Happy Holidays from the Harrisons

The Harrison Family wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a wonderful and prosperous 2018.

There is no better time than the winter holidays for us to take a moment to thank you, our customers, and to express our gratitude to you and to the communities that we serve.

As we wrap up our 85th year in business, we continue to live every day by the same motto we’ve had from the beginning: “Service is everything.”

We hope you and your loved ones celebrate this winter season with warm good cheer. And our family would like to send special, heartfelt thanks and Christmas wishes to all those who protect our freedom and keep us safe: the men and women of the armed forces and our own police and fire departments.

Ralph, Jim and Myron Harrison

Help After the Holidays
For Two Weeks After Christmas, You Can Double Your Trash

E.J. Harrison & Sons will pick up twice the usual amount of our customers’ trash, at no extra cost, for the two weeks starting Dec. 26. Simply place your extra trash in bags alongside your trash barrel.

We’ll also collect extra recyclables during the weeks from Dec. 26 to Jan. 9. Be sure to flatten all boxes and place them alongside your recycling barrel.

Excess waste is hard to avoid during hectic holiday preparations. Thanks for whatever you can do to preserve your resources this season and reuse whatever you can. We’ll handle the rest.

Recycle Your Tree

With your help, we’re giving Mother Earth a gift this Christmas by returning your trees to her.

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China Sword Initiative Threatens Recycling Efforts

China has been the major market for recycling, mainly paper and plastics; however, this market is fast disappearing due to China’s stringent material quality standard. It's part of the Asian nation's so-called “Sword Initiative,” targeting foreign “waste.” China presented to the World Trade Council a “Catalogue of Solid Wastes Forbidden to Import in China,” which takes effect by the end of 2017.

This further decreases the contamination rate for mixed paper, effectively creating a ban on what is sold to China because of the difficulty of complying with the new contamination percentage.

Gold Coast Recycling has responded by adding additional pickers and slowing the sorting line by 50 percent, which equates to higher labor costs and less product being sorted in a timely manner. All of this raises the cost of recycling in a depressed market with a 2 percent contamination rule.

George Harrison, General Manager for Gold Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, said of the situation with China: “I am really concerned about the impact their restrictive policies on accepting recycled material for remanufacture will have on recycling in California. We are working a whole lot harder to clean up the contamination from the material in a falling market. Hopefully, California's legislators understand what is going on in the recycle marketplace. We are doing our best to find new markets, but this is a worldwide marketplace crisis.”

What you can do to help: KEEP IT CLEAN! The less contaminates Gold Coast Recycling has to sort out, the less costly it is to operate.
Make Your Holidays Greener

It's estimated that, in December across the country, we'll generate an extra million tons of waste. Every ounce of material that we can save is a gift to the planet. When it comes to giving this year, here are some simple things you can do, to do your part:

🎉 Rejoice in reuse: Shop this year at antique stores, thrift shops and other secondhand retail outlets or on eBay, for great deals on thoughtful, unique holiday gifts that also reduce your footprint in the process!

🎉 Shop local: Check out your local craft fair, farmers market and family-owned businesses. The holidays are a great way to help sustain your local economy.

🎉 Give small: Another great option is gift certificates, which require almost no wrapping materials and will be used for what the recipients really want and not things that are likely to go to waste.

🎉 Give the gift of time: Are you particularly skilled in a craft, musical instrument or sport? How about forgoing material gifts this year and giving others a gift of your time and talent, such as offering a fitness training session, music lesson or workshop? Or, give a free night of babysitting, vehicle detailing or some other zero-waste service. An hour or two of your time is invaluable to the ones you love.

🎉 Give the gift of giving: For loved ones with favorite charities, consider making donations in their names.

🎉 Go sustainable: Whatever you give, it's time to ditch the metallic and glossy wrapping paper. Newspaper, grocery bags and other recycled paper are quaint wrapping materials that make great sense. Also, whenever possible, add texture and character to gifts by making them from organic cotton, hemp fibers, renewable materials and recycled content.

This holiday season, think of giving so that everyone receives.

Curbing Holiday Food Waste

In the United States, the holiday season is the most wasteful time of year, with an average of 5 million pounds of food tossed during the period between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Be a part of the solution at home this season by keeping these food waste-reducing steps in mind.

Avoid the temptation of overindulgence: Sometimes wasting food results from people trying to do good. We want to share our love for family and friends by providing abundant and delicious meals, but it is important to refrain from overindulgence and prepare only what you need.

Get creative: You don't need to be a Michelin Star Chef to get creative with scraps and leftovers in the kitchen. There are hundreds of recipes to try online. Visit www.savethefood.com/cook-it for recipes using food scraps or food past its time.

Share the love: This is the Season of Giving! Encourage family and friends to take leftovers home by reminding them to bring reusable containers to your holiday feast. This will ensure none of your hard work goes to waste AND you won't lose any of your beloved containers.

Compost it: Food scraps that can't be used don't have to wind up in the landfill. Toss them into your home compost bin. If you don't have one yet, Green Thumb, in cooperation with the City of Ventura’s Environmental Sustainability Office, offers Garden Gourmet compost bins and Wriggly Wrench worm bins at a 50 percent discount to Ventura residents. Print out the coupon below to take advantage of the discount.

Grow, Don't Throw!

Green Thumb, in cooperation with the City of Ventura’s Environmental Sustainability Office, is pleased to offer Garden Gourmet compost bins and Wriggly Wrench worm bins at an amazing price to Ventura residents.

Pick one up today and turn your food and yard waste into nutrient-rich compost or worm castings.

805.652.4525

City of Ventura Residents only!

Present this coupon at Green Thumb and get a Garden Gourmet compost bin and/or a Wriggly Wrench stackable worm bin for $39.99 each.

Save 50% off the retail price!

Must show proof of residency such as driver's license or utility bill.
2017 Coastal Cleanup Day Breaks Records

The City of Ventura and Harrison Industries were among the many proud sponsors of this year's California Coastal Cleanup Day, which took place on Saturday, Sept. 16, across the state. In Ventura County, a record 3,300 volunteers met up at 26 sites and cleaned over 40 miles of beaches and inland waterways.

During the three-hour cleanup, 13,089 pounds of trash and 924 pounds of recyclables were collected and properly disposed of, or recycled, across the county.

Every year, in addition to common items like cigarette butts and takeout containers, we find a few unusual items. This year was no exception. Volunteers at the Ventura Harbor Beach reported finding a 100-pound piece of the Ventura Harbor that had been damaged during a storm in 2015.

Harrison Industries provided free trash and recycling bin service at several sites in Ventura, Camarillo, Ojai and Carpinteria.

Tonnage figures collected statewide in 2017 are not yet finalized, but in 2016 more than 60,000 volunteers removed nearly 600,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from California’s beaches, lakes and waterways.

For information on taking part locally in next year's event, slated for Sept. 15, 2018, visit www.vccoastcleanup.org or "like" @VenturaCountyCoastalCleanupDay on Facebook.

Ventura businesses interested in sponsoring the 2018 Ventura County Coastal Cleanup Day should contact Arriana Rabago at (805) 652-4584 or arabago@cityofventura.ca.gov.

REMEMBER: Remove Your Curbside Barrels After Pickup

A friendly reminder that city ordinances require you to remove your curbside trash, waste and recycling barrels after each weekly pickup. They should remain out of sight, except on pickup day.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation.

2018 Holiday Schedule

There will be NO Changes in collection service for the following holidays:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
  Monday, January 15
- Presidents Day
  Monday, February 19
- Veterans Day
  Sunday, November 11

There will be a One-Day-Delay in service for collection days listed below:

- New Year's Day
  Monday, January 1
  Delay for all Monday through Friday customers.
- Memorial Day
  Monday, May 28
  Delay for all Monday through Friday customers.
- Independence Day
  Wednesday, July 4
  Delay for all Wednesday through Friday customers.
- Labor Day
  Monday, September 3
  Delay for all Monday through Friday customers.
- Thanksgiving
  Thursday, November 22
  Delay for all Thursday and Friday customers.
- Christmas
  Tuesday, December 25
  Delay for all Tuesday through Friday customers.

Recycle Your Tree

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E.J. Harrison and the City of Ventura make it easy for you to properly dispose of your Christmas trees after the holiday. Simply remove ornaments, hooks, lights, tinsel, bows, nails and the tree stand; cut the tree into 4-foot sections; and place it in your tan yard waste barrel on your scheduled pickup day. Flocked Christmas trees are accepted.

Trees we collect will be processed into various sizes of mulch. The material is used by our strategic partner Agromin to make several products that benefit our farmlands, orchards and nurseries as well as our own gardens.
What goes in the Trash?
Hopefully, very little. After you have recycled, composted, filled the yard waste cart, donated old clothing and goods, and done all of those good things and more – most of the rest can go in the trash.

What Doesn’t go in the Trash or any other cart?
STOP
No Hazardous Waste!!
These items are NOT accepted for Trash or Recycling.
- Hazardous Waste
- TVs/Computer Monitors
- Closed Containers
- Fluorescent Light Tubes & Bulbs
- Tires
- Batteries
- Oil or Paints
- Medical Needles & Sharps

For information on how to safely dispose of these items, please call City of Ventura, (805) 652-4525.

How to Place Your Cart for Automated Collection
The automated arm of the collection truck needs room to grab the cart. Carts should be placed with the wheels away from the curb, 2-3 feet apart from each other and from objects such as mailboxes and cars.

Carts should be out by 7 a.m. on collection days and put away by 8 p.m. that same day.