

I would like to start this column by thanking Vallejo's Mayor Davis and City Council members for their vote for continued funding of VALCORE Recycling. Thanks also goes to Vallejo city staff and the myriad of local businesses, organizations, citizens, and the Vallejo Times-Herald that have for the past 28 years continued to support our mission of recycling, reusing, and reducing our waste. We continue our service to the community because of you.

The weather is a little chilly and, even though it does not snow here, we know the holiday season is upon us.

Each holiday season we are inundated with commercials to shop, shop, shop. There is no getting around all those glossy ads and tempting prices. How can we live without the newest gadget or the latest holiday decorations?

I did not go shopping on Friday, November 27 in support of the 20th annual Buy Nothing Day (www.adbusters.org). Adbusters challenge the world to rethink purchasing habits. Between Thanksgiving and New Years, household waste increases by more than 25 percent. All the shopping bags, food waste, packaging, wrapping paper, and accessories add up to one million more tons each week being added to the landfills. Garbage never takes a vacation!

Let's face it, we are going to purchase some items for the holidays. Consider buying edible gifts or practical gifts that will be used year-round.

Join the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce's Shop Vallejo First Campaign (www.shopvallejofirst.com). Shopping locally saves you time and money, retains local jobs, encourages new businesses to invest in Vallejo's future and is simply a way to go green.

The 12th annual Global Holiday Faire (www.globalholidayfaire.org) will be held on Saturday, December 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This event is held at the First Christian Church located on 1035 Indiana Street. Admission is free and all proceeds go to nonprofits organizations including locally: Amador Hope Center, Milestones of Development, Genesis House, and globally: Heifer International, Engineers Without Border and more.

This alternative gift faire supports fair trade and local organizations and is organized by members of several local churches.

New this year is the Green Awareness Festival to be held on Saturday, December 5 from Noon to 3:00 p.m. at Loma Vista Farm (150 Rainier Ave, Vallejo). Sponsored by the Green Team from Camp Fire USA and Loma Vista Farm, their goal is to raise \$3000 to purchase a solar pump for the farm.

Green Flame Program Director Kalid Meki oversees a green job training program for at-risk youth. They have a crew that works at the farm learning basic work skills that will prepare them for jobs in the emerging green industry.

In addition to the traditional farm activities such as roaming through the garden and mingling with the farm animals, there will be plants and Christmas trees for sale.

Over a dozen organizations will be setting up green information tables. There will be rebate coupons for solar products as well as environmentally friendly household, beauty, and environmental products for sale.

Admission donation is \$10 per person, but no one will be turned away. For more information, call 707 712-3978 or email greenfirecamp@yahoo.com.

WRAP WINNERS.

The results are in and six Solano County businesses are honored with the 2009 Waste Reduction Award Program title (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WRAP/). In Vallejo, Recology Vallejo (formerly Vallejo Garbage Service), VALCORE Recycling, Reuse Consultant Jane Bogner, and Paul Roberts & Partners, Inc. received the honor. Anheuser-Busch in Fairfield and Genetech in Vacaville were also on the list.

GET YOUR FREE CFLs

Bring in five incandescent bulbs and receive five free CFLs. This exchange takes place at VALCORE Recycling, 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo (707 645-8258, info@VALCORErecycling.org). The hours of the exchange are Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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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