

Trash Talk

“Don’t Make a Mountain Out of a Landfill”

SUMMER 2020, July - September

Trash Talk is 25!

2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the first issue of the *Trash Talk* newsletter. To celebrate, we considered reprinting a couple of articles from 1995, but looking back, we found that not much has changed. Then, just like now, *Trash Talk* gives Shasta County residents valuable waste reduction and disposal information each quarter.

So, we’ll do what we always do, but this time we’ll make it a party! Here’s to 25 years of reducing, reusing, and recycling with *Trash Talk*!

Planning for After the Party

When throwing a party, you plan for everything, decorations, menu, invitations, and theme. What about after the party? How do you deal with a refrigerator packed with leftovers or overflowing garbage bins? By taking the opportunity to plan for what happens afterward, you can reduce waste as well as save money and be eco-friendly.

Food Waste

About 40% of the food we produce in the United States is thrown away. Now, imagine that refrigerator full of leftovers. How much of that will spoil and go to the landfill before it can be eaten? A great way to avoid waste is to plan your menu so that you don’t overbuy. Tools, like the *Guest-Imator* at savethefood.com, will help you figure out how much food you will need, thus reducing waste.

Disposables

Disposable utensils, plates, and cups can be a lot easier to deal with when planning for a house full of guests. Afterward, the sight of a pile of bulging garbage bags can make you question whether it was worth it. Consider reusable items or those made from fully recyclable or compostable materials. Yes, you may have a sink full of dishes, but, once clean, they will be ready for your next celebration.

Recycling

Having a dedicated receptacle for your recyclables will make it easier to dispose of bottles and cans. Instead of having to dig through other garbage when the guests have gone, your recyclables will be already separated and ready to be rinsed then dropped off for cash or at one of Shasta County’s transfer stations.

These are just the beginning of what you can do to throw an eco-friendly party. Other things to think about are, purchasing local foods (less distance means fewer emissions), sending digital invitations, and giving experiences instead of things. Anytime you reduce consumption, you are saving valuable resources and conserving energy, lessening our impact on the environment, and saving money. All of these are great reasons to celebrate. For a list of tips for throwing an eco-friendly party, go to co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm/recycling/residents.

Tie Your Trash Bags

Summertime is a great time to remember to bag your trash. Doing so, and making sure the bags are tied, keeps garbage in the cans and helps keep you, your neighbors, and sanitation workers safe from the spread of germs.

Thank You!

We wanted to give a huge “Thank You!” to all of our County’s sanitation workers. During this stay-at-home order, these men and women have proven how truly essential they are to our community.



Balloons: Their Impact and Alternatives

It's unmistakable, seeing a multi-colored bouquet of balloons floating gently above a mailbox means there is a party going on. Parties and balloons are synonymous. In fact, the word for a group of balloons is "festival." Unfortunately, when the party is over, and the balloons eventually come down, the results aren't anything to celebrate.



Latex balloons and the outdoors don't mix well. Popped and intact balloons can be dangerous to wildlife. Animals, believing balloon fragments are food, can ingest the colorful shards, causing starvation. Also, the animals may become entangled in the ribbons and strings trailing from the balloons, leading to injury and death.

The March 2016 issue of *Marine Policy* included a study, named *Using expert elicitation to estimate the impacts of plastic pollution on marine wildlife*, that surveyed 274 experts in the fields of conservation, marine mammal biology, marine ecology, etc. The survey results identified entanglement by balloons (along with fishing gear and plastic bags) as "the greatest threat to seabirds, sea turtles and marine mammals." Even balloons that are labeled as biodegradable can take years to breakdown and have damaging effects. Once they do degrade, the resulting microplastics still pose a threat to the environment and wildlife.

Choosing not to decorate with balloons doesn't mean the party is over. Consider reusable flags and streamers, lights, pinwheels, or flowers (easily compostable) to create striking visuals for your festivities without the risks associated with balloons.



What if you want to do a large balloon release?

What alternatives are there that will draw attention to an event or cause? How about thousands of bubbles being blown into the air at once, or a rainbow of kites rising overhead, or even better, a day of planting trees? Instead of the memory of a single balloon-filled moment, trees can serve as daily reminders for years to come.

No matter what your party or event celebrates, there are plenty of vibrantly-colored alternatives to balloons. These party-throwing tips and more can be found at co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm/recycling/residents.

Air Quality Projects

In 2017, California budgeted \$495 million for local air district grants to put advanced technologies to work for cleaner air.

The Shasta County Air Quality Management District is in the final stages of obtaining grant funds that will be used as implementation incentives for emission reductions. Eligible projects will be evaluated and selected for the most cost-effective emission reductions.

For more on this program and the next public workshop, visit co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm/air-quality.

Please direct newsletter comments to:
Shasta County Department of Resource Management
1855 Placer Street, Suite 200, Redding, CA 96001
recycle.co.shasta.ca.us
(530) 225-5789 or (800) 528-2850



Please direct disposal service calls to:
Burney Disposal Inc.
37484 Cornaz Drive B, Burney, CA 96013
burneydisposal.com
(530) 335-2723

Trash Talk is printed on recycled paper.

Defensible Space

With wet weather behind us, do not let your guard down when it comes to fire safety. Create your defensible space by removing fallen debris and ladder fuels. Then cut weeds close to the ground. Visit Cal Fire's www.readyforwildfire.org information on creating defensible space around your home.

Once space is cleared, here are a few options for disposing of the wood waste and other debris.

Take large items like branches, limbs, logs, as well as other clean wood waste, to:

City of Redding Transfer Station

2255 Abernathy Lane, Redding
(530) 224-6201

West Central Landfill

14095 Clear Creek Road, Igo
(530) 396-2555

Wheelabrator

20811 Industry Road, Anderson
(530) 339-7600

Leaves and other yard waste can be taken to the City of Redding Transfer Station, or you can try composting at home. Visit recycle.co.shasta.ca.us for more information on backyard composting and vermicomposting.

Business Owners

Do you have questions about California's commercial recycling requirements? Contact us at recycle@co.shasta.ca.us or (530) 225-5789.