

## TUESDAY TOPICS -- September 3, 2024

President Mary Lou Davis opened the meeting. She thanked volunteers and announced that we can now register voters. She called attention to Meet the Candidates Events coming up on October 10<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>. More information will be forthcoming.

President Davis introduced our speaker, Bill Sutton, Director of Shawnee County Solid Waste. Mr. Sutton's presentation was informative with moments of humor.

He described the recycling process and showed videos of how workers separate recycled items. Solid Waste is a business and money is the bottom line. Recyclers must be able to sell the gathered items in order to make a profit for their business.

He clarified some misconceptions and changes in what can be recycled through his company. Plastic containers numbered 1, 2, or 5 can be recycled. He stated that for customers using Shawnee County Solid Waste recycling, clear plastic containers such as for berries or salad are not accepted by the recycler, even if they are labeled #1. "Bottles, jugs, and tubs" are the types of plastic that the recycler wants. Waxed cardboard like orange juice or oat milk containers are also not recyclable. Recyclable cardboard should "tear brown" when you rip it. Shredded paper is also not accepted by the recycling company. It is okay to leave labels on cans. Cans can be simply rinsed out and not scrubbed clean.

"When in doubt, leave it out." This motto will prevent "wish cycling" where a person adds items in the hopes they will be recycled. This causes more work for the recycler to separate out what you should have put in your trash instead.

Do not recycle glass in curbside recycling. Glass items are handled separately so that they can be recycled successfully without contamination. Glass should be placed in the purple containers from Ripple Glass available in several locations throughout the county.

Shawnee County Solid Waste hauls more than 150 tons of refuse and 40 tons of recyclables daily. They have thirty trucks, nineteen for refuse and eleven for recyclables. Both residential and commercial customers are served.

More information about Shawnee County Solid Waste is available on their website at <https://snco.gov/sw/>

An updated 2 page handout shows what is and is not recyclable through Shawnee County Solid Waste currently: [https://cdn.snco.gov/solid-waste/image/content/recycle\\_guidelines\\_flyer.pdf](https://cdn.snco.gov/solid-waste/image/content/recycle_guidelines_flyer.pdf)

Visit the Shawnee County Solid Waste Facebook page for more information and some humor.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069361473073>