Christmas Trees and Other Tips

Start thinking about recycling your Christmas trees! Cut trees in half and stack the sections next to the green yardwaste Toter® between December 26 and January 3. At any time the trees may be cut to fit inside the yardwaste Toter®.

Trees sent for recycling must be free of tinsel, flocking, ornaments, and tree stand. Trees with these materials may be cut up and placed in your gray trash Toter® for collection.

Tree recycling is one way Boy Scout troops and other youth groups raise funds after Christmas. These groups will collect whole trees for a small donation.

Large corrugated cardboard boxes are accepted at the **VSS** Recycling Facility at 855 1/2 Davis Street in Vacaville which is open from Tuesday through Saturday from 9 AM until 3 PM. Boxes may also be flattened and placed in the blue Toter® for collection.

Call the City's recycling information line at 454-5705 or click onto the City's website at *www.vacavillerecycling.com* during the holiday season for a listing of Boy Scout troops that will do pickups in your area.

Recycle Old Phone Books

New phone books will be distributed in October. Old phone books may be placed in your blue recycling Toter® on your normally scheduled collection day. Phone books may also be dropped off at the **Vacaville Sanitary Service** Recycling Facility, 855 1/2 Davis Street, which is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 AM until 3 PM.

The City of Vacaville has a wealth of information on recycling phone books and other materials. Click on www.vacavillerecycling.com to get updated information on recycling options.

Help Prevent Recycling Theft

The theft of materials from recycling Toters® threatens to drive up the cost of the program and often leaves an unsightly mess on neighborhood streets. Please report any people pilfering through recycling bins to the Vacaville Police Department at 449-5200.

Holiday Schedule

There will be no change in the collection schedule for Thanksgiving. Refuse collections will be made as usual on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27.

Christmas and New Year's Day both fall on Thursday this year. All Thursday collections during these holiday weeks will shift to Friday, and Friday collections will switch to Saturday.

The Hay Road Landfill and the Recycling Facility in Vacaville will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Holiday schedule information is available at www.vacavillesanitary.com/residentialgarbage.htm

This newsletter was printed on recycled paper. Please recycle after reading.

People • Service • Environment

VACAVILLE SANITARY SERVICE

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www.vacavillesanitary.com

Trash Talk

The newsletter from Vacaville Sanitary Service

www.vacavillesanitary.com

Now, More than Ever!

The challenging economic times have made it even harder for some families to buy warm clothing for their children. Vacaville residents can really help out their neighbors in need through the annual **Give Winter Garb a Second Chance** program. Gather your unwanted coats, jackets, and blankets for collection during the week of November 3. Place your items in a plastic bag that is clearly marked "Winter Garb." Then just put the bag next to your blue recycling Toter® on your regular collection day between November 3 and 7.

Help keep families in need warm by donating clean used coats, jackets, and blankets to the Winter Garb program. Items will be collected by **VSS** drivers between November 3 and 7.

Donated items will be distributed by local community groups in time for the holidays. All donations go directly to Vacaville residents. Call 448-2945 for details of the distribution date, time, and location. Advertisements will also be placed in local newspapers announcing the distribution dates.

Staff from the City of Vacaville works with **VSS**, local schools, organizations, and businesses to provide this service to the community.

"We really need the community to help out this year," said **VSS** General Manager Ed Farewell. "This will be a rough winter for many of our neighbors."

Route drivers from **VSS** will collect donations right at the curb. Make sure that your driver can clearly see the label on your donation bag. Only clean coats, jackets, and blankets can be accepted.

"This is a huge effort and we are grateful to everyone who pitches in to help," Farewell said.

Fall 2008

People • Service • Environment

VACAVILLE SANITARY SERVICE

Trash Talk

We Want Paper But NOT Plastic!

Plastic bags are great to carry groceries or other items, but they must not be placed into the blue recycling Toters®. Place only loose recyclable materials into the Toters®.

Shoppers often enjoy the convenience of plastic bags to carry groceries and other items. Unfortunately, many of these bags make their way into the blue recycling Toters®. This is a growing problem for crews who must remove all types of plastic bags so they do not contaminate the stream of recyclable materials.

"Many customers simply do not realize that plastic bags cannot be recycled," explains **VSS** General Manager Ed Farewell. "It is important to return plastic bags to the store or, better yet, make use of reusable shopping bags."

In addition to plastic shopping bags, recyclable materials may not be wrapped inside of any plastic bags such as trash bags. Large plastic bags may not be used as liners for the blue Toters®. California law requires grocery stores to start taking back and recycling plastic grocery bags and most grocery stores in Vacaville already have plastic bag collection bins. Over the next six years, stores must create in-store recycling programs for the collection and recycling of plastic bags.

"Retailers are making these changes," said Farewell, "and the result will help our diversion efforts. For now, remember to keep plastic bags out of your blue Toters®."

Sharps Not Allowed

Hypodermic needles, syringes, and lancets may not be disposed of in garbage cans or recycling containers. The **VSS** Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Center located at 855 1/2 Davis Street in Vacaville accepts these items without charge. Northbay VacaValley Hospital on Nut Tree Road and Sutter Regional Medical Foundation on Mason Street also accept sharps.

The **VSS** HHW Recycling Center is open only on Saturday from 9AM until 3PM. In addition to sharps, the Center also accepts oil-based paints, solvents, thinners, pesticides, herbicides, aerosols, gas, auto fluids, fluorescent lighting tubes, spa and pool chemicals, or other household toxins. Materials are only accepted from residential customers from Vacaville, Dixon, and unincorporated Solano County. No appointments are necessary. Customers may also bring up to two electronic devices per visit to the E-Waste Facility for recycling. It is also open Saturday from 9AM-3PM at the same location. Call 448-2945 or click *www.vacavillesanitary.com* for complete information.

City Ordinance

The City of Vacaville is enforcing *Municipal Code Section 8.10.030A.16* Basketball Hoops/Skate Ramps. Basketball hoops and skate ramps that are left out can affect the ability of garbage and recycling trucks to adequately access toters that are placed out for weekly pick up. Any unpermitted obstruction of or encroachment on public property, including, but not limited to, any public street, highway, sidewalk, curb, gutter, park, building or any other public improvement is in violation. Basketball hoops and/or skate ramps must be removed from the sidewalk and/or street. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Code Compliance Section at 449-5693.

Wheels to the Curb

Set each Toter® out for collection with the wheels touching the curb. The lid should open toward the street and the handle should be in the back. Make sure that there is at least five feet between each Toter® and make sure that no Toter® is closer than five feet from any car or other obstacle. Do not block sidewalks with Toters®.

We're Here for You!

Laura Morales

Vacaville Sanitary Service prides itself in outstanding customer service, and that dedication to service is how Laura Morales approaches her responsibilities as the Coordinator of Human Resources and Payroll.

"I love helping people," Laura said. "I strive to give our employees the same level of service they provide our customers."

Laura discovered her love of working with people in high school while working at a theme park. She soon rose in ranks at the park to a position in Human Relations. Laura then brought her skills to **VSS** when a position opened up and has loved her job ever since.

"Human Resource services are always different," explains Laura. "There are new challenges every day so there is always something new to learn. It is important that we provide quality services to our employees. I am just so proud to be here.

Laura lives in Vacaville with her husband Manuel. They enjoy spending time together while watching their daughter Vanessa, age16, play soccer.