove small plugs of earth to allow air and water to aerate the grass roots.
- **Invite a few weeds and insects into your garden.** Think of your lawn as a small piece of nature where pests have their place. Often, nature provides its own pest control in the form of birds or other insects that feed on the insects we consider nuisances.

- **Use manual tools.** Tools that don't require electric or gasoline engines are especially handy for small yards or small jobs. There are hand tools available that will meet a wide variety of lawn and garden needs, like lightweight, quiet, easy-to-use reel push mowers that generate no emissions.

For more information see:

- **Your Yard and Clean Air:**
(<https://www.epa.gov/vehicles-and-engines>)
(PDF 2pp, 16K, [About PDF](#)) - small engines, fuel safety, maintenance, and more.
- The **Environmental Protection Agency** at <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-topics>
- **Backyard Conservation:**
(https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/home/?cid=nrcs143_023574) bringing conservation from the countryside to your backyard, with tip sheets about creating backyard habit, pest management, and more, from USDA.

Using Pesticides Safely

If you decide that the best solution to your pest problem is a pesticide, follow these tips when selecting and using a garden product:

- Identify the pest problem
- Find the product that solves the problem
- Buy the right amount for your needs
- Read the label carefully and use the product the right way
- Pay attention to warnings
- Prevent harm to the environment - never pour lawn and garden products down a drain

Spring Cleaning

If you are going to be doing some spring cleaning, take a look around your house for items that present environmental hazards when they are improperly disposed of. Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients are considered to be "household hazardous waste" or "HHW." Products, such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides, that contain potentially hazardous ingredients require special care when you dispose of them.

Local Note: the next household hazardous waste collection in Rutherford County is Saturday, November 3, 2018.

Heating and Cooling

Is your home's cooling equipment more than 10 years old? If so, EPA encourages you to have your current system inspected for energy performance by a professional contractor before their busy summer season hits.

If it's time for a replacement, be sure to choose equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR for high efficiency. If it's not yet time to replace, have your contractor perform routine annual maintenance on your system to make sure it will efficiently and comfortably carry you through the hot summer months without costing you more than necessary.

Annual Meeting: Speaker on Tiny Houses and Election of Officers

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Caperton's education includes studying data processing at Columbia State Community College and information systems at MTSU and growing up on his grandfather's farm. He and his wife Lora have three daughters.

Officer Election Part of Annual Meeting

The main order of business at the annual meeting of Recycle Rutherford is the election of officers and board members. Nominated to serve 2018-2020 are

President	Rachel Cornett
Vice President	Bonnie Black
Secretary	Suma Clark
Treasurer	Rick Racker
Past President	Glenn Himebaugh

Board Members	Kimberley Broughton Linda Hardymon
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Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

The public is invited to this informative meeting. **The new location is easily accessible on the ground level of the Heritage Center, located less than a block off the Public Square,** just down College St. behind Marina's restaurant. There is plenty of parking in the Pinnacle Bank lot just across College Street.

Coke Envisions World Without Waste

Coca-Cola will help collect and recycle a bottle or can for each one it sells to consumers by 2030, according to a *USA Today* story on January 20, 2018. The company announced a packaging initiative for a "world without waste."

Continuing efforts to make its global packaging 100% recyclable, Coke said it plans to make its plastic bottles with an average of 50% recycled content by 2030. Also, there are plans to develop plant-based resins and reduce the amount of plastic used in each bottle.

**Celebrate Earth Day 2018
Saturday, April 21**

The theme of the seventeenth Annual Earth Day Celebration is **Extreme Weather: Stay Aware and Be Prepared!** The event will be held Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the historic public square in downtown Murfreesboro.

The free event includes environmental and educational booths, children's activities, musical entertainment, and refreshments.

Amy Byers, director of marketing for the Murfreesboro Electric Department and Earth Day organizer, explains this year's theme: "Tennessee Valley experiences a wide variety of extreme weather, and it is always best to be prepared when it strikes. From knowing how to stay safe in tornados to having an evacuation plan in case of a fire, knowledge is the number one tool when it comes to battling the weather. Extreme heat waves cause droughts, forest fires, and high electric bills! Hurricanes from the coast cause storms in Tennessee that lead to flooding and property damage. Snow and ice storms mean dangerous road conditions and colder homes. The 2018 Earth Day Celebration will emphasize how extreme weather affects lives and how to be safe and prepared when weather happens to you."

A special part of this year's celebration is an Extreme Weather Student Video Contest. Students from all Murfreesboro City Schools, Rutherford County Schools, and private schools and those who are home-schooled are invited to enter.

Recycle Rutherford plans to have a booth at Earth Day. If you are interested in helping staff the booth, please go to <http://www.recyclerutherford.org/contact-us.html>

Recycle Rutherford Membership Form

I enclose my annual dues to support Recycle Rutherford and receive the newsletter.

- \$25.00 supporter \$15.00 student \$100.00 patron
- I am contributing \$_____ in addition to dues. I prefer the newsletter to be emailed.

PLEASE PRINT:

name _____ amount enclosed _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

telephone: day _____; evening _____

e-mail _____; volunteer interest _____

Please make check payable and mail to Recycle Rutherford, P.O. Box 1804, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1804

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New Recycler Award Announced

After several months of research and discussion, Recycle Rutherford is announcing the first ever community *Spirit of Recycling Award* recognizing businesses and industries for their efforts in recycling. Businesses of any size located in Rutherford County, Tennessee, may apply for the award(s). One important factor to be considered is the amount of trash diverted from our local landfill which continues to move toward its maximum capacity.

The awards will be presented at a June 18 event, to be held at the Carriage Lane Inn, to coincide with National Garbage Man Week.

Application for the award can be found at www.recyclerutherford.org. **The deadline to apply is May 1, 2018.**

The development of the award grew out of board members' desire to recognize achievement in recycling even though the important action may require extra effort and resources. The number of awards to be presented will take into account relative sizes of those businesses that enter.

Dates to Remember

Earth Day 2018—Murfreesboro:

Saturday, April 21, 2017, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Public Square, Downtown Murfreesboro

Theme "Extreme Weather: Stay Aware and Be Prepared"

Spring Annual Meeting—Recycle Rutherford:

Monday, April 23, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
Heritage Center, 225 W. College
Election of officers and speaker

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, November 3, 2018, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Murfreesboro City Solid Waste Department
4765 Florence Road, Murfreesboro

2016-18 Officers and Board

Recycle Rutherford holds elections each April at the annual meeting; in general, officers and part of the board are elected in even years for two-year terms, and approximately half the board is elected in uneven years, providing for staggered terms.

The officers are listed below with the board members, who are elected each April and serve staggered terms. The date indicates when the term of each ends. The board meets monthly on first Mondays at 6:15 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 210 N. Spring Street.

Rachel Cornett, president
Bonnie Black, vice president
Suma Clark, secretary
Rick Racker, treasurer
Glenn Himebaugh, past president

Board Members:

Gib Backlund, 2018
Linda Hardyman, 2018

Reminder: To renew your membership, please see the form on page 3.

**Dues are only \$25 per year.
We don't want to lose you!**

**For more information, go to
www.recyclerutherford.org**

Like us on Facebook!

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P.O. Box 1804
Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1804