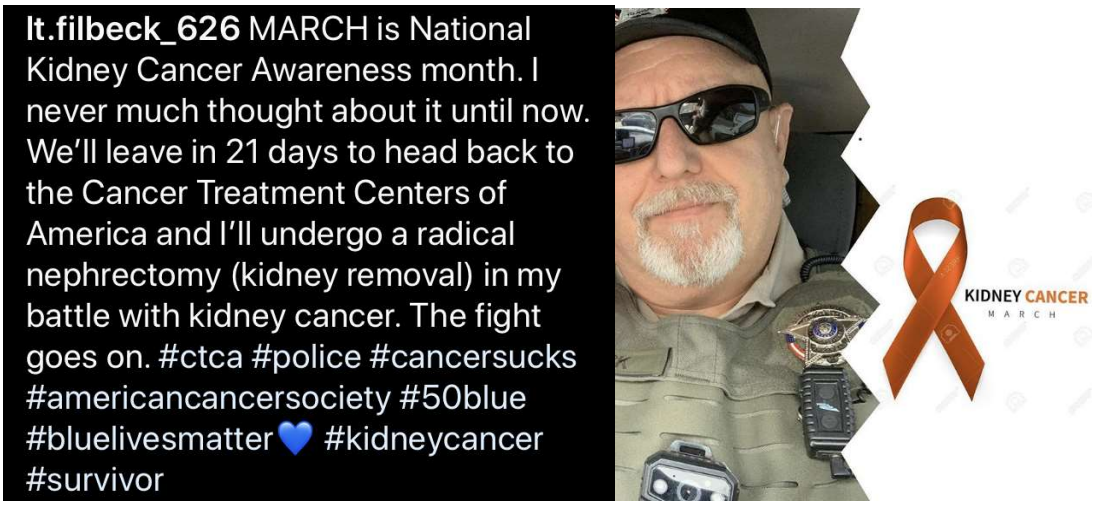
Environmental Report February 2020
Environmental Manager
Teresa Sidwell

Roadside Cleanups – The County Sheriff's Office provided an inmate crew to assist our staff with cleaning up 8 couches, 38 passenger-sized tires, 6 semi-truck tires, a truck bed liner, 10 televisions, and other assorted waste from NE 'J' Street in the Bentonville area that had been dumped into the deep ravine that runs along this road. Officer Cervantes and I went out on another day in February to collect a rusted steel barrel in the Gentry area, 6 mattresses that were dumped in the Pea Ridge area, and about 30 (50 pound) bags of Hydraul-EZ borehole stabilizer used for boring under roads which was recovered in 3 different locations on Logan Cave Road in the Siloam Springs area.



Sr. Environmental Enforcement Officer, Timothy Filbeck 626 has been with us for over two years and has served his community for more than 25 years. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers and wear an orange ribbon in support.

Green Team Benton County wishes to provide a platform for northwest Arkansas agencies, businesses and groups to share their message of environmental protection in an interactive way that excites the public about caring for our environment. We want to showcase new ideas, artisans and environmental education. The first annual NWA EcoFest will be held indoors at the Benton County fairgrounds on June 5-6 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. **We really need your help now with spreading the word to potential exhibitors and the public.**

@nwaecofest on Instagram has a link in the bio to the event website .
Follow, like, and comment on the NWA EcoFest social media accounts and most importantly share, share, share!

Foam Packaging Awareness– In 2020 our division has pledged to focus on getting information out to the public every month. In February Channing Barker, Benton County Communications Director helped us get the word out about the problems recycling foam. Expanded polystyrene (EPS) commonly known as Styrofoam seems to be everywhere. Foam packaging is a #6 plastic that is very lightweight and takes up only .01% of the municipal solid waste stream by weight, but EPS volume and the fact that it doesn't biodegrade is the real problem. Clam-shell containers for takeout foods, packaging for eggs and shipping material are all made of foam. In addition, more than 25 billion foam cups are disposed of every year in the United States alone. Governments are starting to ban EPS and businesses are phasing it out for more sustainable packaging like bamboo, cornstarch, and mushrooms.

New-home construction and retail box stores are two big foam packaging wasters that send mounds of foam packaging to the landfill every day. Unfortunately recycling foam packaging can cost more than putting it into the dumpster. One big-box appliance store chain conducted an audit of their waste stream and discovered that in each store foam packaging made up 60-80% of their total waste output which was an equivalent of a 53-foot transport truck from each store heading to the landfill each week. Community recycling programs lose money when recycling EPS. Foam packaging is rarely remade back into foam packaging. We all want to recycle everything we can but unfortunately many things that are technically recyclable are often not accepted by recycling programs.

Some good suggestions for recycling or reusing foam packaging are;

- Make sure all containers are clean, empty, and free of labels or other contamination.
- Try to purchase green packing peanuts that are usually made of recycled material.
- Reuse or donate packing peanuts to local pack and ship stores.
- Most restaurant to-go containers are made from foam that doesn't recycle easily. Reduce waste by packing your own reusable bottles and food containers.
- If you find a restaurant still using foam to-go packaging suggest they visit the Sustainable Packaging Coalition website to find a better alternative.

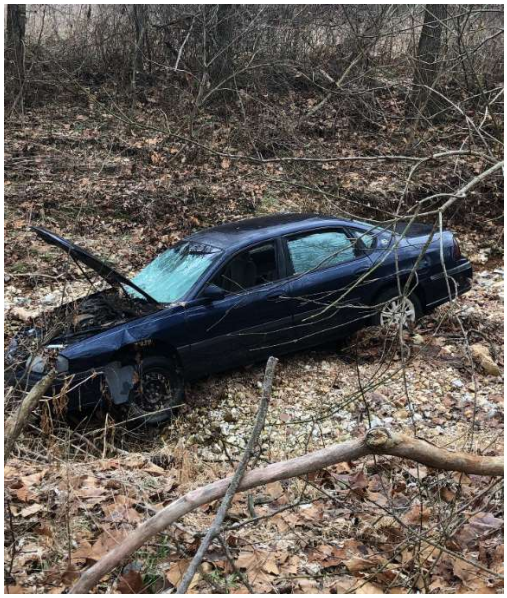
Clean white packaging foam that breaks apart into beads is accepted at;
Benton County Solid Waste District, 5702 Brookside Rd., Bentonville 479-795-0751
Rogers Recycling Center, 2300 N Arkansas St., Rogers 479-621-1185

Samaritan Community Center, 1211 W. Hudson Rd., Rogers 479-636-4198 accepts clean egg cartons. Call for details.

"Everybody needs beauty... places to play in and pray in where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to the body and soul alike." ~ John Muir

Nuisance Cases –Ordinance 2007-28 authorizes Benton County Environmental to regulate unsanitary conditions that pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of our citizens. These cases are the worst of the worst and often take a long time to close. I was able to close a record of 7 nuisance cases last year and have been working diligently to bring more properties into compliance this year. Two of my cases are in the hands of the court. One is progressing along and the defendant has been appointed an attorney. The other is a case where both property owners fled out of state and now have warrants. The following are some more of our nuisance cases.

At the end of 2019 the Sheriff's Office was notified of a car that managed to find its way into a creek off Taylor Barnett Road in the Garfield area. Since it was located on private property and out of the road setback the case was turned over to us. It was discovered that the vehicle's owner had several warrants and attempts to locate him were not successful. Officer Cervantes was able to locate the property owner where the car is stuck in the creek and she agreed to allow the County Road Department to remove it to the side of the road. Bentonville Towing has agreed to remove it from the side of the road at no cost to the property owner or the County.



This case on Clairborne Road in the Monte Ne area was originally opened in 2013 because the mobile home had been abandoned for some time and posed a nuisance. The yard was filled with trash and the door was missing which was in violation of the Arkansas building code for unsafe structures. After a year and a half the property was brought into compliance and the case closed. In 2018 it was once again reported to our office that the still abandoned mobile home had no door and was an unsafe structure. The Building Safety Division deemed it an unsafe structure and attempts were made to contact the property owner. Later the property was certified to the state due to unpaid taxes. After getting three estimates I have secured a contractor to remove the structure sometime in March.

In June of 2019 a case was opened on Shortcut Road just outside Decatur. The Court Clerks at Benton County West District Court had told Officer Filbeck and I that the property owner had died and that the property was in a deplorable condition. After an extensive search for relatives of the deceased and correspondence with an attorney who represented a woman who claimed to be a friend Officer Filbeck turned the case over to me to proceed with enforcement of the nuisance ordinance. The procedures for enforcement laid out by the County Attorney has been followed and contractors are preparing estimates for remediation of this property within the next couple months.

Convenience Center Program

Waste Brought to Convenience Centers								
CENTERTON	**# OF LOADS**	**HHW VISITS**	**APPLIANCES**	**ELECTRONICS**	**FURNITURE**	**METAL**	**PLAYGROUND**	**TIRES**
January	767	152	149	537	793	641	50	299
February	819	168	155	493	987	733	113	211
2020 YTD	1586	320	304	1030	1780	1374	163	510
ROGERS	**# OF LOADS**	**HHW VISITS**	**APPLIANCES**	**ELECTRONICS**	**FURNITURE**	**METAL**	**PLAYGROUND**	**TIRES**
January	737	126	369	563	859	966	61	347
February	854	122	288	468	804	849	107	166
2020 YTD	1591	248	657	1031	1663	1815	168	513
SILOAM SPRINGS	**# OF LOADS**	**HHW VISITS**	**APPLIANCES**	**ELECTRONICS**	**FURNITURE**	**METAL**	**PLAYGROUND**	**TIRES**
January	96	37	19	135	49	72	7	157
February	94	34	22	88	78	45	0	102
2020 YTD	190	71	41	223	127	117	7	259
SITES COMBINED 2020	3367	639	1002	2284	3570	3306	338	1282

NOTE: # of appliances, electronics, furniture, metal, playground equipment, and tires are based on number of items collected. HHW is based on the # of visits, not the # of items brought per visit.

2020 Expenses for Waste Disposal										
2020 County Expenses	**Bulky Waste Centerton**	**Bulky Waste Rogers**	**Bulky Waste Siloam Springs**	**Attendant's Wages****	**Household Hazardous Waste Disposal(all sites)***	**Advertising**	**In-house recycling**	**Roadside Cleanups**	**Nuisance Cases**	**TOTALS**
BUDGET	$58,739.00	$40,380.00	$11,000.00	$51,598.89	$30,000.00	$6,000.00	$3,780.00	$6,572.11	$34,680.00	$ 242,750.00
FEBRUARY	$ 3,945.03	$ 1,225.12	$ 818.41	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 18.81	$ -	$ 6,007.37
SPENT Y-T-D	**$ 7,198.29**	**$ 5,089.05**	**$ 919.60**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 87.62**	**$ -**	**$ 13,294.56**

*BCSWD will use up to $30,000 of their budget for HHW before billing the County. **Attendant's wages billed quarterly.

Sr. Environmental Enforcement Officer
Timothy Filbeck

This case was outside the city limits of Siloam Springs on the east side. The tenant had received about 75-100 tires. He was issued a citation and advised the citation would be dismissed if the violations were remediated. The defendant sold several tires to a subject in Twin Oaks, Oklahoma and the remaining tires went to the defendant's father-in-law's barn for storage.

BEFORE:

AFTER:

This case was outside the city limits of Pea Ridge. There had been numerous cases over about a 9-year period. I was assigned this case and after a failed remediation plan, the property owner was issued a citation and through court proceedings the property is now in pristine condition, free of any environmental violations and is under new ownership.

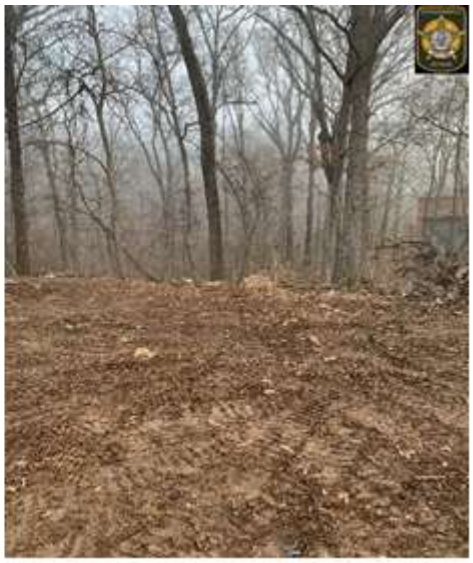
BEFORE:

AFTER:

This property was outside the city limits of Gentry, in-between Gentry and Siloam Springs. After the property received official Notice of Violations, they immediately cleaned the property and no additional remediation was required.

BEFORE:

AFTER:



Environmental Enforcement Officer
Merced Cervantes

This case was located north of City of Rogers, property owner did some remodeling and left these old building materials on the front yard for six months according to the reporter. The owner has properly disposed of the waste and the property is now in compliance.

BEFORE:

AFTER:

ENVIRONMENTAL CASE DATA

Refer to the charts below for environmental cases received and actions initiated in February.

VIOLATION TYPE	QTY
Burn (appliances)	0
Burn (auto bodies & parts)	0
Burn (construction debris)	2
Burn (electronics)	0
Burn (furniture)	0
Burn (general waste)	4
Burn (household garbage)	0
Burn (mobile home)	0
Burn (tires)	0
Bury (auto bodies & parts)	0
Bury (construction debris)	1
Bury (electronics)	0
Bury (furniture)	0
Bury (general waste)	0
Bury (household garbage)	0
Bury (mobile home)	0
Dumped by others (appliances)	0
Dumped by others (auto bodies & parts)	0
Dumped by others (construction debris)	1
Dumped by others (electronics)	2
Dumped by others (furniture)	1
Dumped by others (general waste)	4
Dumped by others (household garbage)	0
Dumped by others (metal)	0
Dumped by others (mobile home)	0
Dumped by others (tires)	1
Dumped by others (trees)	0
Dumped by self (appliances)	2
Dumped by self (auto bodies & parts)	0
Dumped by self (construction debris)	0
Dumped by self (electronics)	1
Dumped by self (furniture)	1
Dumped by self (general waste)	7
Dumped by self (household garbage)	4
Dumped by self (metal)	0
Dumped by self (mobile home)	0
Dumped by self (tires)	0
Dumped by self (trees)	0
OTHER	QTY
Agency Assist	0
Camera/Sign installation	2
Extra Patrol	1
Littering	0

ACTION TAKEN	QTY.
NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS ISSUED	2
WARNINGS ISSUED	0
CITATIONS ISSUED	2
WARRANTS	0
COURT APPEARANCES	3
CASE STATUS	QTY.
CASES OPENED THIS MONTH	31
CASES CLOSED THIS MONTH	32
TOTAL NUMBER OF OPEN CASES CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION	45
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES CURRENTLY IN COURT SYSTEM	29
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES CLOSED YTD	64

Canadian Goose Population - Many geese no longer migrate because we have inadvertently created excellent goose habitats. Increased goose residency can create problems due to the sheer volume of feces these large birds can create which can lead to a nutrient overload of phosphorus. Phosphorus can cause excess algae that can kill fish.

These geese were once decimated by hunting and habitat loss but the giant Canadian goose has rebounded after wildlife managers found wild and captive flocks in the 1960's and bred them in captivity. Captive-bred geese settled year-round in cities and suburbs where expansive lawns and artificial ponds made perfect goose habitats. By the mid-1980's they filled their new role as a "nuisance." The same state and federal agencies that had propagated Canadian geese started to call for killing them. The Humane Society objects to killing wild animals simply because they are regarded as nuisances and has helped many communities resolve human-goose conflicts with humane management. Learn more at www.humanesociety.org/geese.