

Although the official Earth Day is over, most of us continue protecting and celebrating our earth every day. With that, a couple of new recycling programs have been launched locally. SHARPS Recycling

Sharps are syringes, needles and lancets that are used in the medical treatment of people and animals. Every year more than 2 billion needles and syringes are used in households nationwide, and most end up in trash or recycling containers or flushed down toilets, posing serious health risks to children, workers, and wildlife.

Improper disposal of sharps can be harmful to those handling trash as a prick could transmit contagious diseases.

In September 2008, California's Senate Bill 1305 prohibited sharps from going into our landfills. The City of Vallejo now has 5 locations for residents to safely recycle their used sharps. Residents are asked to put sharps in sealed containers or purchase a sharps recycling container at their pharmacy. When that is full, bring it to one of the following locations:

**Area Agency on Aging** is located at 575 Sacramento Street (707 643-1798). Drop off Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Christian Help Center** is located at 2166 Sacramento Street (707 553-8192). Drop off Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Florence Douglas Senior Center** is located at 333 Amador Street (707 643-1044). Drop off Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

**Recology Vallejo** is located at 2010 Broadway Street (707 552-3110). Drop off Thursday, Friday or Saturday from 8:00 am to 4:00 p.m.

**VALCORE Recycling** is located at 38 Sheridan Street (707 645-8258). Drop off Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 pm to 5:00 p.m.

This free service is provided to Vallejo residents and funded by a grant from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery.

Benicia residents can drop off their sharps at the **Benicia Fire Station** located at 150 Military West Street. Drop off Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. They provide Sharps containers and can be contacted at 925 671-5806.

For other Solano County locations, go to

[www.recycle-guide.com](http://www.recycle-guide.com) and look for "How to recycle SHARPS" on the news page. You can also go to the recycle guide in the yellow pages of your AT&T phone book for information.

Pharmaceutical Recycling

In 2002, the U.S. Geological Survey sampled 139 streams in 30 states. 80 percent had measurable concentrations of prescription and non-prescription drugs, steroids, and reproductive hormones. Long-term health effects on marine life and humans are not yet determined, but it is clear that we need to take action to keep pharmaceuticals out of the water.

Please do not flush and pour drugs down the drain as pharmaceuticals pass through wastewater treatment facilities and go directly into our local waterways.

Most cities hold annual Pharmaceutical take-back events. These are listed on [www.recycle-guide.com](http://www.recycle-guide.com) for each city.

Some pharmacies are beginning to take back unwanted or expired drugs from their customers. We have just learned that our local **Costo Pharmacy** will take back these drugs. Residents do not have to be a Costo member to use their Pharmacy. Call them at 707 553-6402 for a list of drugs that they can take

**WRAP**

California WRAP (Waste Reduction Awards Program) applications are now open until June 15, 2010. Help green your business by taking a little time to fill out the application which is available on [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/WRAP/](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/WRAP/). In 2009, Vallejo had four winners: Recology Vallejo, VALCORE Recycling, Reuse Consultant Jane Bogner, and Paul Roberts & Partners, Inc.

Vallejo should easily triple the number of winners and this writer would be glad to help you fill out the form. Email me at [janebogner@valcorerecycling.org](mailto:janebogner@valcorerecycling.org).

Paper Shredding

Confidential Paper Shredding will be held on Saturday, May 15 at VALCORE Recycling (38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo 707 645-8258) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$10 per twenty pounds (maximum: 100 pounds).

*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](http://www.VALCORErecycling.org).*

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