



Diversions

Fall 2004

A Publication of the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority

The End, of Sorts

Single-Stream Recycling Arrives in 2005



With single-stream recycling, you won't have to separate paper and containers. See article below for details.

Ch-ch-ch-changes!

New Contracts, New Programs

The CCCSWA Board of Directors recently concluded a 14-month negotiations process with its current service providers for solid waste and recycling collection, processing, and disposal. The new 10-year contracts with Valley Waste Management (VWM), Pleasant Hill Bayshore Disposal (PHBD) and Pacific Rim Recycling (PRR) begin March 1, 2005.

As part of its mission, the CCCSWA works with these private companies to ensure the best programs, services and rates for the residents of its member communities of Danville, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Walnut Creek and portions of unincorporated Central Contra Costa County.

The collection and composting of food scraps (along with yard trimmings) may be coming to Central Contra Costa. The CCCSWA is planning a pilot collection program for 2006.

The contracts include several exciting new programs:

- Single-stream recycling in 2005: residents will no longer have to separate paper from containers!
- Food-waste collection pilot program: CCCSWA will test a food-scrap recycling program in 2006, joining other Bay Area communities that collect and compost food.
- Lower emissions vehicles: The service providers will add lower-emissions collection vehicles to their fleets.
- Improved apartment recycling convenience: VWM will provide new indoor recycling containers.
- Improved customer service: increased internet capabilities for bill paying and customer inquiries.
- New recyclables processing opportunities: Pacific Rim Recycling will process recyclables collected from the "680 corridor areas" of Danville, unincorporated central county and Walnut Creek at its newly expanded processing facility in Benicia. A new education facility will open in 2007.

Despite these changes, current residential rates will stay the same through 2005. Look for updates in future issues of *Diversions*.

The Waste-Cutting Edge

Internet Exchanges Help Reduce Waste

Moving Materials to the MAX

The internet may not be the first tool that comes to mind for reducing waste, but over the past few years several web sites have become instrumental in matching one person's trash to another's treasure. "Materials exchanges" as they are known, allow users to post ads for materials they seek or want to sell. Listings include everything from art supplies and furniture to mannequins and bowling alley lanes!

The granddaddy of material exchanges is CalMAX, a state-wide database of listings managed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (www.ciwmb.gov/CalMAX). Examples of successful matches include:

- Choir robes from a Los Gatos church now sing a new song in a Bay Area middle school.
- A Berkeley garden blooms from landscaping materials donated by San Quentin Prison.
- Old movie theater seats from Santa Cruz have become part of history in a Quincy, Illinois theater restoration project.

CalMAX recently partnered with Contra Costa County to form "CoCoMAX," offering local exchange options (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/CalMAX/CoCoMAX/).

KidMAX is another CalMAX sub-site, this one focusing on material donations to schools. Schools list needed items, and businesses or individuals post items that may be of use to schools (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/CalMAX/KidMAX.htm).

Craigslist.org is the Bay Area-born web site that has materials exchange listings of all kinds. Items are available for sale, by barter, at garage sales and some even for free. The site also sorts listings by type of material, such as electronics or furniture. It's the perfect place to list your unwanted stuff or to find great deals on things you need.



Materials exchanges offer access to many unwanted and unique items – including bowling alley lanes salvaged from the Alameda Naval Air Station.

Reuse and Cleanup Days Now Accept E-Waste

Electronics Collection Comes to the Curb



On July 30, residents of Alamo, Blackhawk and other unincorporated areas of central county were the first to take advantage of the new FREE electronics reuse curbside collection service. The convenient pickup service is now part of the annual Reuse and Cleanup Days program, available to all CCCSWA jurisdictions.

Acceptable items include computer components: monitors (limit five monitors per household), CPUs, keyboards, printers, and other electronics such as TVs, VCRs, cell phones, radios and small appliances. Watch for Pleasant Hill Bayshore Disposal's yellow flyer containing detailed instructions and the actual Reuse and Cleanup dates in your area. For more information, visit the CCCSWA's website at www.wastediversion.org/specialcleanups.htm.

Annual Reuse and Cleanup Day Schedule

Unincorporated County	August, 2004
Danville	September, 2004
Walnut Creek	October, 2004
Moraga/Orinda	May, 2005
Lafayette	June, 2005

Can't wait for the next Reuse and Cleanup Day? Pleasant Hill Bayshore Disposal offers curbside collection of TVs and monitors for \$25 each. Call 603-1144 to arrange for a pickup.

To Recycle or Not to Recycle? That is the Question.

Cal Shakes Wins CCCSWA Grant

The California Shakespeare Theater—or "Cal Shakes" for short—recently won a grant from CCCSWA to "green" their outdoor venue. Cal Shakes produces over 100 performances, drawing over 45,000 visitors each year. Since many of these visitors picnic before the show, bottles and cans can add up fast. In response, Cal Shakes added more recycling containers to their grounds, with the help of CCCSWA funding. Valley Waste Management's donation of free recycling collection was also instrumental to the program's success.

Facilities Manager Tim Smith says that recycling, both at the Bruns Amphitheater and at their offices, is "really cost-relieving," reducing their trash bills by \$2,500 last season alone.

They will also use the grant to conduct staff trainings about waste issues, including what materials are and are not recyclable, to help reduce contamination.

Last but not least, Cal Shakes purchased three park benches and ten picnic tables made from recycled plastic, helping to "close the recycling loop."



The hills provide a dramatic backdrop to Cal Shakes' performances, as the amphitheater sits on East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) land. Staff members see themselves as stewards of this environmentally sensitive site, where deer, bobcats, wild turkeys and other wildlife reside.

By implementing these three strategies, Cal Shakes hopes to reduce their waste impact by 75% as well as educate and inspire theatergoers. As their mission states, they are "committed to being a leading community citizen...through [their] artistic endeavors and educational initiatives." They also "believe in developing [their] space to fulfill its potential to inspire audiences and artists, preserving its natural beauty, [and] maintaining the highest standards in environmentalism." The CCCSWA thinks the Old Bard would be proud. He might even say, "I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks." – Twelfth Night, Act iii, Sc.3

For more information about the California Shakespeare Theater, go to www.calshakes.org. For information about the recycled plastic benches and picnic tables, visit www.nwbuildnet.com and click on "gardening."

Photo by Jay Yamada. Sean Dugan in THE SEAGULL. Directed by Jonathan Moscone.

Photo by Jay Yamada. Sean Dugan in THE SEAGULL. Directed by Jonathan Moscone.

School Recycling Promotion Goes Multi-Media

Lights, Camera, Recycle!

Students at Central Contra Costa schools are using their creative talents to promote recycling on campus. In Danville, media production classes at Monte Vista High School and Charlotte Wood Middle School wrote and produced videos to encourage recycling and litter reduction. Monte Vista's video, which plays during morning announcements, uses special effects to create talking garbage cans and recycling bins that remind students to recycle paper, bottles and cans. Charlotte Wood's production highlights student interactions with "Recycle Man." The videos, aired in May on Central Contra Costa's local cable access channel, were produced with the support of the CCCSWA.



The garbage cans and recycling bins at Monte Vista High School discuss the benefits of recycling.

"The CCCSWA is happy to fund student video productions because it helps get the recycling message across in ways students understand," said Janet Schneider, CCCSWA Executive Director. "In addition to environmental awareness, the students also learn valuable technical skills that can help them in the future."

The CCCSWA has plans for more student-produced videos. Orinda Intermediate School's Recycle Team will use part of its 2004 mini-grant to create its own video. CCCSWA is also partnering with EarthTeam – a Bay Area-wide student environmental club – to help CCCSWA-service area middle and high school students create videos during the 2004-05 school year. The videos will be shown during EarthWeek in April 2005.

Ask the Authority

Dear Authority,

Now that the casual days of summer are ending, I'll have more dry cleaning to do. I've heard dry cleaning chemicals could harm my health. I also understand that there are now non-toxic cleaners that do as good a job as the conventional cleaners. Do we have any in Central Contra Costa?



Signed, Nattily Dressed

Dear Nattily,

You're right. Conventional dry cleaning chemicals like Perchloroethylene (PERC) are believed to cause serious health problems, including everything from dizziness and headaches to liver and kidney damage. PERC also causes cancer in laboratory animals, and the EPA calls it "between a probable and a possible human carcinogen."

Here in Central Contra Costa, we do have some alternatives. Four local cleaners have "greened" their operations by using hydrocarbon technology instead of PERC. The result is clean clothes without the worry...or the odor. (As you have probably noticed, PERC-treated clothes have a strong smell that can only be reduced by airing them out.) This technology is also less damaging to air quality and reduces solvent consumption and waste. Here are the local greener cleaners we know of:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Fred's One-Hour Cleaners
3164 Danville Blvd.
Alamo
837-1180 | New Fashion Cleaners
581 Ygnacio Valley Blvd.
Walnut Creek
933-6235 |
| Marshall Steel Cleaners
960 Moraga Rd.
Lafayette
283-4141 | Rodgers Cleaning
339 Rheem Blvd.
Moraga
376-5170 |

Signed, The Authority

For more information about the health effects of PERC, go to www.epa.gov.

You're Invited

What: Free composting and vermicomposting workshops. The Home Composting for Busy People program would be most delighted by your attendance at one of its free composting workshops this fall. Black tie is not required, but please RSVP!

When / Where:

09/18/04	Orinda	9-11:00 a.m.
09/25/04	Lafayette	1-3:00 p.m.
10/05/04	Walnut Creek	7-8:30 p.m.
10/16/04	Walnut Creek	9-10:30 a.m.
10/16/04	Lafayette	1-3:00 p.m.
10/23/04	San Ramon	1-3:00 p.m.
11/09/04	Walnut Creek	7-8:30 p.m.*

*Compost/Soil Health Workshop

Master Composter Training Workshop

To: All Composters: Become a Master!

What: Advanced Training Class

Training is free but participants are asked to give six volunteer hours to the CCCSWA, assisting with future workshops or other compost program needs.

When: Wednesdays, 7-9:30 p.m. October 6 – November 3

Where: Gardens at Heather Farm
RSVP: 906-1806

For more information, call 906-1806 or see wastediversion.org.

Contact information

CCCSWA 906-1801
fax: 906-1805 web: www.wastediversion.org
email: authority@wastediversion.org

PLEASANT HILL BAYSHORE DISPOSAL 603-1144
fax: 685-8153
web: www.pleasanthillbayshoredisposal.com

For questions concerning billing, special cleanups, vacation hold requests, computer & TV collection, new service or your blue garbage cart.

VALLEY WASTE MANAGEMENT 935-8900
fax: 935-1617 web: www.valleywaste.com
For questions concerning the service of your burgundy recycling or green yard clippings carts, to request motor oil disposal containers, for recycling cleanups or information on the Walnut Creek Recycling Center.

CONTRA COSTA RECYCLING HOTLINE .. 1-800-750-4096
HOME COMPOSTING/GRASSCYCLING 906-1806
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE .. 1-800-646-1431