

GOING GREEN WITH THE GALS OF GEORGETOWN

When it comes to doing the right thing with waste, these two ladies know where it's at — "where it goes" might be a better way to say it.

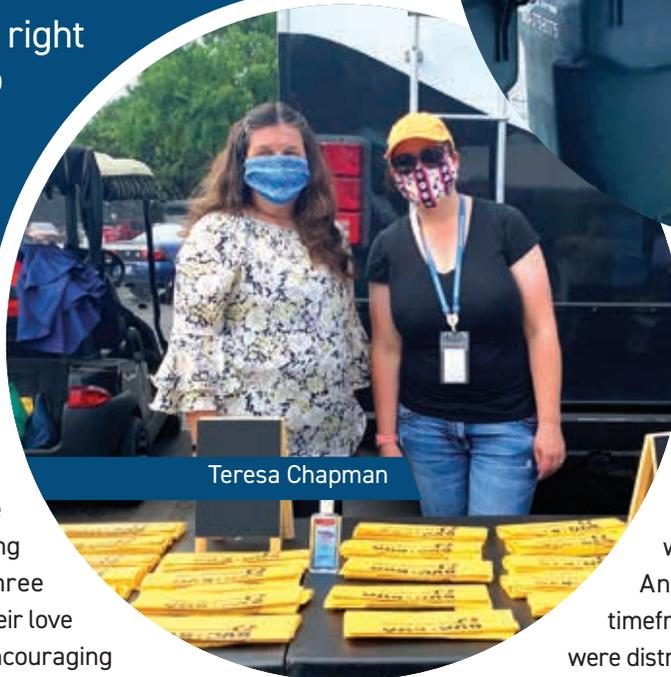
Meet **Debbie Bruner**, Program Manager of the Sun City Texas Recycling Group, and **Teresa Chapman**, Environmental Services Coordinator for the City of Georgetown. Debbie is proud to have been a founding member of the Recycling Group that started in 2016 by just three retired women of Sun City who shared their love for recycling and the same mission of encouraging proper recycling with less contamination. The group has now grown to 15 active members who share that same passion, and Debbie feels lucky to have the Sun City Texas Community Association support their interests.

Debbie met Teresa after she joined the City of Georgetown's staff 3 ½ years ago. They became fast friends and are truly a force to be reckoned with when it comes to recycling and waste diversion. Both ladies share the vision of reducing waste in their local community, and they love teaching others how to do the right thing.

Debbie likes to say she loves "talking trash." And one of her favorite trashy topics is the Bag-the-Bag program that began in partnership with the City of Georgetown and Texas Disposal Systems (TDS). Thanks to this program, residents can place plastic bags and films in a yellow stuffer bag that can then be put in their curbside recycling carts, keeping the film plastic from contaminating the recycling bins and keeping it out of the landfill as well. After the pandemic hit, the Sun City folks didn't have a way to get their bags because the places they used to get them from were closed. Debbie then came up with the idea



Debbie Bruner



Teresa Chapman

of distributing them at the weekly Sun City Farmers Markets — a great solution, as the outside Farmers Markets were convenient and safe. And during a four-month timeframe, more than 8,500 bags were distributed to Sun City residents!

In addition to the great things going on within Sun City, the City of Georgetown is seeing wonderful results in regard to their recycling efforts. Working with TDS, the City began doing recycling participation studies just after Teresa came on board in 2018. With the ultimate goal of having 90% of residents recycling, Georgetown is now at 86%, up from 70% in 2018. Much of this success can be attributed to her foresight, along with the focus and determination that Teresa has in getting the job done right, plus the amazing partnership between the City and TDS. Working closely as a team, there's no doubt they'll be hitting that 90% mark soon, helping Georgetown maintain the title of the "Most Beautiful (and cleanest) Town Square in Texas."



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