



ALAN STYLES
Recycling

Shop 'green' in south Monterey County

Save the date! The first-ever Greenfield and Gonzales Community-wide Yard Sale on May 30 promises to be a great green event.

The epitome of re-use, this one-day event invites sellers to clean out their closets and garages for profit, and buyers to explore countless sales for extreme deals on useful items. But perhaps the greatest winner is our local environment, as landfills are spared inundation of spring-cleaning spoils.

Greenfield has been challenged to reduce the waste it sends to the landfill; this event offers residents a fun and lucrative way to practice reducing, reusing and recycling while generating income from unwanted items. The cities of Greenfield and Gonzales, Tri-Cities Disposal, and the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority are working together to promote the event and recruit as many sellers as possible. Promotion of the sale is sponsored by Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority, so sellers benefit by registering early to have their sale advertised for free.

The first 100 sellers to register in each city will receive a "Seller's Toolkit" consisting of five reusable shopping bags, a sign to promote their sale, and a guide with tips for holding a successful sale. In Gonzales, register at City Hall, and in Greenfield, register at the police

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department (the usual \$5 yard sale permit fee is waived for this event).

Sellers may register up through May 29, but it pays to register early; everyone who registers by May 13 will have their sale address promoted in The Salinas Californian, El Sol and the South County Newspapers in the week preceding the sale.

Buyers can feel good about keeping useful items in circulation and spending far less than purchasing new.

Maximize your green shopping experience; car-

pool with friends and bring your own shopping bags.

Plan a shopping strategy or wander from sale to sale. You never know what you'll find, so make a day of it. Wear a hat and sunscreen, and bring your refillable water container and plenty of small bills.

Prepare to shop green, save green and earn some green at the Greenfield and Gonzales community-wide yard sale!

► *Alan Styles is recycling coordinator for the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority. His column appears the third Saturday of the month in Central Coast Living. Contact him at alanst@svswa.org.*