

I received a new cordless phone set as a birthday present. As I wrote in my last column, cardboard boxes are changing and this one really proved the point. Inside this small box were several other boxes that were designed to safely transport all the items. Only one corner had glue on it. The remaining sides were designed to fold or close without glue. It was a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle. I didn't pay a lot of attention to where each piece came out of the box, so I hope I don't have to return it.

Speaking of packing material, There is only one location in Vallejo currently accepting styrofoam peanuts for reuse and that is Goin' Postal (1748 Tuolumne, 707 553-9695).

Last October, Kimberly-Clark rolled out a new tubeless toilet paper roll in their Northeast American markets. It is estimated that 17 billion toilet paper tubes are produced annually in the USA accounting for 160 million pounds of chipboard. Kimberly\_Clark estimates that these tubes could stretch more than a million miles placed end\_to\_end or stretch the moon and back twice.

These tubes, along with tubes from paper towels, aluminum foil and plastic food wrap are easily recycled in your curbside bin.

I was pleasantly surprise to get my California Native Plant membership card. Instead of sending it in an envelope, it was designed as a postcard to be cut out with a scissors. I had renewed my membership online so this nonprofit is reducing their costs for paper and printing and their carbon foot print.

### **Clothes and Shoe Recycling**

You may have noticed new clothes and shoe recycling bins around Vallejo and other cities in Solano County. These USAgain bins are in store and school parking lots competing with the green GAIA bins that have been around for years.

USAgain reported that "by re\_wearing and reusing clothes we save precious natural resources and reduce pollution. The raw material production and manufacturing of new clothes is a resource and energy intensive

process. So every item of clothing saved is a big benefit for the planet."

Every pound of clothing that is re\_worn saves seven pounds of greenhouse gases.

For example, it takes 700 gallons of water to grow the cotton to produce just one T\_shirt, not to mention the heavy use of pesticides to grow the crops.

Manufacturing polyester and other synthetic fibers uses large quantities of crude oil as the raw material and releases hazardous emissions in the process.

Both companies accept usable clothing and shoes and sell it to clothing wholesalers who bundle it and sell it to thrift stores or overseas markets. They are textile recyclers, so other items may be accepted.

If you have a favorite local thrift store, ask if they accept donations on site.

With this tight economy, other resources for free or low priced clothing are popping up online. Thredup.com is a swap for parents to trade children's clothes and toys. For a small fee and postage, members can receive gently used items from other parents, Thredup provides boxes for the exchanges.

Swapmamas.com has local groups that exchange items, advice and play dates for their children.

Freecycle.org is the original online group that championed exchanging items to keep stuff out of our landfills. There are over six thousand members in the Vallejo/Benicia, Fairfield, and Vacaville Freecycle groups.

### **15th annual Flyway Festival**

Come to Mare Island in Vallejo on Feburary 11 to13 to celebrate the Pacific flyway. This event is free to the public and not to be missed. For more information go to [www.sfbayflywayfestival.com](http://www.sfbayflywayfestival.com) or call 707\_557\_9816 or 707\_249\_9633

*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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