



MANDEVILLE MOMENTS

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Anti-litter contest a thing of beauty

The Keep Mandeville Beautiful organization always has good news to report when it comes to keeping our city beautiful.

That's why I'd like to share with you some of the information KMB Director Susan Russell forwarded to me on Monday.

First and foremost, KMB is kicking off two anti-litter contests - one aimed at students in kindergarten through third grade and another geared to older students (those in the fourth through 12th grades).

In recent years, KMB has held the anti-litter contests and hundreds of entries have been submitted to the group. Winning entries have received recognition from the mayor and City Council and had their artwork placed on banners throughout the city.

This year, that will continue, but 12 of the top pieces of art also will be displayed in the 2012 Keep Mandeville Beautiful Calendar, which will be sold at local retail outlets.

Here's how the contests work.

The "Litter Monster" contest is open to all middle, junior and high school-aged students. Winning artwork will be made into banners and displayed on the East, West and North Causeway approaches. More than 500 students from local schools took part in the contest last year.

As Russell pointed out in her e-mail to me, "Every day, thousands of students and commuters travel these approaches on their way to school and work. Hanging the banners heightens awareness about litter while adding color and interest to the approaches."

All entries should be drawn on 8 1/2-inch by 14-inch legal-size paper. Entries are due by Feb. 21 and should be original and hand-drawn. No photos, wording or black-and-white artwork will be allowed. Winners will receive cash prizes as well as the recognition that comes with having their artwork placed on the popular banners.

The "Anti-Litter" contest is aimed at kids in kindergarten through third grade. Students should draw a poster on 8 1/2 by 11 paper and also are due by Feb. 21. Each grade winner will receive trophies and certificates for the first-, second- and third-place winners.

The winners from each contest will meet with Mandeville Mayor Donald Villere on March 24 where they will be recognized for their efforts. The 12 pieces chosen for the calendar also will be announced at that City Council meeting.

A copy of contest rules and additional entry requirements can be procured at local schools or can be e-mailed to the student. For more information, call 624.3165 or go send an e-mail to kmb@cityofmandeville.com.

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More good news on the Keep Mandeville Beautiful front: KMB has secured two community grants totaling \$10,000 from Keep Louisiana Beautiful. According to Russell's release, the money will help KMB "implement a curbside recycling educational campaign" as well as produce the aforementioned calendar.

The grant is aimed at helping pay for materials "to raise the recycling participation rate

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KMB wins \$10,000 grant

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from 35 percent to 65 percent. The materials will inform people about what can and cannot be recycled and why it is important to recycle."

KMB is "an organization focused on changing the attitudes

and behaviors of people through educational programs and activities aimed at reducing litter, increasing recycling, beautification and heightening environmental awareness."

For more information about KMB and their numerous volunteer efforts that benefit our community, call 624.3165.