



City of Highland Weekly Report

January 9, 2015

Repete's Wisdom of the Week - 5 Ways to Go Green in the New Year!

Public Services



Repete's Wisdom of the Week - 5 Easy Ways to Go Green in the New Year. Ready to start fresh? Going green is easier than you think. Make a resolution to start with a few simple changes and you'll be off to a great *green* new year in no time.

1. Reusable shopping bags - Approximately 5 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide each year. There are so many great options available today that there is no good excuse for using paper or plastic. Keep an eye out at local events for vendors giving away free reusable shopping bags. Remember that recycling is only *half* the battle.



2. Give homemade gifts - Just say no to mass-produced trinkets and give a gift from the heart. Don't worry, you don't have to be Martha Stewart to make a homemade gift that will wow your friends. Handmade goodies, beauty treatments, jewelry, hand knit scarves, simple crafts or even the gift of time can be the most special gift of all.

3. Bring your own bottle - Having a fresh bottle of water handy is a healthy choice, but skip the pre-packaged bottles and bring your own. Not only will you reduce waste and energy, but you can help extend the life of sustainable drinking water on our planet.

4. Make your own natural cleaning products - There are tons of options out there including the ones your grandmother always told you about: vinegar, rubbing alcohol, and baking soda. If you aren't into mixing up your own, check for an eco-friendly or natural ingredients on the label as opposed to harsh chemicals when shopping at the store.

5. Clean out your closet - Making a donation of items you don't use or need gives them the opportunity to be used by someone else, which will keep *that* person from buying a new item, which means fewer items need to be manufactured! Think of it as top level recycling.

Once you start challenging your ideas about what belongs in the waste bin, you're sure to surprise yourself with your creativity. Now go get started on your green New Year!

Volunteer Services

Blood Drive - Mark your calendars!
The **2015 Blood Drive** dates are here! They are as follows:

- Monday, January 26, 2015
- Monday, March 23, 2015
- Monday, May 18, 2015
- Monday, July 27, 2015
- Monday, September 21, 2015
- Monday, November 23, 2015



Highland Community Blood Drives

1:30pm - 6:30pm

Highland Police Station - Community Room
(26985 Base Line - Highland)

January Incentive: LifeStream is offering a coupon for two free tacos at Jack in the Box for donors participating at the January 26th drive.

Please contact Volunteer Services Coordinator, Denise Moreno, with any questions or for more information regarding the Highland Blood Drives at 909-864-6861 extension 203.

Highland Improvement Team - Highland Improvement Team (HIT) members will be participating in a Litter Abatement cleanup on *Saturday, January 17th from 8:00am to Noon*. Anyone interested in volunteering can call Volunteer Services to sign-up or you can simply sign-in the morning of the cleanup from 7:30am to 8:00am at Highland City Hall located at 27215 Base Line in Highland. We will depart from City Hall to the cleanup location at 8:00am. Please note: Volunteers will be required to provide their own transportation from City Hall to the cleanup site.

Please contact Denise Moreno, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 909-864-6861 extension 203 with questions or for more

information about joining the Highland Improvement Team!

***Volunteers less than 18 years old are always welcome to join us but, must be accompanied by an adult over 18 years of age.*

How to Pick up Litter -In addition to making places look ugly, litter presents a threat to wildlife and public health. Pitching in and cleaning up some trash is an easy way for anyone to help out. Read this useful article to find out how you can help!

1. Stop littering yourself. You have no entitlement to litter. The reason there is so much trash around is because many other people thought the same way. Just be on the lookout for trash bins, and be willing to hold on to your trash for a little while. When on the road, make sure items in the back of your truck are secure and nothing can blow out. Keep your truck bed clean and free of loose litter. If you own a business, keep your parking lot and the area around your dumpsters clean. Have trash containers available for customers. Keep them emptied so trash will not blow out of the containers. On windy days, litter can travel a long way from the litter source.

2. Buy food items with less packaging and eat less processed or manufactured food. Pack your own lunch in containers that can be reused. Drink water or other beverages from your own container. Spend money on some really wonderful tasting fruit rather than a packaged snack or dessert.

3. Spread the word to friends and relatives about why littering is so bad. Do not hand out fliers because those could become litter themselves! Create awareness by writing letters to the editors of newspapers. Talk "Trash" and emphasize how litter mars the beauty of the cities and countryside.

Encourage citizens to work together and clean up the environment.

4. Start cleaning up. This can be done solo, with friends or in an organized group. Once you get



started, you will not want to quit. Getting started is the hardest part. Don't be embarrassed to do it alone. Believe me; it will make you feel really good about yourself. Pick up litter while getting your

walking exercise. A lot of people think picking up litter is disgusting and degrading. Litter is what is disgusting and degrading. If everyone would do a little to keep the environment clean, it would make a world of difference. Bring a plastic bag with you on trips, outings and walks.

5. *If solo: You can pick up litter on the way to work or school if you don't drive.* You may feel embarrassed if this is uncommon in your area. But you will eventually inspire others. You could occasionally take different routes for variety and to see if your actions have taken root with others. Unless you have become friendly with the owners of private properties, only pick up what is on sidewalks of houses. Even if the owners or tenants are messy, it is private property. Be aware that even just picking up litter from sidewalks may only encourage the owners or tenants to continue or possibly increase their littering. You could strike up a friendly conversation and gently but firmly educate owners and tenants about the consequences of littering. Do not become self-righteous, pushy or angry -- you will lose points for sure. Try some humor instead.

6. If with others: gather up a group of friends for an informal litter picking party. Have participants meet somewhere afterward for a meal or have all bring food for a potluck afterward at your home.

7. Suggest to a group you belong to, that cleaning up area on an afternoon might be a worthwhile community service activity. Pick an area near a restroom if possible. Keep the area of the project small or the time frame within an hour. Otherwise people may become soured about how much time or work it took. Have a contest to see who can pick up the largest number of pieces, the most pounds of trash or the most unusual trash. The winner gets a free beverage, cloth bag, or other prize. (See if a local merchant will donate a prize.)

*Information courtesy of wikiHow
(<http://www.wikihow.com/Pick-up-Litter>)*

Finance

Commercial Business License Applications - There were two new commercial business licenses for the week of 1/5 to 1/9/15. Kim's Studio Nails located at 7955 Webster, Ste-10 and The Social Club Barbershop located at 27206 Baseline Road.

Administration

Preparing makes sense -Preparing makes sense. The likelihood that you and your family will survive a house fire depends as much on having a working smoke detector and an exit strategy, as on a well-trained fire department. The same is true for surviving a natural disaster or other emergency. We must have the tools and plans in place to make it on our own, at least for a period of time, no matter where we are when disaster strikes. FEMA urges all Americans to: build a kit of emergency supplies; make a plan for what you will do in an emergency; and be informed about what might happen. Just like having a working smoke detector, preparing for the unexpected makes sense. *Get Ready Now.* For more information, visit www.ready.gov.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 12, 2015

4pm to 5pm - Blood Drive Committee Meeting
Highland City Hall - 27215 Base Line, Highland
Contact Denise Moreno for more information at
909-864-6861 ext. 203

January 13, 2015

6pm - City Council Regular Meeting, Donahue
Council Chambers

Saturday, January 17, 2015

8am to Noon (Registration: 7:30am to 8am) -
Highland Improvement Team Cleanup, Sign in @
Highland City Hall - 27215 Base Line, Highland,
Contact Denise Moreno for more information at
909-864-6861 ext. 203

January 20, 2015

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting,
Donahue Council Chambers

Monday, January 26, 2015

1:30pm to 6:30pm - Blood Drive
Highland Police Station - 26985 Base Line,
Highland, Contact Denise Moreno for more
information at 909-864-6861 ext. 203

January 27, 2015

6pm - City Council Regular Meeting, Donahue
Council Chambers

February 10, 2015

6pm - City Council Regular Meeting, Donahue
Council Chambers

February 24, 2015

6pm - City Council Regular Meeting, Donahue
Council Chambers

Assembled by: Elena Rodrigues



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