

AT YOUR DISPOSAL

Reuse centers tell revelers: Go green for Halloween

By Vince Bond Jr.
WRN reporter

Looking to turn yourself into a lizard this Halloween?

Creative reuse centers like The Scrap Exchange in Durham, N.C., have you covered.

Or, if you're looking to unload an old costume from last year instead of throwing it away, you can swap it with someone to commemorate National Costume Swap Day.

And for those in the Twin Cities looking to create a fancy getup, the Boo-tique at Arc's Value Village Thrift Stores in Minnesota has costumes and accessories that were collected throughout the year.

Sales are up 15% this Halloween season compared to last year across Arc's Value Village Thrift Stores, said Pam Carlson, director of community relations for Arc Greater Twin Cities, which owns the four shops.

More than 75,000 items are on sale at the Boo-tique, which is like "a store within a store," she said.

College and high school-aged students frequent the shops around Halloween to prepare for parties. Some, she said, assemble several different outfits because they want a fresh costume for each party they go to.

"You can have a green Halloween when you shop at thrift stores. You can put together a costume for \$10," Carlson said. "You're putting together your own. You won't find two other people at a party with the same exact thing."

Green Halloween, a nonprofit organization that promotes environmentally friendly Halloween practices, teamed with Swap.com and Kiwi Magazine to provide an online outlet for people to set up costume swaps.

The holiday was on Oct. 8 this year, but people can still organize swap events online, said Lynn Colwell, co-



Courtesy, The Arc Greater Twin Cities

An employee at one of Arc's Value Village Thrift Stores in Minnesota dons a princess dress. The dress is an example of what customers may find at the Boo-tique.

founder of Green Halloween.

About 140 registered swaps took place for the holiday this year, and there are still about three dozen that will occur in the coming weeks. Last year, there were 70 registered swaps.

"Swapping has become the new shopping," Colwell said. "People are going to look for new ways to save money."

The Scrap Exchange, a nonprofit reuse center, collects 40 tons of waste annually from manufacturers, businesses and residents.

Foam, zippers, plastics and household items like windows and tiles line the 22,000 square-foot center, provid-

ing a plethora of costume possibilities. "It's a busy season for us," said Ann Woodward, executive director of The Scrap Exchange. "We love the fact that people are going out and showing how creative you can be with these materials."

One year, a mother made a Wall-E costume for her son from materials she picked up at the center, Woodward said.

When the woman took her son to the mall for Halloween, the boy could barely walk around because so many people had surrounded him to get a look at his costume that was modeled after the Disney robot.

"There is unlimited opportunity," Woodward said. "There is no idea that can't be manifested. Whatever you can think of, you can make it here."

MaryEllen Etienne, executive director and founder of the Reuse Alliance, said materials at reuse centers can be useful for Halloween party decorations, so "it's not just about costuming."

The New York-based Reuse Alliance is a nonprofit reuse advocacy group.

"This is definitely one of the biggest times of the year for the reuse industry," Etienne said.

At The Scrap Exchange, which is a Reuse Alliance member, customers can purchase bags of varying sizes and fill them with items or they can take advantage of the open studio and pay \$5 to have everything in the warehouse available to them for an hour-and-a-half.

If people are convinced that a lizard costume is the way to go, center employees will offer "technical assistance" to make it happen, she said.

"We'll talk about how to do that," Woodward said. "What kind of eyes do you want? What kind of scales do you want on your body?" People can make it here." ■

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VINTAGE TRUCK OF THE WEEK



Courtesy: Keith Alexander, ClassicRefuseTrucks.com

Harold Alexander's cable driven roll-off of 1960 was designed to give him a competitive edge in the hauling business. It was mounted on this old 1952 White 3000 cabover and had a far-reaching effect on the refuse hauling industry. To learn more about this and other vintage garbage trucks, visit ClassicRefuseTrucks.com.

ON THE WEB

PET lights up homes in Philippines

A viral video which shows the sun lighting up darkened homes by reusing PET bottles in an unusual way in the Philippines is featured on this week's episode of Waste & Recycling News' "Curbside Live."



The weekly show also features the story of Ohio State's effort to go zero waste during home football games at Ohio Stadium and the story of the refuse worker's death in Norfolk, Va., earlier this year.

A new episode premieres each Monday.

Watch today's episode at www.wasterecyclingnews.com/videolibrary/ or on our YouTube site www.youtube.com/user/WasteRecyclingNews.

Every episode is archived on those sites.

A LOOK BACK

10 years ago: Nike Inc. released its first-ever corporate responsibility report, receiving praise from environmental and industry groups.

5 years ago: Sonoco Products Co. announced plans to open a new material recovery facility in Raleigh, N.C.

1 year ago: Republic Services Inc. and Veolia ES Solid Waste Inc. announced they were acquiring assets from each other.

WRN crossword

Across

1. CEO of Resolute Forest Products, Richard _____
5. Has an effect on, the environment for example
9. Way into a facility
11. Activate (2 words)
12. Succeed
13. North Collier launched a new recycling center in this Florida municipality
16. This type of gas is now being used to help power the Marine Corps base in Albany, GA
17. Trademarks, abbr.
18. The US part of this lake has been made off limits for sewage dumping
19. Shelby state
20. Opposed to
23. Its quality is a major EPA concern
24. Put down
26. Enthusiastic
27. Be busy
30. Time to complete, abbr.
31. Unpleasant emission (2 words)
32. Hello!
33. Expression of dismay
36. AbitibiBowater's new name
38. Important atmospheric layer
40. Summer month, for short
41. Military officer, abbr.
42. Wastepro CEO, John _____
43. Long time

Down

1. Company expanding with a tyres-to-energy plant in the UK
 2. Decompose
 3. Period in history
 4. Barcode symbology, for short
 5. Driver's license for example
 6. Weight measurement
 7. City that has had a lot of success with its Recyclebank program
 8. Wyoming refinery that settled a spill case with the Wyoming DEQ this year
 10. Relative to, for short
 11. Cheap metal
 12. Company that has acquired Mississippi Industrial Waste Disposal Inc.
 14. PTR _____ horizontal baler
 15. Bring in
 16. Unit of luminous flux, abbr.
 17. Waste weight measurement
 21. Musical scale note
 22. San Francisco company that has acquired CleanScapes Inc.
 25. Major communications center
 28. Cleanscapes founder and president, Chris _____
 29. Recology CEO, _____ Sangiacomo
 30. Watch
 33. Company division
 34. Style
 35. State that has expanded its electronic waste facilities to 150
 37. Visit
 39. Not that either
 40. High exam scores
- *Answers on Page 22**
- Created by Myles Mellor

