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SPRING HAS SPRUNG – BE BEAR AWARE

Along with showers, flowers and warmer weather, Spring heralds the return of active black bear season in Boulder. Five years ago, in an effort to protect both bears and the public, the Black Bear Protection Ordinance was adopted by Boulder City Council. It established a Secure Trash Regulation Zone bordered on the east by Broadway, on the north by Sumac and south to the City of Boulder limits.

In this area, residents and businesses are required to secure all trash and compost in bear-resistant containers or in a building, house, garage or other enclosed structure until collected. If your carts or containers are outside at any time (even just before pick-up on the morning of collection), the carts or containers must be bear-resistant. Bear-resistant containers must be in working condition, remain closed at all times, and not overflow. There are fines associated with not latching your container. Western Disposal takes the safety of both residents and bears seriously. If you are in the Secure Trash Regulation Zone and have a broken or malfunctioning bear-resistant cart, contact us immediately at 303-444-2037 and it will be repaired or replaced within 24 hours or on the next business day if you call us on a Friday. *(continued on page 2)*



A grizzly bear tests Western's bear-resistant cart at the Grizzly & Wolf Discover Center in Yellowstone.

Holiday Schedule

Residential customers looking for up-to-date information about our holiday schedule, call our Holiday Hotline at 303-448-2280 or visit: **westerndisposal.com.**

The following holidays are observed by Western Disposal:

- Memorial Day May 27, 2019
- Independence Day ... July 4, 2019
- Labor Day.....Sept. 2, 2019
- Thanksgiving Day .. Nov. 28, 2019
- Christmas Day Dec. 25, 2019
- New Year's DayJan. 1, 2020

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: FENIX OUTDOORS



Boulder County is home to a long list of outdoor apparel companies. Some may have blossomed from a basement or garage start up while others choose Boulder County for a satellite facility for serving the United States market. Fenix (pronounced Phoenix) Outdoor Import is a Swiss Company with Swedish roots whose brands include Fjallraven, Brunton,

Primus, Hanwag, and Royal Robbins. The international company focuses on products for nature and outdoor life and develops and sells equipment and clothing for active lifestyles. The Fjallraven backpack with the familiar fox silhouette logo is often seen throughout Boulder County.

Located at 1900 Taylor Avenue in Louisville's Technology Business park, Fenix operates a 135,000 square foot distribution facility. Fjallraven, which has a retail shop on Pearl Street, makes up 75% of the products handled in Louisville. According to Nate Davy, warehouse general manager, "Sustainability is a core component of the company's mission statement and management philosophy." Nate noted that much of their efforts towards sustainability include the products themselves, especially the choice of materials, developing things like re-wool (recycled wool), or non-PFC waterproof outerwear, and making extremely durable apparel with repair services if needed to extend product life and keep products from winding up in the landfill after just a year or two. *(continued on page 3)*

Can I Recycle...?

With recycling markets in decline due to China's import ban on most recycled material, it's more important than ever that recycling centers keep costs and contamination in check. Sorting out materials from the sorting line that aren't recyclable, AKA items that have been "wish-cycled", drains time and money. The basics of what can be recycled is easy, but the variety of packaging, materials and disposable items in our waste stream can be confounding.

For this issue, we compiled a list of top items people ask about. **It really does matter what goes where**, so rather than "wish" something recyclable and blithely throwing it in your cart, know before you throw:

Trash:

Refrigerator/freezer boxes
Microwave meal trays
Ice cream cartons
Plastic blister packs
Styrofoam® to-go containers
Pliable six-pack rings
Solo® plastic cups
Garden Hoses
Light bulbs
Livestock/Pet Feed Bags
Sports balls
Plastic Trophies
Wine Corks
CD/ DVD jewel cases
Paper cups and to-go containers (unless they carry the BPI Certified Compostable logo)
Small plastic toys

Recycle:

Berry containers and other plastic clamshells
Plastic to-go containers
Hard plastic six-pack holders
Aluminum Foil /Pans (remove food debris)
Hard plastic flower pots
Paperback books
Souvenir cups (#5)
Prescription bottles
Shelf-stable and refrigerator cartons

Accepted at CHaRM-not in your cart!

6400 Arapahoe (fees may apply)
Block foam and foam packing sheets
Yoga Mats (clean)
Bubble wrap
Metal objects with at least 50% metal content
Porcelain fixtures
Grocery, newspaper, zip lock and dry-cleaning bags

SPRING HAS SPRUNG – BE BEAR AWARE (continued from page 1)

According to a City of Boulder staff report published in April of 2018, the Bear Protection Ordinance has been successful in reducing the amount of trash accessible to bears. Based on a 612-house monitoring route west of Broadway, the average number of trash carts strewn was 129 per year prior to the ordinance. That number shrank to a mere 16 per year in the post-ordinance period (2014-2017). Importantly, the average number of bears killed has reduced from one per year (2003-2013) to less than .5 per year (2014-2018).

The report also notes that bears have been moving east in the last five years. In 2017, 26% of the reported 330 sightings have taken place east of Broadway. This is not necessarily a result of secured trash to the west, but more likely a combination of factors including sows seeking safety for their cubs (males will kill cubs in order to send the sow into estrus and mate), availability of other food sources such as apples and berries, and attractants such as bird feeders, backyard chickens and goats, BBQ grills and pet food.

Best practices for reducing these attractants include:

- Don't let your bird feeder become a bear feeder. Hang your bird feeders high off the ground and hang suet and hummingbird feeders between trees not on your deck or porch. Bring your bird feeders in at night and clean up scattered seed below feeders.
- Don't leave pet food out at night
- Harvest ripe fruit and clean up fruit that has dropped to the ground
- Secure chicken coops, beehives and livestock from bears with reinforced enclosures and electric fence (electric fence requires a permit in the City of Boulder).

Residents outside the Secure Trash Zone also need to be mindful about when they put their trash and compost out for collection. Boulder Ordinance #8161, passed in 2017, states that if you put material out the night before, Janet and Paul Ibanez it must be in a bear-resistant container. Material in unsecured containers cannot be put out on the curb before 5 a.m. on collection day.

Bear-resistant containers are available to residents residing outside the boundaries of the Secure Trash Regulation Zone for \$3.00 extra per month/cart from Western Disposal. Not only do they deter bears, but raccoons, skunks and other nighttime scavengers. They are also effective in keeping your trash secured on windy days.



BACKYARD COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS

Boulder County's annual rite of spring has returned; county-wide backyard composting workshops are back! Whether you've tried composting before with marginal results, or are a composting newbie, this will be two hours well spent. Space is limited and registration is required.

To sign up visit: bouldercounty.org/environment/composting/compost-workshops/.

Boulder: Monday, April 1: Boulder County Recycling Center, Education Room, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (1901 63rd Street, Boulder, CO)
Saturday, April 6: Boulder County Recycling Center, Education Room, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (1901 63rd Street, Boulder, CO)

Erie: Monday, May 6: Erie Community Center, Mitchell Room, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (450 Powers St., Erie, CO)

Lafayette: Thursday, April 4: Lafayette Library, Lower Level Meeting Room, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. (775 W. Baseline Road, Lafayette, CO)

Longmont: Monday, April 8: Boulder County Parks & Open Space, Prairie Room North, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (5201 Saint Vrain Rd., Longmont CO)

Louisville: Thursday, April 25: Louisville Library, First Floor Meeting Room, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (951 Spruce St., Louisville, CO)

Lyons: Monday, April 29: Lyons Town Hall, Board Room, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (432 5th Ave., Lyons, CO)

Planting season is just around the corner and Western's compost can help you get your garden beds ready to go! Increasing organic matter by adding compost is simple and provides many benefits that contribute to healthy soil and a strong, vibrant landscape. Soil will benefit from a compost boost in almost any application including trees and shrubs, seeded lawns, under sod, in lawn aeration and in flower beds, borders and vegetable gardens.

What is the best way to prep your garden beds?

First: a few weeks before you plant your flowers or vegetables, cover your beds with ½ - 1 inch of good quality compost. The compost will provide your soil with a new infusion of nutrient rich organic matter helping it to retain moisture, hold nutrients, improve root growth and introduce beneficial micro-organisms.

Second: Cultivate your soil. Soil naturally compacts over the winter and loosening your soil before planting is critical. Use a shovel or garden fork to turn the soil when it is dry, not when it is wet and sticks together in clumps. Once you have thoroughly loosened the soil and worked in the new layer of compost, you're ready to plant.

By utilizing compost in your plantings and landscaping, you are not only helping your plants to thrive, but are helping to complete the loop. If you have compost collection service, you have reduced your carbon footprint by avoiding methane generation that results from disposing of organics in a landfill. By utilizing the finished compost product you helped create, you are participating in developing market demand.

Western offers two types of compost for sale in bulk: **Bio-Comp** from A-1 Organics is produced utilizing a combination of several feedstocks including brewer's yeast, wood wastes, biosolids and at times, treatment plant residuals. **CML Silver** is produced utilizing manure and wood waste. We offer our original **Green 'n Gro** in 50-pound bags. This compost was made at the Western Disposal composting facility from the organic materials we collected from local homes and businesses.

Each product has a unique profile. To determine which product is right for your application, refer to the technical data sheets on our website: westerndisposal.com/compost.

Ready to dig in? Head on down to our Trash & Recycle Center located at Butte Mill Road in Boulder. We're open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the Fall.

International Compost Awareness Week is May 5-11, 2019. For more information visit: compostfoundation.org

RULE #1: KEEP PLASTIC BAGS OUT OF YOUR RECYCLING BIN



Screen at the Boulder County Recycling Center clogged with plastic bags.



An unlogged screen after many hours of hand-cleaning.

None of us likes to waste time or money, but that is exactly what happens when plastic bags find their way into your recycling bin. Plastic bags are one of the most pernicious, problematic materials for recycling facilities. They cannot be sorted mechanically and as a result they roll along the sorting lines getting tangled up in the screens, jamming the machinery and costing time and money to extract.

What to do instead? Considering most plastic bags are used for less than an hour, make an effort to remember your reusable bags when heading out for a shopping trip. If you do use plastic bags, rinse and reuse them when possible (this goes for anything plastic). Most importantly, place your recyclables directly into your cart, never put them in plastic bags.

Clean, dry and empty plastic bags, including plastic shopping and newspaper bags, zip lock bags, dry cleaner bags and bubble wrap, Dennis Walts can be recycled at the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM), located at 6400 Arapahoe in Boulder or most grocery stores.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: FENIX OUTDOORS

(continued from page 1)

One of Fenix' core tenants, which has helped lead to their longevity and success, is their focus on sustainability.

Some of these wide-ranging sustainability efforts include:

- Animal Welfare: Control sources of leather, down and wool
- Materials: Phase-out any toxic chemicals and search for alternatives to hazardous materials
- Water: Consume less
- Waste: Avoid and reduce as first step, recycle, compost and divert when possible
- Energy: Purchase green when possible

Through their recycle and compost programs with Western Disposal, Fenix Outdoors has achieved a 71% diversion rate for the waste streams we collect. Fenix uses a dedicated compactor to recycle cardboard, container service for co-mingled recyclables, and a 64-gallon cart for composting employee food waste. Western has worked with warehouse management providing signage with instructions for the "do's and don'ts" of recycling and compost.

Western Disposal would like to commend Fenix Outdoors for their diversion efforts and for their nearly 50 years in business with a presence in over 30 countries worldwide.

2019 SHRED DAY SCHEDULE

Western Disposal partners with Shred-It, a document destruction company, to offer free shredding of confidential materials; **other recyclables are not accepted**. Bring your confidential materials such as tax returns, medical forms, bank statements, etc., for safe and secure destruction.

- Volume limit: 5 copy boxes or 32-gallon bags weighing no more than 35 lbs. each
- No separating required
- Clips and staples are okay
- Folders and notebooks are okay. **No 3-ring binders please!**
- No phonebooks, catalogs or magazines
- No electronic media—paper documents only.

LOCATION: Western Disposal's Trash and Recycle Center, 5880 Butte Mill Road, Boulder

DATES: Sunday, June 2ND
Sunday, August 4TH
Sunday, October 6TH
9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Please note: These events are held exclusively for Western Disposal residential customers and are not open to the general public. To be notified of upcoming events via e-mail, sign up for E-minders at www.WesternDisposal.com.

COLLECTION TIMES MAY VARY!



Even if your collection is typically later in the day, Western asks residential customers to have their material out on collection day by 7 a.m.; route changes, weather, holidays and traffic can all affect actual collection times.

For some customers, there may also be several hours between the time their trash is collected and the time the driver returns to collect recycle or compost. Most often, the reason for this collection gap is that the same driver and truck are being used for two different materials. So, if a driver has Charles Van Valin several hundred trash stops to make, all those must be completed and the material emptied before the driver returns for the other material.

We appreciate your cooperation in putting your carts out by 7 a.m. and your patience regarding collection of the second material.

EARTH DAY AND BEYOND

Every year for the past 49 years, Earth Day has been observed on April 22 around the world as a way to raise global ecological awareness. Observed in 192 countries, it is now the largest civic-focused day of action in the world.

This year's theme is "Protect our Species." And while we here in Boulder and Broomfield counties may not be able to directly impact the fate of giraffes, whales or polar bears, there is something everyone one of us can do – protect and support our pollinator species.

The City of Boulder has launched a program called The Boulder Pollinator Garden Project (bouldercolorado.gov/planning/pollinator-appreciation-month) which aims to make the area a pollinator haven. It encourages the creation of high-quality pollinator habitat, with a long-term goal of coordinating the efforts of organizations and individuals to create pollinator pathways and connections supporting bees, butterflies, beetles, hummingbirds and other wildlife.

Successful pollinator gardens offer high-quality food, water, nesting sites and protections.

Here are some tips to creating a garden where pollinators will thrive:

- ✓ Plant flowers that bloom all season
- ✓ Provide nesting sites
- ✓ Plan on feeding caterpillars as well as adult species
- ✓ Avoid pesticides
- ✓ Plant native plants



Ready to get gardening with pollinators in mind? Visit: bouldercolorado.gov/planning/pollinator-garden-resources

Win One Month Free Trash Service

Several lucky residential customers will receive one month of free trash service for finding their names in this newsletter!



If you find your name, call our Customer Service Department at 303-444-2037 to receive credit on your account for one month of free service. Sorry, names mentioned as part of the stories are not eligible.

TRASH & RECYCLE CENTER

Extended Hours

April 1, 2019 – November 23, 2019:
7 A.M. – 5 P.M. Monday - Saturday

Online Billing

Don't forget we offer convenient online billing and payment options. Eliminate paper invoices and have the peace of mind of automatic payments – or make instant one-time payments. Visit westerndisposal.com and sign in or sign up under "My Account".

If you go paperless and want to continue to receive your newsletter, sign up for e-minders at westerndisposal.com.



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Since 1970

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