

ASK A MASTER RECYCLER



Recycling tips for fall, school season

SUSY LACER, MASTER RECYCLER
A MONTHLY COLUMN OF RECYCLING INFORMATION
PROVIDED BY FLORENCE MASTER RECYCLERS
For the Siuslaw News

Q. I don't have curbside recycling. When is the transfer station open to drop off recycled items?

A. Our local Lane County transfer station in Florence, at 2820 Rhododendron Dr., is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The station offers commingled recycling for paper, cans and plastic, as well as recycling for appliances, antifreeze, motor oil, tires, batteries, electronics, glass, scrap metal, cardboard, plastic bags and sheeting, yard debris and wood waste.

The Mapleton transfer station is at 13570 Highway 126 and is open Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Mapleton site accepts commingled recycling (paper, cans, plastic), appliances, batteries, glass, metal, motor oil, oil filters and tires.

Visit LaneCounty.org/Recycle for more details.

Q. It's back to school time. Any

tips for an aspiring zero waste parent on how to reduce waste for my student?

A. Great question! According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 42 percent of harmful greenhouse gas emissions are due to the production of food and goods — many of which only last a few months.

When buying school supplies, conserve natural resources and select items made with recycled content. This includes shopping at reuse stores for clothes, sports equipment and supplies.

School lunches are also a huge opportunity to reduce waste. Food waste is a growing problem; an estimated 40 percent of all food produced in the U.S. is never eaten.

Much of this food is needlessly thrown in the trash due to misleading food expiration date labels.

Visit www.nrdc.org/food/expiration-dates.asp for details on the confusing array of dates printed on packaged food and how you can avoid unnecessary food waste.

Packing a lunch for your student, even a couple of days per week, is another way to reduce waste, while saving money and providing a healthy meal. Consider buying in bulk and filling reusable containers with a just-right amount of food for the day, add a cloth napkin, and freeze a refillable water bottle to double as an ice pack and a cold drink with lunch.

Involve your child in choosing an appealing reusable lunch bag and containers and you'll be on your way to zero waste.

Q. I have a pellet stove and always have lots of empty plastic bags left over. I hate to throw those in the garbage; can I recycle them?

A. No plastic bags are allowed in curbside recycling, but you may take your empty pellet bags to the Florence transfer station for recycling.

Either rinse the bags and allow to

dry, or turn them inside out and shake vigorously to clean.

The Florence Transfer Station accepts No. 2 and No. 4 plastic pellet, garden or bark bags as well as grocery-type bags. However, Ziploc style bags, woven bags, cellophane or plastic wrappers are not accepted. This includes materials that have food or dirt on them.

Please also remove any receipts or paper scraps.

Q. I'm cleaning up my garden for the year and have some unused weed killer. What should I do with it?

A. Perfect timing. The next Household Hazardous Waste Disposal event is Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23 and 24, at the Florence Transfer Station.

This free service is hosted by Lane County Public Works through support from County Transfer and Recycling, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, the City of Florence, and Lane County Master Recyclers.

The event is open Friday, Oct. 23, from noon to 5 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 24, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The waste-disposal event accepts

lawn and garden chemicals, car care products, household cleaners, arts and crafts products and most household hazardous waste.

What is household hazardous waste? Check the label for words like toxic, flammable, corrosive, reactive, caustic, poison, caution and danger.

Please don't bring: empty containers, radioactive waste, asbestos or explosives.

Florence Master Recyclers (MR) are part of the Lane County Master Recycler Program, a service of the county's Public Works Waste Management Division since 2002.

The mission of the MR program is to bridge the gap between awareness and action by motivating people to reduce solid waste at home, work and play.

This monthly column, written for the Siuslaw News, answers commonly asked recycling questions.

For more recycling information, visit www.ci.florence.or.us/building/recycling or www.lanecounty.org/Departments/PW/WMD/Recycle or follow Master Recyclers of Florence on Facebook.

Flower Basket Project underway for 2016

The Florence Downtown Revitalization Team (DRT) has started a flower basket project for Spring 2016.

After lengthy research to find baskets that were large, beautiful and affordable, the team selected a similar style to the type used in the old towns of Reedsport and Coos Bay.

Team members Sharon Stiles, Cindy Wobbe and David Wiegand walked Historic Old Town, producing an inventory and photographs of 30 preferred locations.

The hope is that a concentration of baskets, most of which should be able to be attached to the smaller light poles, will have the greatest visual impact and stimulate expansion in 2017.

These new floral arrangements will be added to the flower baskets and pots which some of the Old Town businesses already display.

The intent is to create a colorful and stunning visual impact for visitors and residents.

The baskets cost \$75 each and are being sponsored by businesses and individuals both within and without the



COURTESY PHOTO

The Downtown Revitalization Team will hang flower baskets like this in Old Town Florence.

Old Town area.

Within the first several days of starting the project,

half of the baskets were already sponsored.

To sponsor a basket, a 50

percent down payment is needed by Sunday, Nov. 1.

Contact Cal Applebee at the Florence Chamber of Commerce to sign up.

Part of the DRT budget for 2016 is being set aside to provide for watering and maintenance of the baskets.

The DRT is a special committee of the Chamber and works cooperatively with the City of Florence, Florence Urban Renewal Agency, Port of Siuslaw, Florence Regional Arts Alliance, Florence Public Art Committee and other partners to improve the downtown core area.

The recent addition of street banners — along Highways 101 and 126 and on Maple Street — was the DRT's first project. A number of other projects are also in development.

The DRT team also includes members Susy Lacer, Bob Forsythe, Harlen Springer, Kelli Weese, Ellen Huntingdon and Cal Applebee.

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County waste stations begin winter hours

Lane County's 16 solid-waste transfer stations, including the Glenwood location, began operating on winter schedules at the start of October.

Winter hours for the Florence transfer site are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

The site is closed Sundays. The Mapleton site is open 8

a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.

Winter hours remain in effect through March.

For more information regarding hours, fees, recycling, special permits, composting, directions to the transfer stations and other information, contact Lane County's Waste Management Division at 541-682-4120 or visit www.lanecounty.org/waste.

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Quilt Guild offers special star chain workshop Oct. 29

The Rhododendron Quilt Guild will host quilt artist Margaret Ferguson for two days, Wednesday, Oct. 28, and Thursday, Oct. 29.

Ferguson will present her trunk show from 10 a.m. to noon on Oct. 28 at the Florence Christian Church.

The fee for nonmembers is \$5.

A Star Chain Workshop will be held at Driftwood Shores on Oct. 29.

The fee for guild members and nonmembers is \$25.

Ferguson has taught many classes and workshops in the Willamette Valley and on the Oregon Coast.

Her positive and humorous approach creates an enjoyable environment in her classroom.

To reserve a place in the class and obtain a schedule and supply list, contact Cyndie at Wenz-Daze of Quilter's Emporium at 541-997-3293.

The guild meets at the Florence Christian Church, at the corner of Second and Ivy streets, at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

Visitors are welcome to join.

Quilt Guild annual membership dues are \$25.

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