

County of Santa Cruz

CURBSIDER

SUMMER 2017

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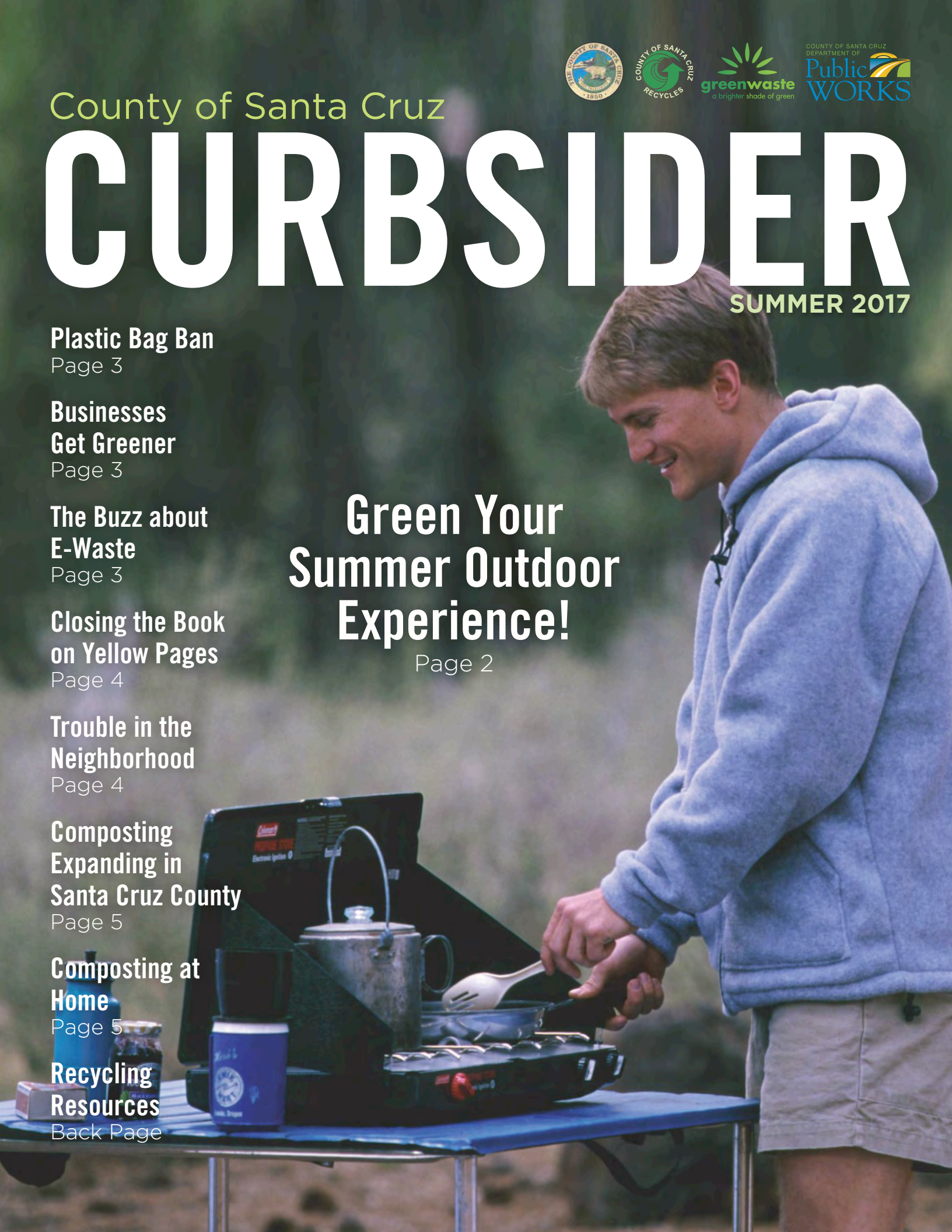
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Green Your Summer Outdoor Experience!

Disposable propane cylinders have been a stand-by for decades, used in camp stoves, heaters, lamps, barbecues and more. Ironically, while they help contribute to our enjoyment of the great outdoors, they are also one of the least environmentally friendly products on the market. They are wasteful, dangerous and expensive.

The Problem – Disposables!

Disposable propane cylinders can be used only once.

Disposables create hazardous waste. Because residual gas poses a danger of fire and explosion, cylinders can't be easily recycled. The only place to legally dispose of them is at the local Household Hazardous Waste facility. Campers abandon millions of these canisters every year, littering our parks, and posing hazards to our open spaces and park staff.

Disposables are expensive. 80% of the price you pay is for the packaging, which is usually just thrown away. Fortunately, there is a better alternative.

The Solution – Refillables!

Refillables save money. A refill costs approximately \$2.25 because you only pay for the gas and filling service, not the container.

Refillable cylinders last. They can be refilled hundreds of times and last up to 10 years.

Refillables reduce the impact on landfill and the environment.

Available at ACE Hardware Stores, True Value, U-Haul, West Marine, REI, Walmart, Home Depot, and more! Learn more at www.refuelyourfun.org





Plastic Bag Ban – Upholding Higher Standards

Last November, California voters upheld a statewide plastic bag law, which went into effect immediately. The new law covered areas that had not already enacted their own bag bans, but exempted places like Santa Cruz County and local cities, which already had stricter laws. This has led to some confusion about which standard our local businesses should follow. In Santa Cruz County, the stricter local standards are still the law. For example:

- Stores cannot give out bags for free; there is a minimum charge of 25-cents for a bag (with a few exceptions).
- Bags must meet strict standards for reusability; plastic bags must have a minimum thickness of 4 mil and must have handles.

For more information, contact Santa Cruz County Recycling at (831) 454-2160.

Local Businesses Get Greener

Hundreds of local businesses have successfully transitioned to more sustainable food service products in response to new rules recently enacted by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. To reduce litter and ensure more waste gets recycled or composted instead of landfilled, the County requires that all to-go food service products be either recyclable or compostable. Among the recent changes are:

- All to-go cutlery must be certified compostable
- All single-use cups (hot or cold) must be certified compostable
- All to-go containers must be recyclable or certified compostable
- No plastic straws (paper is acceptable)
- No plastic stir sticks (wood is fine)
- No plastic-lined cups
- No Styrofoam
- No #6 polystyrene products (including hot cup lids)

Talk to your food service supplier about available products. For more information, contact County Recycling and Solid Waste Services at (831) 454-2160 or check the County web site at www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org.



The Buzz about E-Waste

What is electronic waste? Some of it is obvious like TVs, computers, VCRs, stereos, etc. But there is a lot more. How can you tell? If it has a power cord, uses batteries, or has any circuitry within, it is e-waste. Some lesser-known examples include things like musical greeting cards, tennis shoes that light up, cell phones, toys and more. None of this can go in the trash or recycling cart. Recently, the State of California has been handing out large fines to companies that throw e-waste in the trash.

To properly dispose of your electronic waste, please take it to an e-waste recycling center at one of the local landfills, transfer station, the Grey Bears recycling facility on Chanticleer in Santa Cruz, or an approved e-Waste recycling event near you.



Closing the Book on Yellow Pages

We are approaching the time when local telephone book companies distribute their books throughout the County. If you would rather not receive one delivered to your home or business, consider opting out.

Books are often left at central collection points in neighborhoods, which created a litter problem, but each of the three local phone book companies has agreed to come back around and collect any unwanted books. This should happen within a couple of weeks.

To be removed from the delivery list for local phone books, or to report a stack of unclaimed books, call the publisher:

- Santa Cruz County, AT&T Directory: 800-848-8000 option 1
- Santa Cruz County, Yellowbook Directory: 831-763-3900
- Pajaro Valley, Watsonville Register-Pajaronian: 831-761-7350

Trouble in the Neighborhood

Among the calls received most often at the County are complaints about neighborhood issues. We thought we'd share some of the most common issues and potential solutions surrounding curbside cart courtesy.

Carts left out County ordinance allows recycling and trash carts to be out at the designated service site up to 24 hours before and after each pickup. In between, they must be properly stored on your property. This is easier in some locations than others, but the law provides no exceptions. Please be considerate of your neighbors. For those whose collection point is some distance from your home, there are devices you can mount on your car to move your carts back and forth. See www.cansporter.com for one example.

Use of wrong cart It is never OK to use the container of another resident or business to dispose of your trash or recycling. Public containers should never be used to dispose of household trash. If your service isn't adequate for your needs, please contact GreenWaste to inquire about additional capacity.

Obstructing the right of way Sometimes we see carts being used to save parking spaces. This is a violation of county ordinances. Please do not leave carts where they will block parking or bike lanes any longer than absolutely necessary.

Other issues? If you have a concern about your neighbors, the best option is always to talk to them first. Most issues can be resolved amicably with a little friendly conversation. Feel free to share this or other newsletters if it's helpful.



Composting Expanding in Santa Cruz County

Food and other organic waste buried in a landfill produces methane, a greenhouse gas 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide. The State of California has taken a number of steps to reduce this pollutant, including requirements that organic material – from lawn clippings to food waste – be collected and processed separately to keep them out of the landfill.

In addition to keeping organic material out of the landfill, separate collection allows the material to be processed into valuable products such as mulch and compost. Mulch is an inexpensive way to keep down weeds, aerate the soil, and reduce the need for water. Compost is in great demand among farmers and gardeners as a way to return nutrients to the soil.

Current laws require many schools and businesses to sign up for separate food waste collection. County businesses that want to learn more about composting options can contact GreenWaste Recovery at (831) 426-2711. There is a charge for the new organics collection service, but many businesses will be able to reduce their trash service to help offset this cost.



Composting at Home

You may have heard your green friends and neighbors talking about the wonders of composting. Here are a few reasons why you might consider giving it a try!

1. Composting reduces landfill waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

Currently food waste from homes cannot be collected and composted in Santa Cruz County. This means it all goes into the landfill, where it promptly starts breaking down and producing methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.

2. Composting reduces dependence on fossil fuels.

Many people buy compost or fertilizer for their home gardens, but compost produced at home is almost always better. Commercial methods often require the use of fossil fuels and other chemicals. Through the slower and more traditional method of composting at home, there is more assurance that everything has been broken down well by the fungi and bacteria.

3. Composting is good for the land.

Everything you compost at home becomes a thriving habitat and nutritious fodder for an entire population of bacteria, bugs, worms and fungi, and what they leave behind becomes nourishing food for your plants. The amount of methane emitted through a well-managed compost heap at home? ZERO. Composting is nature's way of recycling.

Want to know more? Watch for coming announcements of free composting workshops. GreenWaste Recovery customers are eligible for discounts on home compost bins, available at local garden centers and hardware stores.



SAVE THE DATE!

California Coastal Cleanup Day

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Go to
www.saveourshores.org
for more info.



County of Santa Cruz Public Works

701 Ocean Street, Room 410
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2160

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage

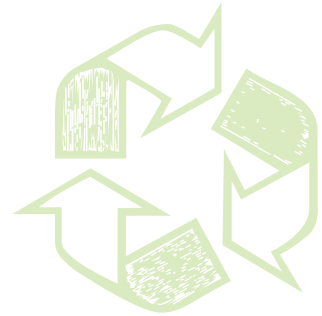
PAID

Complete Mailing
Service, Inc.



Printed on 55% recycled 30% post-consumer waste paper processed chlorine-free, using soy-based inks.

Recycling Resources



Recycle Information Line 831-454-2333

- What and where to recycle (recorded messages)

Curbside Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection 800-665-2209

(operated by GreenWaste Recovery)
www.greenwaste.com

- Begin new service
- Report missed recycling or trash service
- Request delivery or removal of carts
- Obtain oil recycling jugs

County Public Works Dept. 831-454-2160

www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org

- Apartments and business recycling inquiries
- Complaints, compliments or suggestions
- Report roadside trash 831-477-3999

Household Hazardous Waste 831-454-2606

(recorded messages)

- Schedule for free disposal
- Non-hazardous alternatives
- Free surplus paint

Composting Resources

www.compostsantacruzcounty.org

Buena Vista Landfill & Recycling Center 831-454-5153

- Recorded information 831-454-2430
1231 Buena Vista Drive, Watsonville 95076
Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30
HHW Facility - Open Wed, Fri & Sat 7:30-3:30

Ben Lomond Transfer Station & Recycling Center 831-336-3951

- Recorded information 831-454-2430
9835 Newell Creek Road, Ben Lomond 95005
Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30
HHW Facility - Open Thursdays 7:30-3:30

City of Santa Cruz Resource Recovery Facility & Recycling Center 831-420-6270

- Open to unincorporated county residents in Davenport and Bonny Doon only
605 Dimeo Lane, Santa Cruz 95060
Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30
HHW Facility - Open Saturdays 7:30-3:30

California Grey Bears Recycling Centers 831-479-1055

- Mid County, 2710 Chanticleer Avenue, Santa Cruz 95065
. Open 7:30-3:45 daily
Buena Vista Landfill - Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30

SLV Redemption/Recycling Centers 831-335-1728

- (operated by Valley Women's Club)
Felton - Hihn & Gushee - Open Thurs-Tues 11-5
Boulder Creek - 12890 Hwy 9 - Open Tues-Sun 11-5
Ben Lomond Transfer Station - Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30