

As I sit here writing and watching the first rain storm of the year, I am reminded that I did not plant any compost crops last fall. One reason was the lack of rain and another was the lack of a local source of seeds.

Last weekend, I discovered that Mid City Nursery in American Canyon now sells these seeds. They have fava beans, clovers, vetch, alfalfa, buckwheat, mustard, and more. I like to eat favas and I generally plant them in the fall where water pools during a rain as they like water. Since favas are a legume, they will help fix nitrogen in your soil. Other seeds also add nutrients to your off-season garden and help keep weeds under control.

The chilly rain is always an invitation to grab a good book, wrap up under a warm comforter and let the world pass by.

That brings me to recycling books. Last year, VALCORE diverted over 4700 pounds of books from the landfill. Books came from JFK library in Vallejo as well as Napa libraries, Vallejo schools and the public. VALCORE's crew and volunteers save books that we think the public may want and put them in the ReUse Barn. VALCORE's ReUse Barn is filled with donated office supplies such as three-ring binders, file folders, and other gently used items for the public to take for free.

Books are also put in the Reading Tree bin that is by our office trailer. Recology Vallejo has a Reading Tree bin at their site (2021 Broadway, Vallejo). Reading Tree ([www.readingtree.org](http://www.readingtree.org)) has four other locations around town. This company also accepts books on tape and CDs.

The remaining books have their covers removed and the paper is recycled. By the way, you can also recycle softcover books and phone books in your curbside recycling bin.

Other ways to share books include your local Freecycle group, Craig's List, or Ebay.

Here are a few other sources for selling and buying books in the bay area: Bounty Books.net (857 Merchant, Vacaville, 707 451-4770), Copperfields Used and Rare Books (Petaluma, 707 782-0228), BOOKS for the BARRIOS (Concord, 925 687-7701), Bay Area Free Book Exchange ([bayareafreebookexchange.com](http://bayareafreebookexchange.com), El Cerrito, 510

705-1200), and the Global Book Exchange ([www.bookexchange.marin.org](http://www.bookexchange.marin.org), San Rafael 415 435-5771).

National text book websites include [www.mybookbuyer.com](http://www.mybookbuyer.com), [www.cash4books.net](http://www.cash4books.net), and [www.powells.com](http://www.powells.com). Most of these companies will pay for shipping.

The annual Consumer Electronics Show was recently held in Las Vegas. I have to admit most of this electronic stuff is a little over my head, but I thought I would search their website and see what I could find.

EcoATM ([www.ecoatm.com](http://www.ecoatm.com)) is a reverse vending machine for old cell phones and small devices. You just place your phone into the machine where it takes a picture to figure out what shape it is in. Next, you plug it into one of the machine's cables and EcoATM analyzes it. When this is complete, you will get a quote. If you accept the quote, the machine will pay you in cash. Older equipment may be worthless but the company promises to recycle them appropriately.

These automated self-serve kiosks are being placed in malls.

Best Buy and similar companies have recycling or buy back services available. Most local ewaste sites take the big computer and television items, but small items are tough to recycle. VALCORE collects cell phones, cameras, laptops and inkjet toner cartridges. One can also take "anything with a cord" to Napa Recycling and Waste ([www.naparecycling.com](http://www.naparecycling.com), 707 257-9200).

RCA has developed a USB Wall Plate Charger. You can change any standard home AC power outlet into a USB outlet. There is room for charging two smart phones or one tablet, and you still have room for a standard cord to plug in.

Save this date: the annual Flyway Festival will be held on Mare Island on February 10 to 11. Go to [www.sfbayflywayfestival.com](http://www.sfbayflywayfestival.com) for details.

*VALCORE Recycling Board Vice President 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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