



This is the inaugural issue of my newsletter. I will periodically write about a County subject of interest. And there are many. Government is in every aspect of our lives and it is imperative that citizens are informed. There are many topics of interest from Airports to Wildlife Management.

The rain, especially on weekends, has afforded me the opportunity to go a little deeper into Spring Cleaning. As I pulled the bags of unused fertilizer and old paint cans from their shelves last weekend, I wondered about the **Disposal of Hazardous Waste in Okaloosa County**.

Heretofore, it could only be dropped off on Thursdays from 1pm-3pm. That was hardly convenient, am I right? Many tried in earnest but let's be honest. How many of us want to take chemicals, pesticides, used oil, etc. to work with us, leave it in a hot car and then try to take a late lunch hour to dispose of these dangerous products?

The county has heard your requests! Starting this past Tuesday, April 21 the Hazardous Waste Drop-off is open Tuesday through Saturday from 7am-3pm in Fort Walton Beach. I tested it out on Tuesday morning. I was their first customer. I was greeted by Jim Reese, Recycling Coordinator and Jay Shartz, as I drove into the covered facility. The large warehouse is neat and clean and very organized. Within moments I was in and out and the customer behind me was unloaded. It is efficient and easy and encourages continued use.

The following items can be disposed of: Paint, Pesticides, Pool Chemical, Used Oil, Gas, Anti-freeze, Computers, Televisions, Fluorescent Lamps, Car Batteries, Re-chargeable Batteries, Cleaners, Solvents, Aerosol and more. For a complete list: <http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/>, then go to services on the top bar and then recycling on the drop bar. The side bar has hazardous waste information. Below is the location: **80 Ready Avenue (close to the Industrial Park) Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548 Phone: (850-651-7394) or Crestview: 1759 S. Ferndon (Hours M – Friday 7am -4pm)**

My hope is that you will keep this newsletter and the information for recycling to make a difference as we celebrate Earth Day and we are cleaning out our garages and sheds of hazardous materials.

Let me hear from you. It is a privilege to serve as your County Commissioner. I am accountable and accessible to you. Contact information is 850-651-7105 or cketchel@co.okaloosa.fl.us (if you do not wish to receive it please email to unsubscribe)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carolyn N. Ketchel". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Carolyn N. Ketchel,
County Commissioner, District 2