

# Christmas Trees and Other Tips

Start thinking about recycling your Christmas trees! Local nonprofit groups collect Christmas trees for a small donation each year. Look for notices of collection times and help support our community groups.

**VGS** also has a tree recycling option. If your tree is free of all nails, tinsel, ornaments, and stand then cut it up and place it in the green yard-waste cart. Trees that are not free of these materials and all flocked trees must go in the trash cart.

## Extra Holiday Trash

Large corrugated cardboard boxes, such as the ones that bicycles and appliances come in, are accepted at the **VGS** Recycling Facility. The facility is open Thursday through Saturday from 8 AM until 4 PM. It is closed on December 25 and January 1. Customers may also bring magazines, office paper, newspaper, auto batteries, oil, latex paint, fluorescent bulbs, and antifreeze for recycling. **VGS** pays 16 cents per gallon for motor oil brought to the site.

## Keep It Covered

Please keep carts covered. A tightly covered container keeps debris from flying and keeps rain out. Rain water can add considerable weight to the carts, making them dangerous to empty.

## CARE Discount Rate

Customers who are enrolled in PG&E's CARE (California Alternative Rates for Energy) program qualify for discounted garbage rates. Just bring or mail a copy of your PG&E bill to the main office of **VGS** on Broadway Street, and we will apply the discount to your garbage rates.

## Recycle Old Phone Books

New phone books will be distributed in October.



**VGS** employees hauled away about 25 thousand pounds of garbage and over a thousand pounds of recyclable materials during the Annual Coastal Cleanup Day that was held in September. Volunteers scoured 17 miles of Vallejo coastline to rid it of debris. **Vallejo Garbage Service**, Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District, Valcore Recycling, and the City of Vallejo all sponsored the annual event.

Old phone books may be deposited in your blue recycling cart for collection.

## Extra Service

Just call us at 552-3110 if you need any type of extra collection services.

## Holiday Collection Schedule

Refuse collections will not be made on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27. Thursday customers will have materials collected on Friday, November 28. Friday customers will have materials collected on Saturday, November 29.

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 shift to Saturday.

The recycling facilities at **VGS** on Broadway in Vallejo will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Holiday schedule information is available at [www.vallejogarbage.com](http://www.vallejogarbage.com).

# Vallejo Views

The newsletter from Vallejo Garbage Service

[www.vallejogarbage.com](http://www.vallejogarbage.com)

# Now More Than Ever

The challenging economic times have made it more difficult for some families to buy warm clothing for their children. Vallejo residents can really help their neighbors out during the **Coats for Kids** drive. Just gather your good quality used children's coats and jackets, and place them in a bag that is clearly marked "**Coats for Kids**." Set the bag next to your trash container on your regular collection day between Monday, November 3, and Friday, November 7. Make sure your route driver can clearly see the label on your bag.

Drivers from **Vallejo Garbage Service** will collect your donation which will be distributed to needy families at the Vallejo Salvation Army on Friday, November 21.

Spring Cleaners of Vallejo will once again clean and launder the donated items.

Children's coats and jackets may also be delivered to Spring Cleaners at 312 Tennessee Street, or drop off your donation to **VGS** at 2021 Broadway in Vallejo.

The **Coats for Kids** drive is a unique way to reduce the amount

Remember-customers may schedule up to four bulky item collections every year at no extra charge. We also host a Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Center at our Broadway location. Call 552-3110 or click on [www.vallejogarbage.com](http://www.vallejogarbage.com) for more info.



**Vallejo Garbage Service** will collect good quality used children's coats during the **Coats for Kids** drive. Just place your donations out at the curb during the week of November 3.

of materials that go to the landfill while providing a much needed family support service.

"We really need the community to help out this year," said **VGS** Manager Peter Friesen. "Children and families in need can really use our help. We are proud to sponsor the **Coats for Kids** drive in Vallejo."

## Rate Adjustment

Customers will note that garbage rates have increased 4.9% for residential and commercial customers. This equals a monthly increase of about \$1.24 for single-can residential service. The discounted single-can service increases from \$25.36 to \$26.60. The new rates are effective as of October 1, 2008.

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



People • Service • Environment

**VALLEJO GARBAGE SERVICE**

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Fall 2008



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**VALLEJO GARBAGE SERVICE**

# Vallejo Views

## Vallejo Paints Fiji and Tonga



Recycling hero Bill Leverenz of Vacaville has found a unique use for the free recycled paint available from **VGS**. Bill has made arrangements for Vallejo

Residents, community organizations, and non-profit groups may pick up free paint at the **VGS Recycling Facility**, 2021 Broadway in Vallejo. The facility is open from Thursday through Saturday from 8 AM until 4 PM. The paint is created from supplies that were delivered to the Recycling Facility for recycling. Paint quantities are limited, but there is currently a large supply on hand.

jo paint to be delivered to a church in Fiji and a hospital in Tonga that are being restored by local volunteers on the islands. For over 20 years Bill has collected good quality items and sent them to places in great need. He has supplied volunteers in the United States, Africa, Romania, India, and many other locations with clothing, medical supplies, building supplies, and many other good quality unused items. If you would like to donate funds or supplies to Bill's efforts, call him at 707-448-3124.

### Proper Placement

Drivers must be able to safely grab each cart with a large robotic arm that extends from the truck. Help your driver by keeping at least 3 feet between your carts and parked cars or other objects. Keep about 3 feet between carts. Don't block sidewalks. Place carts out in the street with the wheels touching the curb. The handles should be facing the curb with the lids tightly closed and opening out.

### Easy to Remember Rules

Place your carts out by 5:00 AM on your collection day. Setting them out the night before is fine. Make sure to clear them by 6:00 PM.

### Congratulations Winners

John Muller, Daniel Gallardo, Daniel Fowler, Lorraine Gonzales, Alex Gaynor, Beverly Walker, and Linda Chagnon are all winners of the City of Vallejo's Recycling Rewards Contest. They all won a free year of service!

### What can be recycled

**Glass**-All beverage and food containers in all colors. Empty container, rinse, and remove lid or cap.

**Plastic**-All #1 through #7 narrow-neck bottles (water, soda, and detergent bottles). All California Redemption Value (CRV) containers. All colors.

Plastic tubs for margarine, butter, yogurt, etc. Empty containers, rinse, and remove lid or cap.

**Metal**-Food and beverage cans (aluminum, steel, and tin). Rinse. Clean aluminum pans or foil. Empty aerosol cans. Loose lids from jars.

**Paper**-Newspaper, boxes, bags, cardboard (flattened), magazines, catalogs, glossy paper, phone books, softcover books, shredded paper in clear bags, rinsed milk cartons, rinsed juice cartons, junk mail, envelopes, all colors of office paper.

### What cannot be recycled

**Glass**-No drinking glasses, ceramics, window glass or mirrors, light bulbs or fluorescent tubes.

**Plastic**-No plastic bags, Styrofoam, non-bottle plastic-like toys, trays, cups, garden hoses, etc.

**Metal**-No electronic or computer equipment.

**Paper**-No hardcover books or binders, soiled papers, food wrappings, napkins, tissues or towels.

**No Hazardous Waste!**

## Manager's Corner

It's time once again for me to impart my wisdom and knowledge unto all of you. Since wisdom and knowledge aren't actually swimming around in my gene pool, I'll just stick with some interesting information that will help you, **Vallejo Garbage Service**, and the entire planet as well. Curious? Ok, here goes.

Let's talk about plastic bags—the ones that retail outlets use to package goods. Do you know that plastic bags are not part of our recycling collection program? Plastic bags in the blue carts have to be manually pulled out and disposed of as trash. The large number of plastic bags in our recycling stream are lowering our diversion rate and increasing our processing costs. So, what do you do with polyethylene grocery bags? Good question. There isn't much that we can do with them. Most grocery stores have containers where consumers can return their used plastic bags. Other than that, there are few recycling resources for them. It costs about \$4000 to process and recycle 1 ton of plastic bags, which then can be sold on the commodities market for about \$32. So you can understand why less than 1% of the plastic bags produced are recycled. Somewhere between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year. Mind boggling, isn't it?

So, where do all these bags end up? Well, just about everywhere you can

think of. In landfills, of course, our yards, our streets, lakes, seas, parks, blown about all over. Plastic bags also make up over 10% of the debris washed up on the U.S. coastline. So what can we do? By using a cloth bag, we can save 6 bags a week. That's 24 bags a month. That's 288 bags a year. That's 22,176 bags in an average lifetime. If just 1 out of 5 people in our country did this, we would save 1,330,560,000,000 bags over our lifetime. Several countries have banned the use of plastic bags. China has banned free plastic bags and it is estimated that it will save 37 million barrels of oil each year because of the ban. That's a lot of oil. Wouldn't it be nice if we could actually do something to decrease our dependency on foreign oil?

So remember, use cloth bags instead of plastic. If you must use plastic bags, return them to the store. Otherwise, they need to go into the trash can and not the recycling carts. Tell you what, the first 50 of our customers that come down to our office at 2021 Broadway Street and present this newsletter will receive a free, logoed cloth bag, courtesy of **VGS**. Thanks for reading. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at [tphillips@vallejogarbage.com](mailto:tphillips@vallejogarbage.com).

**Tom Phillips**  
Operations Manager



Tom Phillips is the Operations Manager for **Vallejo Garbage Service**. Part of his responsibilities are to make sure customers receive all the services they are entitled to and also to make sure customers follow all the rules and regulations.

