

Help support, respect local recycling center

By Karen Walenga

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A great place to recycle your newspapers, aluminum cans, plastic grocery bags and more can be found in the heart of Green Valley.

The Green Valley Lions Club and GV La Canoa Lions Club operate a popular recycling center in the Pima County complex on La Canada Drive, near the Joyner-Green Valley Library.

The Lions donate the recycling profits to such worthy causes as Green Valley Assistance Services and the local food bank, says Wally Livengood, president of the Green Valley Lions Club. In addition, the Lions supply paper grocery bags and clean, plastic grocery bags to the food bank.

The center accepts:

- Newspapers and any other mailable items, including magazines, catalogs and phone books.
- Aluminum cans.
- Clean plastic grocery bags.
- Eyeglasses and hearing aids.
- Cell phones.
- Printing and toner cartridges.

No accepted are:

- Cardboard, except for moving boxes, which the Lions resell.
- Glass
- Plastic bottles.
- Hazardous materials.

The Lions recycling center is open Mondays through Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., except during rainy or windy weather and when maintenance of the equipment is necessary. Summer hours, beginning in May are 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The Lions thank the public for participating and ask patrons to respect the hours of operation. Leave nothing at the center when it is closed. Volunteers otherwise have to clean up items that blow around the site and the neighborhood when left before or after hours.

Two-thirds of the center's staff are Lions members and one-third are other area volunteers. They serve 90-minute shifts, either from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. or 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. one day a week, with three to four volunteers per shift.

“We can always use more volunteers, “ Livengood notes. Just stop by the center and say you’d like to volunteer.

Last year, the center sent 575 tons of paper to the recycling mill in Tucson. “That would all go into the landfill otherwise, “ Livengood points out. Instead, the Lions make money “to help our neighbors.”