

Feeling guilty about traveling this summer? Are you planning a Staycation? Take a cruise through The International Eco Tourism Society (TIES) website: www.ecotourism.org to learn about green vacations.

TIES mission is to promote responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment and improve the well-being of local people.

Surfing through this site I happened on the California Green Lodging Program sponsored by the California Department of General Services (www.travel.dgs.ca.gov). This site appears to have been developed for state employees who are mandated to travel green.

To be certified green, hotels must meet criteria on their management of waste through reuse, recycling and minimization, energy efficiency, freshwater resources, and hazardous materials. They must also practice environmentally and socially sensitive purchasing.

Two hotels in Fairfield and one in Vacaville are in the process of being certified as green lodging.

Do you need some summer reading for your staycation? The Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum sells books of local interest or you can check out your favorites at the library.

Two local online book sellers found their sales dwindling but the rent on their warehouse space was still due. They teamed up and opened Bay Area Free Book Exchange in El Cerrito to save the books from the landfill.

Customers can bring books that they are no longer using. They will keep some to sell and put the rest out on the shelves. Their website notes that it is not a requirement to give them books to get free books off the shelves. Currently, They have a 50 book limit per person per day. All books must be stamped with a "free book" stamp before exiting the store.

The Bay Area Free Book Exchange is located at 10520 San Pablo Ave and is open Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Free Solar Power

Many of us are using solar energy to dry clothes our laundry. One benefit of these simple solar clothes dryers (also known as clothes lines) is a significant savings on energy use. The sun provides free bleaching action and our clothes and sheets smell better when hung outside. Fabrics last longer when air dried and hanging

clothes gives us a little stretching exercise.

Clothes dryers are used in 90 million American homes and are the second-highest energy consuming appliance in homes. By switching to line drying, you can save up to 10 percent of your energy cost and reduce the related pollution. One friend stopped using her dryer and noticed a \$40 per month drop in her energy bill.

Here in the Bay Area, we can use our solar dryers almost year round.s

We have not had a dryer for close to twenty years. In addition to our solar dryer, we put up a wooden drying rack when our furnace is on in the winter. One benefit of the drying rack is the moisture that balances the dry heat in the house.

I searched the web and found all sorts of clothes lines. Outdoor units are made from cedar or metal and can be permanent or retractable. Indoor versions include freestanding units that fold up, and wall-mounted retractable ones. One unit attaches to your automatic garage door rail promising not to interfere with its operation.

Paper Shredding event.

A Confidential Paper Shredding will be held on Saturday, June 20 at VALCORE Recycling from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$5 per twenty pounds (maximum: 100 pounds).

Household Hazardous Waste and Tire Recycling Event

Vallejo residents can come to the parking lot behind City Hall on Saturday, June 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to drop off paint, pharmaceuticals, solvents, and tires. For more details, call 707 648-5346.

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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