

## Local officials promote volunteerism on May 7 for Keep Martin Beautiful's Extreme Martin Makeover

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JESSICA LAYNE

Keep Martin Beautiful Board Member, Mat Churchey, accepts a proclamation for the Extreme Martin Makeover scheduled on May 7 from Town of Sewall's Point Mayor, Mark Klingensmith.

PALM CITY — The City of Stuart, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners, the Town of Jupiter Island and the Town of Sewall's Point all agree on one thing -- residents of Martin County should join together on Saturday, May 7 to make a positive difference in our communities.

"This day of community-wide cleanups is part of the Extreme Martin Makeover, which we coordinate from March 1 through May 31," said Rhonda Irons, president of Keep Martin Beautiful. "All of our local initiatives work towards the overall Great American Cleanup efforts - the nation's largest, annual community improvement program. We are excited to have support from our local elected officials, and have increased our number of cleanups this year to bring out as many residents as possible."

From 8 a.m. to noon on May 7, KMB will host numerous cleanups across Martin County that volunteers can register for. Areas still in need of volunteers include Stuart Beach, Jensen Sea Turtle Beach, Sandsprit Park and the Golden Gate community in Stuart.

"Too often many of us take for granted the beauty that we are surrounded by here in Martin County. It's that natural beauty that brought most of us here, and has made most of us remain," said Martin County Commissioner Patrick Hayes. "Keep Martin Beautiful strives to ensure we can all enjoy our communities for generations, and we fully support their call to action for volunteers. Last year I had the pleasure of working with residents in Indiantown and Banner Lake. I look forward to these events and I hope to see a large turnout from volunteers."

Beginning in March, families, businesses and civic organizations have volunteered to clean Martin County parks and beaches, remove roadside litter, rebuild and paint homes, landscape neglected public areas and plant community gardens. A new element of the Extreme Martin Makeover this year is a series of oyster shell bagging events as part of the Oyster Reef Restoration Project. The oyster bags will be deployed into the St. Lucie River on May 14 to help clean our local waterways.

Last year, more than 1,500 volunteers of all ages removed more than 93,000 pounds of litter from streets, parks, beaches and waterways. Neighborhood groups, civic clubs, schools, scouts, businesses and individuals can all be part of the Great American Cleanup. More volunteers for this year's Extreme Martin Makeover are always needed and encouraged to participate.

All cleanup projects that take place between March and May will count as part of the Great American Cleanup, and volunteer groups will be provided with supplies including trash bags, water and T-shirts (while supplies last). Volunteers can also organize their own cleanup activity at a site not yet identified, which KMB will also support with supplies.

Thank you to the sponsors who have made the 2011 GAC events possible, which include AT&T, Continental Shelf Associates, Fiorella Insurance, Lively Orthodontics, Seacoast National Bank, Florida Oceanographic Society, Florida Power & Light, Forest Hills Funeral Home, Sailor's Return, Waste Management, Wallace Automotive, South Florida Water Management District, CAPTEC Engineering, The Garden Club of Stuart, WastePro, Whitcar Boat Works, Ampersand Graphics, Martin County Solid Waste Authority, The Firefly Group, Lauri J. Goldstein, and Rocky's Ace Hardware. Sponsorship opportunities are still available and needed to support the year-round operations of Keep Martin Beautiful. It provides for a great way to promote your business while helping the community.

For more information or to participate in a cleanup, visit <http://www.keeptmartinbeautiful.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful> or contact KMB at 772-781-1222 or [info@keeptmartinbeautiful.org](mailto:info@keeptmartinbeautiful.org).

### **About Keep Martin Beautiful**

Keep Martin Beautiful is a 501(c) (3) non-profit community organization founded in 1994. Its mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Martin County through litter prevention, promotion of recycling, improvement of solid waste management practices, and beautification and community revitalization activities. KMB signature events and programs include the annual Environmental Stewardship Awards Ceremony, International Coastal Cleanup, Great American Cleanup, Adopt-A-Road program, Adopt-A-Street program and other educational and outreach activities. Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful>, follow us on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/KMBmartin> or visit <http://www.keeptmartinbeautiful.org>.