

It is official, you have eleven more days to complete your holiday shopping. There are always last minute gifts that you receive from friends who you did not include on your list. Now you are scurrying to find an appropriate gift.

I tend to lean toward practical gifts such as food or plants. This is a good time to trim holly, boxwood, pines and junipers. There is a wreath hidden in all that green foliage. If a friend has a pepper tree, ask for some lovely pink berries for your creation. This year, I made California bay laurel swags adding rosemary and jade plant from my garden. They were put together with biodegradable twine and cotton ribbon which means they can be tossed into my compost bin if not used for cooking or pest control in my cabinets.

With the economic crunch this year, it is difficult to recommend purchasing green items that are not useful. The Vallejo Chamber of Commerce has launched a ShopVallejoFirst.com campaign. Keeping our money circulating locally is a green idea.

Joining the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum or the Benicia Vallejo Humane Society will be a gift that lasts the entire year. Consider giving memberships to all your friends. Shop at the Museum book store. They carry best sellers, cooking, gardening and local history books.

Vallejo's Recycling Coordinator Derek Crutchfield sent me a link to the Seattle Waste Free Holiday website which linked me back to California's "Give Green by Decking the Halls with Less Waste" web page. Go to www.ciwmb.ca.gov and search "holiday" for waste-free ideas that you can use year-round.

Meyer Corporation is holding their twelfth annual cookware outlet sale in Vallejo (525 Curtola Parkway) and Fairfield (2001 Meyer Way). The sale started earlier this month and ends tomorrow (December 15). This year they are offering free cookware recycling during the sale. Bring you old cookware pieces to the sale and Meyer will ensure each piece is properly recycled!

Louise Puleo shared her flyer with me. It noted that "Meyer Corporation is committed to lessening our environmental impact. In 2007, Meyer installed the largest solar-electric power system in Solano County to power our warehouse facilities in Fairfield."

Treecycle

Vallejo's Treecycle program is in its nineteenth season. Five local nonprofit groups will be picking up trees on December 27, January 3 and 10. This year's list includes the Cub Scout Pack 118, Boy Scout Troop 64, Boy Scout Troop 77, Venture Crew 222, and House of Acts.

The groups are requesting a \$5 donation and ask that you remove the stand, tinsel, lights, and ornaments from your tree. Watch for flyers in your neighborhood and the Treecycle ad in this paper.

Flocked trees are a big concern. They are picked up by the groups listed above, but are disposed as waste because the material used to flock the trees may pose a health threat when the trees are chipped.

VALCORE Recycling (38 Sheridan St) will accept trees from December 26 to January 10. They are open Monday through Saturday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and close from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. for lunch. Flocked trees are not accepted.

Vallejo Garbage Service will accept Christmas trees at 2021 Broadway on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from December 26 until January 10. No yard waste or flocked trees will be accepted.

Trees can also be cut up and placed inside your curbside yard waste toter. Flocked trees are not accepted. For information, call 552-3110.

For Unincorporated Vallejo residents, Christmas trees will be collected with your yard waste toter. Please call Vacaville Sanitary Service at 557-7773 for information.

County-wide Treecycle information is available on www.recycle-guide.com.

Confidential Paper Shredding

The City of Vallejo is sponsoring a paper shredding event on Saturday, December 20 at VALCORE Recycling from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be charge of \$5 per twenty pounds (maximum: 100 pounds).

VALCORE Recycling Board Member 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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