

ASK A MASTER RECYCLER

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

Ugly Produce is the fresh, nutritious, delicious fruits and vegetables that are wasted just because they are less than perfect in appearance and don't meet grocer cosmetic standards.

This campaign is working to get that ugly produce in front of consumers who are more concerned about access to fresh food-and reducing waste-than they are about perfect appearance.

Visit www.EndFoodWaste.org for more information.

What can you do? Spread the word about reducing food waste. Look for and shop in the ugly produce section at your grocery store or farmer's market. Thank the store for stocking less perfect fruits and vegetables. And if your local store is not selling ugly produce yet, request it.

Q. Should I flatten my tin cans before they go in the recycle bin?

A. Please don't. If space allows, don't flatten any items that you put in the curbside commingled recycle bin.

Mechanical equipment at the Materials Recovery Facility separates flat paper from rigid containers so that the material ends up at the right facility to be reused. Therefore, it's important to keep tin cans, plastics, and cartons in their original dimensional shape. If space is limited, it's okay to flatten paper items.

Also avoid nesting unlike recycle items together, because they will be less likely to be correctly sorted at the Facility. For example, if several plastic yogurt tubs are stuffed inside of a paperboard cereal box, they may not get separated and would end up becoming trash during the paper recycling process.

Just a reminder too, please help avoid contamination of recycle materials in order to maximize the value of this commodity: no glass in the commingle bin, no plastic bags or plastic film in the commingle bin, and remove all food waste from your items.

Q. Is there a Florence meeting

about the new Lane County Solid Waste Plan? I have some ideas I want to share.

A. Yes. Lane County's Waste Management Division is currently seeking input to update its regional Solid Waste Management Plan, which includes how to divert more waste from the landfill. There are two options to provide feedback:

Complete a brief online survey, before Sept. 16, at surveymonkey.com/r/LaneCountyWaste; or attend the community meeting at the FEC on Tuesday, Sept. 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting will include an open house from 5 to 6 p.m. with information for those who are unfamiliar with the county's regional solid waste systems. The current plan was adopted in 2002 and a majority of the goals outlined in that plan have been achieved.

The new plan will guide waste management efforts through 2030; let your voice be heard!

Q. I saw a folding chair sitting in a recycle bin last week. Are chairs allowed in my bin?

A. No, sadly. Even though most

unwanted household items can be reused, repurposed or recycled, your curbside commingle bin is not the place to collect those items. Chairs can be taken to any thrift or second hand store; many of them offer pick-up services for furniture.

Locally, check with St. Vincent de Paul, Goodwill, Oregon Coast Humane Society, and others, for options.

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.



(A monthly column of recycling information provided by Florence Master Recyclers)

Q. I've been hearing a lot about food waste lately, and I saw an article in a Master Recycler Newsletter. What can I do to keep food out of the trash? Is it really that big of a deal?

A. Awareness is the first step-thank you! The newsletter you reference, available free at Transfer Stations or online at LaneCounty.org/MasterRecyclers, features the @UglyFruit andVeg campaign. This effort is aimed at addressing the 30 to 40 percent of the food supply that is wasted in our country, according to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

USDA also notes that wasted food is the largest category of garbage dumped in landfills. Visit www.USDA.gov/OCE/FoodWaste for details.

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LCC CELEBRATES 40 YEARS WITH BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Lane Community College (LCC) Florence Center welcomes the community to attend a Business After Hours reception tomorrow, Sept. 15, in honor of the college's 40 year presence in Florence.

The Business After Hours will be from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Florence Center, 3149 Oak St.

Join LCC staff, administration and students for a wide selection of appetizers, wine, beer and an assortment of beverages as the college launches a year-long celebration marking



SUSLAW NEWS FILE PHOTO

Lane Community College Florence Center opens in 1976, with more than 300 people in attendance. Community members tour the campus and visit classrooms. An organizer said he was "thrilled at the turnout but they ran out of punch and cookies about an hour into the open house."

40 years of service to the community in its dedicated location right here in Florence.

The Florence Center opened in 1976 after a decade of holding several adult-education classes in the area. It was ini-

tially called the "Siuslaw Area Center."

To celebrate "Saturday Night Fever" and the spirit of the '70s, guests are invited to break out their disco lights and dancing duds. The best 1970s

costume will win two tickets to an upcoming SEAc coast Entertainment concert.

For more information, go to lanecollege.edu/florence or call 541-997-8444.

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