

A SORTED AFFAIR

Celebrate Earth Day on April 19

by Jane Bogner

Sunday, April 6 2008

April should be designated Earth Month as the weather is milder and people are getting out to enjoy the wild flowers and green hills.

Earth Day events are planned to remind us that we are responsible for taking care of our precious earth. The easiest way to find out what is happening is to log on to www.recycle-guide.com, or www.VALCORErecycling.org.

On Saturday, April 19, Vallejo's fifteenth Earth Day celebration will take place at the Farmers Market on Georgia Street in downtown Vallejo from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Here are highlights of the event:

Confidential Paper Shredding
A company called CINTAS will be at the Earth Day event shredding confidential papers free for local businesses and residents. This is the kickoff for the new confidential paper shredding program that will be taking place at VALCORE Recycling on the third Saturday of each month.

Pharmaceutical Take-Back Event

Solano County residents can bring their expired and unwanted prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicines to Vallejo's Earth Day event. Please keep medicines in their original containers. This free service is sponsored by the Solano County Sheriff's Office, Solano County Department of Resource Management and the City of Vallejo.

The purpose of this collection is to educate the general public about the harmful effects that flushing medicines down the toilets have on our local waterways because wastewater treatment plants cannot remove all medicine from the waste stream.

Free Digital Thermometers

Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District will give out digital thermometers in exchange for old mercury fever thermometers (one per customer, while supplies last).

Shopping Bag Design Contest

Dust off an old shopping bag and jazz it up or make one from scratch using old, found or recyclable materials. Bring it to VALCORE's booth between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Judging will take place at 11:00 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to the top shopping bag in each of three categories: Most Sustainable, Most Recyclable, Best Design.

There will be several kid-friendly craft tables, composting classes at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., a California Native Plant Society sale, information on less toxic products for home and garden, and the Vallejo Watershed Alliance will be on hand to promote maintaining healthy local streams and creeks. Many exhibitors have donated prizes for free raffle drawings that will happen during the event.

Entertainment includes the Recycled Generation with local musicians John Kolarik, Dave Froehlich and Eddie Rosenback. Two environmental groups, Earth Capades and Rock Steady Juggling, will also entertain.

Additional sponsors include Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association, Vallejo Garbage Service, City of Vallejo Water Conservation Program, Paul Roberts & Partners, Advocates Corner, Vallejo Chamber of Commerce, Vallejo Police Department, and Solano County Fairgrounds.

Vallejo's annual E-Waste and Tire Recycling Event will be held on the following Saturday, April 26, at Vallejo Garbage Service (2021 Broadway, 707 552-3110) from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They are accepting televisions, computer monitors, computers, and other electronic waste along with fluorescent tubes, household batteries, and passenger tires. Tires are limited to 10 tires per visit and multiple visits are allowed. This is a free drop off for Vallejo residents and businesses.

Great Battery Roundup

The California Automobile Association is teaming up with Vallejo's Wiler's Tow (1340 Lemon Street, 642-5108) for the annual AAA Great Battery Roundup. Between April 9 and April 19, you can drop off your auto, motorcycle or boat battery for free recycling. AAA will donate \$2 for each battery collected to the International Bird Rescue Center in Suisun.

Log onto www.recycle-guide.com for other events in Solano County

Cells for Seniors

The Area Agency on Aging is collecting old cell phones that will be refurbished and given to seniors. Drop them off at 575 Sacramento St, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. For details call 707 643-1798.

2008 WRAP

To save paper and resources, the Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP) application is now available as an online form. All businesses and nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply through May 31, 2008. Each business will be evaluated individually, based upon its own accomplishments. Information at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WRAP/ or (916) 341-6604.

VALCORE Recycling Board Secretary Jane Bogner's "A Sorted Affair" is published every other week in the Times-Herald. For recycling information call VALCORE Recycling at 645-8258 or visit www.VALCORErecycling.org.

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