

IT WAS A CLEANER DAY IN THE VICTORVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD

Mother Nature graciously granted a beautiful day for picking up litter to the nearly 700 volunteers who came out for the April 12th Victorville Community Cleanup Day.

Teams of volunteers were formed from local schools, churches, businesses, non-profit organizations and clubs, families, neighbors and friends. Volunteers spanned an amazing age range—from 1 to 94!

Many teams are regular participants in this semi-annual cleanup, but with each event, new teams come onboard. This was Galileo Academy's first time participating in the cleanup efforts, and they put together a team of 165 volunteers—our largest team to date.

"It takes a lot of work and planning to pull off these cleanup days," said John Garcia, Victorville Code Enforcement Officer and coordinator of the Community Cleanup Days, "but it's worth it when you see so many residents taking this kind of pride in their community."

April's event was sponsored by Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, American Landscape & Maintenance, Inc., American Organics, the Daily Press, Cemex, Desert Valley Medical Group, Larivee for Assembly, Mojave River Watershed Group, Nutro, Plastipak Packaging, Inc., San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Servpro, Shear Realty, Southwest Gas, Splattered Ink, Victor Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Victorville Disposal, a Burrtec Company.



Students, administrators, friends and family from Galileo Academy came out in force.



BR - VV Councilman Jim Kennedy, Galileo Principal Anita Campbell, parent, PTO Pres. Kimberly Padolsky, VV Mayor Jim Cox, VV Councilwoman Angela Valles.



Members of the Exel Supply Chain Logistics team.

CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS!



We congratulate these winners, and all the students who participated in the *Wide World of Water* coloring contest and conservation display contest sponsored by the Desert Communities Water Awareness Expo, during the 30th Annual Home and Garden Show, April 4-6, 2014.

EARTH DAY AT THE MRF FREE SHRED FEST—MAY 3



Learn how to "Go Green" by visiting the Victor Valley Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for the *Earth Day at the MRF* celebration on May 3.

Bring the kids to tour the MRF and watch the machines processing recyclable materials. Find out where your curbside recyclables go after the truck picks them up. See composting displays and get your recycling questions answered.

Earth Day also offers FREE Shred Fest, compost and mulch giveaway, and tire drop-off (9 tires maximum).

Clean out your garage and drop off TVs, CRTs, computers, appliances, scrap metal, mixed paper, plastic, clothing, and shoes, all for FREE.

Bring CRV materials and enter the 'double your CRV contest' at the Buy Back Center. Also pick up a free reusable shopping bag.

The Earth Day event is on **Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to noon**, at the MRF, located at 17000 Abbey Lane, Victorville (just off of Stoddard Wells Road).

For more information, contact the City of Victorville Recycling Program at (760) 955-8615, or visit our website at www.VictorvilleRecycles.com.

FLOURESCENT LIGHTS SAFETY AND DISPOSAL

Fluorescent light bulbs—can't live without them, can't throw them in the trash when they no longer work.

What's important to know is that compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) and fluorescent tubes contain mercury, which makes them hazardous waste when they no longer work.

When mercury containing bulbs and tubes are placed in the trash, they often break, releasing mercury vapors into the environment.

These vapors can be absorbed through the lungs and into the bloodstream, posing serious health hazards, especially to pregnant women and small children.

Mercury can also be washed by rain water into the waterways causing serious environmental hazards.

If you do break fluorescents, be sure you safely clean up and dispose of them. Leave the room and allow it to air out for 10 minutes. Turn off central heat and air immediately (and for several hours after cleanup) to avoid spreading the mercury vapors.

It is also not advised to vacuum the broken fragments or dust. Instead, scoop up larger pieces with cardboard

or stiff paper, and use duct tape to collect smaller fragments and powder. Wipe down the area with a damp paper towel and place all cleanup materials and debris into a glass jar or double-plastic bag. If your hazardous household waste facility does not accept broken bulbs, then seal the jar or bag and dispose of it with regular household trash.

Although spent fluorescent lights cannot go into trash bins, dumpsters, or compactors, residents do have several other options for getting them to an environmentally safe, responsible, authorized recycler.

Here in the High Desert, fluorescent tubes and bulbs can be dropped off, for free, at your local Household Hazardous Waste Center (check with your City for location), both Home Depots in Victorville, and Lowes in Victorville.

For a complete list of the safe disposal and recycling resources for fluorescent lights, CRTs and batteries, as well as addresses and hours of operation, you can visit our website at www.VictorvilleRecycles.com.



SHARING RECYCLING INFO



Staff from the City of Victorville—Environmental Programs Division, hosted a booth at the High Desert Farmers Market on April 17.

“We're not able to attend very often,” said Dana Armstrong, Solid Waste Manager, “but it's such a great opportunity to share valuable information with our neighbors that we thought it was important to make the time.”

And share they did. Staff handed out dozens of pamphlets on recycling, water conservation, household hazardous waste disposal, tire disposal, backyard composting, Cash for Grass, and many other such programs.

“We talked with a lot of people and answered a wide variety of questions,” said Armstrong. “All in all it was a very productive event for us.”

PLANT OF THE MONTH

White Sage

Salvia apiana

- Plant: Evergreen shrub
- Water Use: Very low
- Mature Size: 2-3' tall x 3-6' wide (flower stocks add another 2-6")
- Exposure: Full sun
- Bloom Time: April—June
- Native to: California to Baja (below 4,500 feet)
- Hardiness: Cold hardy to 15°F



White Sage is an aromatic, slow-growing, evergreen shrub prized for a variety of qualities. Gardeners treasure this drought-tolerant native for its beautiful white foliage, almost luminous in the early evening and on moonlight nights. Bees love this prolific bloomer, and make a flavorful honey from its white to lavender flowers. California Indians revere this shrub as sacred, burning its leaves as incense during purification and other sacred ceremonies. In spring, tall flower stalks grow rapidly. Trim back these stalks when they dry to a tan color in late summer to keep plants from becoming leggy, and to prevent wind damage. This shrub is virtually pest free. Its hollow stems break easily, so place it where hoses or passers-by won't hit it.



Kids enjoyed custom-made games at the Environmental Programs' booth during the Hook Park Egg Hunt.

The Green Scene

This newsletter is produced by the Environmental Programs Division of the Community Services Department, City of Victorville.

For more information, please contact:
Water Conservation at 1-866-955-4426
and/or Recycling at 760-955-8615.



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