

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL – January 2008

Please take your discarded Christmas trees down to the garage level of your building and leave them next to the trash room doors. Our grounds crews will properly and ecologically dispose of them from that location.

E-WASTE PICKUP RESCHEDULED – January 2008

Saturday, January 19th – 10:00 am – 2:00 pm – Commodore Drive, near Security

PLEASE NOTE THE RESCHEDULED DATE FOR THE E-WASTE PICKUP EVENT AT WATERGATE. Take advantage of this opportunity to dispose of your old TV's, computers, or other electronic equipment on Saturday, January 19th between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on Commodore Drive near the Security office.



E-WASTE PICKUP – December 2007

There will be an E-Waste collection event at Watergate on Saturday, January 12, 2008 – be sure to put it on your new calendar! More specific information will be coming in the January HATCHCOVER. You can save any old TV's, computers, or other electronic equipment until then, or you can get rid of it sooner from any of the e-Waste resources listed on the StopWaste.org website or in their Recycling Guide.



CORRECTION: JUNK MAIL ADVERTISING – December 2007

The phone number in last month's HATCHCOVER for removing your name from the mailing list for the Shopwise advertising packets was incorrect. The correct number is 1-888-241-6760.

NEW "RECYCLE" SIGNS – December 2007

Look for the beautiful new signs over the recycling bins in all the buildings! This was a joint project between the City of Emeryville and Watergate, you'll see this design also used elsewhere in the city of Emeryville.

E-WASTE PICKUP -- November 2007

We have tentatively arranged for another E-Waste pickup at Watergate in January 2008. You can save any old TV's, computers, or other electronic equipment for disposal until then, or you can get rid of it sooner using any of the E-Waste resources listed on the StopWaste.org website or in their recycling guide.

JUNK MAIL ADVERTISING -- November 2007

If you would like to stop getting the Shopwise advertising packets that come regularly in the mail to you, you can call Customer Assistance for ADVO and they will remove your address from their mailing list for 5 years. The number is 800-241-6760.

RECYCLING REMINDERS -- October 2007

While we have made great improvements in what and how much we recycle at Watergate, regular peeks inside the trash rooms reveal that there is still a lot of recyclable material that could go in the recycling bins – bottles, cans, plastic bottles, paper and cardboard. While we know it is easier just to throw everything down the chute, we encourage everyone to make the effort to recycle everything you can. It's good for the environment and it potentially could save us more money in garbage expenses.

We hope to arrange another E-Waste pickup at Watergate after the holidays. You can save any old TV's, computers or other electronic equipment until then, or you can get rid of it sooner from any of the E-Waste resources listed on the stopwaste.org website.

RECYCLING REMINDERS – September 2007

Flatten your cardboard boxes.



Use your blue recycling bag instead of plastic or paper bags.



Follow recycling guidelines posted in trash chute rooms and on the recycling bins.

“REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE” -- August 2007

Over the last year at Watergate we have been focusing on improving our rate of recycling in order to do our part to meet the statewide goals for trash reduction. StopWaste.org has a goal of a 75% reduction of what goes to the Alameda County landfill by the year 2010, and as of 2006 we have reached 60%. While recycling is important, and there is always room for improvement in that area, the strategies of reducing and reusing can make an even bigger difference in the amount of trash that gets thrown out. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average American sends 24 pounds of trash to the landfill per week. Multiply that by the U.S. population of over 300 million people and you have a staggering figure.

County residents, Watergate residents included, have been reducing what they consume by such steps as bringing cloth bags to stores rather than taking ones provided, buying things with less packaging, and avoiding disposable and single-use products, such as razors, lighters, and pens. We are also reusing rather than discarding many items by donating them to charity and thrift stores and by buying and selling used items at garage sales, on Craigslist, or at Freecycle.org. Whenever you have used furniture, appliances, electronics, clothing, etc. to get rid of, there are many resources available. A large selection of them is listed on StopWaste.org's website or in their RECYCLING GUIDE, available in the Watergate Office. Handling your discards responsibly also eliminates the added expense we all pay to have our staff deal with items left behind in Watergate's garages, hallways, etc.

If you really think about it, however, the strategy that makes the most sense to save us from drowning in our own trash is to reduce what we make, buy, and consume. That is why “reduce” is the first in the title of this article. So let's always ask ourselves before any purchase or acquisition if it is something we really need or could we do just as well with the old one we are replacing.

WAYS RECYCLING HELPS FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING – June 2007

--Whether it's metal cans, glass bottles, plastic bottles, newspaper, miscellaneous paper or cardboard, recycling items to produce stock for making new products uses much less energy than producing virgin stock, and thus reduces the amount of carbon dioxide going into the atmosphere.

--Recycling newspapers and other paper and cardboard reduces the number of trees logged for pulp. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, which reduces the amount going into the atmosphere.

--Recycling prevents materials from going into landfills and contributing to the release of methane gas from the decomposition process. Methane is the second most important greenhouse gas and is 23 times more potent at trapping heat as is carbon dioxide.

--How well is Watergate doing, compared to other multi-family complexes in California, in fighting global warming through recycling? According to the organization

Californians Against Waste, no more than 40% of people living in multi-family dwellings in the state have access to recycling opportunities. There is currently legislation pending in the State Assembly to require recycling in all multi-family complexes. Watergate is well ahead of the curve in this regard, and our system keeps improving. Let's all do our part to increase our recycling rate so we minimize what goes into the trash and thus into the landfill!

RECYCLING NOTES – May 2006

Your Personal Recycling Bag was delivered to your door with your April Hatchcover inside on Friday, March 30th. If you didn't receive a bag, you can pick one up at the WCA Office.

Some residents had questions about how these bags were funded. The City of Emeryville received a grant from StopWaste.org to design and manufacture the bags, and the plan is for them to be distributed to all multi-family complexes in the city. Watergate is the first to receive them, and will be a test as to how effective they are in increasing the rate of recycling. Please give them a try. You can direct any feedback to the WCA Office, or contact Laurie Stoerkel, City of Emeryville, directly at lstoerkel@ci.emeryville.ca.us or by phone at 510 596-3795.

Our casual observations of what is going into the recycling bins is that there is more quantity, more flattened cardboard boxes, and fewer plastic bags. Hurrah! We are improving!

DID YOU GET YOUR PRB (PERSONAL RECYCLING BAG)? – April 2007

You should have your new personal recycling bag by now, and we hope you are giving it a try. If you did not get your bag, please contact the WCA Office. If for some reason you decide not to use your bag after giving it a try, please return it to the WCA Office or the Clipper Club so that we can make it available for someone else.

Also, have you noticed the new, larger recycling bins in the garages? All the old bins are being replaced with new, larger bins. This should help with the problem of overflowing bins, especially on weekends. Of course, the best way to manage overflowing bin is to always break down large cardboard boxes.

REDUCE YOUR JUNK MAIL – April 2007 **www.stopjunkmail.org**

It's good to recycle your junk mail – it's even better to stop getting it. Reducing junk mail gets clutter out of your mailbox, frees up your time, and helps protect the environment. It takes 17 trees to make a ton of paper. That means nearly 100 million trees get used for junk mail every year in the U.S. Let's keep the trees in the forest, and get the junk mail out of your life. BayROC (Bay Area Recycling Outreach Coalition) has a free Stop Junk Mail Kit available online at www.stopjunkmail.org.

RECYCLING NEWS – March 2007

Personal Recycling Bins are Coming! The City of Emeryville is providing Personal Recycling Bins, in the form of a woven plastic grocery-type bag, to all Watergate residents sometime in March. The bags are an attractive blue with information of what is and isn't recyclable printed on one side. They are durable, lightweight and should fit easily under the kitchen sink for collecting materials to take to the recycle bins in the garages. The bags will be delivered to all residents and we are hoping everyone will give them a try. After trying it, should you decide not to use yours, please return it to the WCA Office or Clipper Club so that it is available for someone else.

New recycling flyers. Updated recycling flyers detailing what can and cannot be recycled were recently posted in all trash chute rooms, along with maps showing where the recycling bins are located in each building. If you would like your own copy of the flyer, they are available in the WCA Office and in the Clipper Club.



GOT E-WASTE? SAVE IT FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT! – March 2007

Watergate is hosting our own free E-Waste collection event on Saturday, March 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Here's the chance to get rid of all those old computers, TV's and other electronic equipment. The collecting company will have personnel available to come to your unit to get any heavy items. Please see the flyer inside this issue of the Hatchcover for all the details.



February 2007

RECYCLING REMINDERS

1. Please flatten all cardboard boxes. This is the #1 step you can take to keep our bins from overflowing!



2. Remove all styrofoam and plastic packaging and put it in the regular trash. Many mailing/packaging stores will accept pellets and plastic packaging for reuse.



3. Keep plastic bags out of the recycling. Just dump your recyclables into the bin or put them in a paper grocery

Recycling Issues Addressed by Our General Manager – January 2007

This past month we interviewed our General Manager, Tim Sutherland, about some of your ideas and suggestions from the recycling survey in September. Here are his responses:

Recycling Committee: Several residents asked why couldn't we put recycling bins in the trash chute rooms. It would be so much more convenient.

Tim Sutherland: Unfortunately the trash chute rooms are much too small for recycling bins. In addition, the Emeryville Fire Department would probably rule it a fire hazard. And finally, emptying and cleaning the bins would add to the workload of our custodial staff, which would add to our homeowner expenses.

Recycling Committee: A number of residents said that they have physical challenges that make it difficult to take recycling down to the garages, especially when bins are far from their entrances. Is there any help available for them and could we get more bins so they would be closer?

Tim Sutherland: We recently began leaving the lids to the recycling bins in the garages open to make it easier for residents, especially those with physical challenges, to deposit their recyclables. The response has been very favorable. We also are exploring the possibility of getting more bins to improve accessibility. The difficulty comes in where to place them, as most of our available space in the garages is already used. Finally, I suggest that residents consider helping your neighbors who have physical challenges.

Recycling Committee: A couple of people suggested recycling containers near the mailboxes for junk mail. Is this possible?

Tim Sutherland: This is an idea worthy exploring. The recycling committee is researching containers that are attractive and easy to empty. We probably will need to replace the current cans anyway if the Emeryville City Council passes the proposed anti-smoking ordinance. Once again, however, we need to be aware that emptying these containers increases the workload for our staff.

Recycling Committee: Someone wanted to know why we can't recycle food scraps as they do for single-family residences in Emeryville.

Tim Sutherland: High-density residential complexes create a much larger volume of food scraps than can be handled safely with current technology. We feel fortunate that Waste Management has agreed to pick up our landscaping residue, which doesn't smell or attract rodents as food waste would do. We already have to deal continually with the rodents that our regular trash attracts.

Recycling Committee: We noticed recently that Waste Management has replaced our large 3-yard regular trash bins with 2-yard bins in all our trash rooms. Is the reduction in bin size related to increased recycling and does it save us any money?

Tim Sutherland: Yes, on both accounts! Because of our improved recycling and our green waste pickup, we were finding that the old bins were no longer getting filled. The charge for the smaller bins is less, so we all save both monetarily and environmentally. I encourage everyone to keep up the good work in recycling. And I want to remind you to pick up your copy of the Recycling Guide from StopWaste.org in the WCA office. It's an excellent resource for answering all recycling questions.

If you have further questions or suggestions, contact Tim Sutherland in the WCA office or Sam Foushee, Watergate resident, at 510 658-4915 or Laurie Stoerkel, City of Emeryville, at 510 596-3795.