

Recycling to Cease at the Jim Harlin Community Pantry



This is sad news for Gallup and recycling. As of April 26 the Jim Harlin Community Pantry will no longer be a site to drop off your corrugated cardboard, white paper, telephone books, magazines & catalogs, and other glossy paper.

This has been a difficult decision however, it is a financial reality. The recycling of high end materials such as White Paper and Corrugated Cardboard can be a money maker, and it was for a time, but with increased volume there are higher processing costs, as well. A brief run down why this decision was made.

*A grant to support the cost of hiring an individual to run the baler was not found.

*Volunteers have been significant to help sort and bale the recycled materials. With the increase in the number of individuals seeking food (5,000 households are signed up to receive free produce and commodities - a 3,000 increase in the last two years) this puts a strain on staff to get their food distribution duties accomplished when they are pulled to handle recycling.

*The pantry receives operating monies through grants and gifts; unfortunately, they did not receive State funding this year.

*Individuals who drop off items the pantry **DOES NOT ACCEPT** and who **mix their trash** with the recyclables reduces the value of the material and the sorting process takes additional time (i.e. \$).

We hope this is a temporary situation, **but a long-term secure plan to fund a Full Time employee or two Half Time employees needs to be in place before any continuance can be considered.**

The McKinley Citizens' Recycling Council is working to find other options

for some of the materials that ONLY the community pantry has accepted, such as: White Paper, Telephone Books, and Greyboard (cereal and tissue boxes, and the like).

WHAT YOU CAN DO! Seek out philanthropic individuals who would be willing to make a donation to the Jim Harlin Community Pantry (501c3) to fund or partially fund a Recycling Coordinator / Baler for the non-profit. Talk with your business or, if you know a business, that might consider assisting this major community supporter with the cost of hiring a permanent employee to manage the recycling. Send ideas to MCRC recyclegallup.org and click on Contact Us.

As of April 27 (and until further notice) please deposit your items at these locations:

GTS NWNM Regional Solid Waste Authority Gallup Transfer Station on Hasler Valley Road

LBM Larry Brian Mitchell Recreation Center on Montoya Blvd. TS Train Station on Historic Route 66 (NE parking area)

Old Telephone Books The City is collecting telephone books at the Gallup Transfer Station on Hasler Valley Road year round. Through early May bins for this item will be located at the Larry Brian Mitchell Recreation Center, the Train Station, and on the Courthouse Square (NE corner).

Magazines / Catalogs / Glossy Paper Seek a school or organization (like Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Recreation centers, After-school Programs, upcoming church Vacation Bible Schools) that might be able to use some of these items. If no takers, deposit in the Mixed Paper section of the blue recycling bins at the GTS, LBM, and TS. (See hours below).

White Paper Hold onto it, if you can, and watch for updates. This prime material is not being recycled separately at the GTS, LBM, or the TS. Currently this material is put in with the Mixed Paper.

Greyboard This is the end product of much paper recycling (such as cereal and tissue boxes). Include it in your compost and with your bedding material (like shredded paper). Difficult to recycle because it is not very marketable. Unless you can use it like kindling, or as suggested above, it will have to end up in your trash and make its way to the landfill.

Update Soon on Computer cords and light strands (like Christmas tree lights).

WHERE TO RECYCLE

Recycling Center at the Gallup Transfer Station, Hasler Valley Road **Monday-Saturday** 8 am – 4:30 pm

In addition to what is listed below this site also accepts Aluminum beverage cans, clean foil and plates, and most electronics.

Monday / Wednesday / Friday

Cultural Center / Train Station 201 E. Historic Highway 66 8 am – Noon

Larry Brian Mitchell Recreation Center 701 Montoya Boulevard Noon – 4 pm

Additional Hours on Saturdays only at LBM 10 am – 2 pm

ACCEPTING

Corrugated Cardboard, Tin/Steel Cans (rinsed/ labels okay) Plastic #1 & #2 Bottles with necks (rinsed / lids removed) Mixed Paper (junk mail, catalogs, magazines, newspaper, white and colored paper).

CURBIDE RECYCLING ANYONE?

MCRC is taking an informal survey to gauge the community's opinion on the viability of Curbside Recycling. Picking up recyclable materials at curbside may require an additional charge of about \$5 to your current utility bill. Go to the MCRC web page (recyclegallup.org), click on Contact Us to respond.

Would you be willing to pay \$5 more on your city utility bill to cover the cost of the convenience of Curbside Recycling?