

Work towards a waste free holiday season

Once the winter holidays are over, it is time to get ready to pack up the reusable items and pack out the recyclable ones. Kelly Bell of the Lane County Master Recycler Program has collected some handy tips to help you take care of the most common items generated during the holidays.

Recycle Block Styrofoam

St. Vincent de Paul is Lane County's source for recycling white block #6 polystyrene (commonly known by the brand name Styrofoam) and Styrofoam packing peanuts. It shreds block Styrofoam and compresses it into logs, making it more cost-effective to transport it to recyclers. Styrofoam peanuts are used at Aurora Glass or resold in thrift stores.

Households in Eugene and

Springfield can recycle small quantities of Styrofoam at no charge at the Seneca, Division and Thurston stores.

Keep packing peanuts and block foam separate. No food containers or cups. St. Vincent de Paul charges a modest fee for businesses. Contact them for more about the Styrofoam recycling program for businesses.

Recycle Christmas Lights

NextStep Recycling accepts functioning and non-functioning Christmas lights for recycle. All proceeds from the recycled lights go to Hosea Youth Services during the month of December. Hosea provides outreach to homeless and displaced youth in the Eugene area.

Reuse Packaging Materials

Many area businesses reuse clean packing peanuts and bubble wrap, but especially the pack-and-ship outlets. Check with a business you usually frequent to find out if they want your excess, clean packing materials.

Recycle Christmas Trees

With online scheduling and pickup or drop-off options, it's easier than ever to participate in a local tree recycling program. In addition to the programs listed here, check with your neighborhood schools to see if they plan to hold a tree pickup fundraiser.

Boy Scout Troop 182 offers pickup for \$10 on weekends between December 27 and January 22. It doesn't take flocked or painted trees.

McCornack Elementary School's fifth grade class is fundraising for a trip to Washington, D.C. next summer. They will be picking up trees during the weekends following Christmas. They are asking for a \$10 donation. For information call 541-833-0180.

If you want to recycle your tree by yourself, Rexius (150 Highway 99, Eugene) is accepting green trees for a \$5 fee and flocked trees for \$7. You may drop off your tree from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday or 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

For a list of additional holiday recycling tips Contact: Kelly Bell, Lane County Master Recycler Program – 541-682-2059 or kelly.bell@co.lane.or.us

WLCF now accepting applications for 2017

Western Lane Community Foundation's (WLCF) annual Discretionary Grant Program is accepting applications immediately for the 2017 grant cycle.

These grants have been given to local nonprofits for more than 40 years addressing needs in areas of education, medicine and science, the arts, social and civic services.

Last year, Siuslaw kindergarten teacher Linda Johnson wrote a WLCF grant for an online subscription, "Starfall and Tumble Books."

This program allows kids ages K-5 to access books, phonics activities, multiple math concepts and much more at school, home or anywhere with access to the Internet.

After receiving the grant,

Johnson immediately got the two programs up and running.

She made her students' parents aware of the resources.

A handful of students committed to using the course outside of the classroom on a regular basis, resulting in better readers, more mathematical thinkers and higher test scores.

This is just one example of a WLCF Discretionary Grant addressing an educational need while potentially impacting up to 650 students.

More Information, guidelines and applications may be downloaded at www.wlcf.org or call 541-997-1274.

Applications must be received no later than close of business day on Jan. 15, 2017.

Lane County Sheriffs office increases DUII checks

During the holiday season, local traffic and those traveling to celebrate with friends and families increase dramatically.

During this time of year, the number of drunk driving and impaired driving incidents also increase significantly.

According to MADD's website, every 2 minutes a person is injured in a drunk driving crash.

Every day, another 27 people die as a result of drunk driving crashes. In 2015, MADD reported 10,265 people died in drunk driving crashes.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office received special allocated funding from ODOT and Oregon State Sheriff's Association to provide for overtime patrols.

Through the grant funding,

LCSO deputies will be conducting overtime patrols in the Lane County area beginning this weekend through Jan. 1.

This saturation is in conjunction with a nation-wide effort to reduce drunk and impaired driving.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office wants to remind motorists to drive safely during the typically hazardous condi-

tions this time of year.

With the passage of Oregon's marijuana laws, this is also a reminder of the impairment marijuana creates for drivers, impacting their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) applies to drivers under the influence of marijuana as well as alcohol.

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Holiday Gift Guide

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