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Photo by Bill Wack

Students can leave their sorted recyclables at this BRING drop-off site, located in the parking lot at 15th Avenue and Agate Street on campus.

Recyclers tell community 'keep on dumping on us'

By KATHY MERRILL
Of the Emerald

In accord with Oregon's reputation as an environmentally conscious state, Eugene offers its residents ample recycling opportunities.

There are three main recycling organizations in Eugene: BRING Recycling, Garbagio's Recycling Service, and the Eugene Mission.

BRING will accept most types of recyclables including glass, metal, paper and cardboard. They have many drop-off locations, with the most popular located in the parking lot at 15th Avenue and Agate Street. BRING also has facilities at 16th Avenue and Arthur Street in Westmoreland student housing and at Amazon student housing.

Other places where BRING accepts recyclables include Willagillespie School, the intersection at Franklin Boulevard and Seavy Loop Road and the solid waste facility in Glenwood.

A 10-pound haul of recyclables to the Glenwood solid waste facility is worth a \$1 discount on the dump fee.

BRING workers pack the sorted recyclables into trucks and take them to their processing facility in Glenwood. There the metals are sorted again and shipped to Seattle. Glass containers that don't have a resale value are separated and crushed for further processing.

BRING is a non-profit organization, says director Ken Sandusky, and the money they make selling the material is put into expanding and improving their operation.

The Eugene Mission, 1542 W. 1st St., has stands and boxes all over Eugene to collect old newspapers and phone books. They also collect cardboard from a few factories in the area.

The Mission sells the paper to an insulation

company and to a company that turns old newspaper into cardboard plant containers. Leftover money from newspaper sales goes toward providing lodging and food for transients.

An alternative to drop-off recycling is Garbagio's Recycling Service.

Garbagio's operates as a collectively owned garbage collection service and charges the same \$6 a month per can that all city garbage services charge, says Myeva Storm, president of the Garbagio's collective. But they also pick up cleaned and sorted recyclables for a \$1 per month membership fee.

Garbagio employees haul the unrecycled garbage to the dump and truck recyclables to their own Glenwood processing plant. There they separate and crush the glass and sell it to BRING, along with tin. Aluminum is sold to Smith and Hill Systems Ltd. and cardboard goes to Northwest Paper Fiber. Newspapers are sold to a variety of places.

Although Garbagio's is a profit-oriented organization, it is not making any profit at the present time. To the contrary, Garbagio's is experiencing some financial difficulties, Storm says.

Garbagio's started out small four years ago, with about 200 members. The one-ton pickup leased at that point is no longer large enough or efficient enough to serve the 1,050 members who now belong to the collective.

After failing to obtain a bank loan to buy a new truck, Garbagio's searched for someone to co-sign the loan, Storm says. Unfortunately, the co-signer found backed out at the last minute. It was not until recently that they were able to secure a \$13,000 no-interest loan from an individual.

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