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A community newsletter provided by the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce

THE PELICAN

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Hobe Sound Pelican

Keep Martin Beautiful Challenges Martin County to Make an Extreme Difference

Most people wouldn't consider 92 days enough time to change the face of a community, but every year Keep Martin Beautiful (KMB) tackles that challenge when it coordinates the local efforts of the Great American Cleanup (GAC). From March 1 through May 31, KMB - along with Keep America Beautiful affiliates across the country - participate in the nation's largest, annual community improvement program.

In addition to community cleanups that run through the duration of the three month campaign, KMB hosts the Extreme Martin Makeover, a series of projects that focus on litter removal, revitalization and beautification efforts in specific neighborhoods throughout Martin County.

In partnership with Habitat Angels, the first Extreme Martin Makeover is in East Stuart on Saturday, April 9 from 9am to noon. The project includes exterior home painting and landscape improvements, followed by a volunteer appreciation event complete with food, fun and children's activities.

On the morning of Saturday, May 7, Keep Martin Beautiful is also organizing litter removal cleanups on Jensen Beach, Stuart Beach and at Sandsprit Park.

"Our theme this year is that everyone can make an 'extreme difference' as an individual by being a part of this effort. If enough people step up to do something as simple as removing litter from your neighborhood streets, collectively it adds up to a major improvement," said Rhonda Irons, president of Keep Martin Beautiful.

Neighborhood groups, civic clubs, schools, scouts, businesses and individuals can all be part of the Great American Cleanup. Volunteers can organize their own clean up activity or sign up for a site already

identified by Keep Martin Beautiful. 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).

Last year, more than 1,500 volunteers of all ages removed more than 93,000 pounds of litter from streets, parks, beaches and waterways. More volunteers for this year's Extreme Martin Makeover are always needed and encouraged to participate.

Thank you to the sponsors who have made the 2011 GAC events possible, which include AT&T, Continental Shelf Associates, Fiorella Insurance, Lively Orthodontics, Waste Management, Florida Oceanographic Society, Florida Power & Light, Forest Hills Funeral Home, Sailor's Return, Wallace Automotive, South Florida Water Management District, 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.

Scheduled Cleanups as of March 1:

- April 9 - East Stuart Extreme Martin Makeover
- April 9 - Rio Skate Park Invasive Exotic Plant Removal
- April 30 - Golden Gate Community Cleanup
- April 30 - Spoil Island Restoration Cleanup
- May 7 - Extreme Martin Makeover Cleanup (Sandsprit Park, Stuart Beach, Jensen Beach)
- May 21 - Indiantown Extreme Martin Makeover

For more information or to participate in a cleanup, visit www.keeptmartinbeautiful.org and www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful or call KMB at 772-781-1222 or email: info@keeptmartinbeautiful.org.