

Green is where the Heart is

“Revolution – where the villain is the star.”

~John Gordon,

chairperson of Kure Beach Stormwater and Environmental Committee

by Mo Linqvist

How do YOU dispose of rechargeable batteries, pesticides, herbicides, motor oil, antifreeze, fluorescent tubes and bulbs, household cleaners, solvents, auto batteries, fertilizers, smoke detectors, electronics, cell phones, medical waste, old paints and other items that are outlawed in the landfill and not allowed in the recycling program? Last week John Gordon and I traveled to the New Hanover County Department of Environment Management where we met with Lynn Bestul, environmental manager specializing with solid waste planning and recycling. Our objective was to plan the first presentation for the **Kure Beach Environmental Series** to be held at the KB Community Center on Tuesday, February 19th at 4:00pm.

The subject of this first presentation will address the question, “Have you ever wondered where to put CFL’s, old paint, etc? We have the answer.” Everything you put in your trashcan eventually ends up in the landfill. The items in your recycling bin will be processed to create raw material for new products to be made. This helps to limit the amount of waste in our landfill. However, there are items that cannot be recycled AND cannot be put in the landfill. For example, did you know that unused wet paint is one of those items? NC law forbids it, yet what do you do with unused paint? What about unused ammunition no longer needed? Gordon will address that question.

During the tour of the facility we could see remnants of a set created for the show, “Revolution” when John made the comment about the *villain* being the *star*. It occurred to me that the *star* of our presentation was also the *villain*, “hard to dispose of household items.”

Bestul will give updated information on how to dispose of these pesky items, what is acceptable in the county’s current collection points including where to find an igloo for rechargeable batteries, and an update on the new facility that will have regular hours Monday–Friday 10am–2 pm, and Saturday 9am–12pm for HHW’s. There also will be a drop off event at the ILM Airport on March 30, 2013 9am-2pm rain or shine. He will give details on what items will be accepted.

All part-time or full-time residents of New Hanover County are invited to attend this presentation at no charge. Bring any questions you may have for him. After all, we all want to put this *villain* in its rightful place. xo mo

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