

The Local Buzz, April 3

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Recycling to be made easier

Thanks to a \$395,966 grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments is working to make it easier for consumers and retailers to recycle household batteries and mercury-containing lamps, such as compact fluorescent lamps.

The goal of the grant is to develop partnerships between the council and local businesses and retailers to develop an education and pilot take-back program for these hazardous household products, which are banned from disposal in the trash.

"Everyone uses batteries and CFLs in their daily life, but currently there isn't a simple and convenient way for recycling these items in the San Gabriel Valley," said Nick Conway, COG's executive director. "Through this generous grant, we plan to create a simple take-back program that people will be able to easily follow and ultimately save taxpayer dollars."

According to CalRecycle, more than 29.5 million batteries were sold in California in 2001, with only 162,000 (or 0.6 percent) actually collected. In addition, more than 15 million fluorescent lamps were sold in California in 2001. Of this

amount, less than 1 percent of the mercury-containing bulbs were recycled. Text goes here.

For more information about the project, contact Nick Conway at 626-564-9702 or Heidi Sanborn at 916-480-9010.

TAX PREPARATION

Walmart to offer tax preparation

For the second consecutive year, the Walmart Foundation announced a commitment to bring free tax preparation and filing services to eligible taxpayers nationwide.

The IRS estimates approximately 20 percent of eligible individuals and families across the country are unaware they qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit, a refundable federal income tax credit for low to moderate income individuals and families.

Free tax preparation services will be provided at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation, 972 S. Goodrich Blvd., Commerce.

Representatives from United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Walmart Foundation, National Disability Institute's Real Economic Impact Tour, Mexican American Opportunity Foundation, and One Economy will be on hand.

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