



Tips to Make Your Reuse-a-Palooza Yard Sale a Success

September 20 & 21

Westchester's Reuse-a-Palooza yard sale fest is hosted by the Green Residents of Westchester (GROW) Ecological Commission with a goal to help you declutter your home, make extra cash, and ensure your items stay out of the landfill. Here are some helpful tips to set your sale up for success:

Plan Ahead

- **Timing:** Consider holding your sale over both days to maximize revenue and the amount of stuff you can declutter.
- **Weather:** Monitor the weather forecast and have a backup plan in case of rain, such as tarps, tents, or an indoor area.
- **Set your pricing strategy:** See page three for pricing and sales tips.
- **Cash and digital payments:** Have plenty of change available and keep cash in a secure, easily accessible place like a money belt or a lockbox. Consider accepting digital payments via apps like Venmo or PayPal to accommodate more buyers.

Get buyers to your sale:

- **Help spread the word:** Advertising and marketing of your individual sale is your responsibility. Promote your garage sale items on community boards, local newspapers, and online platforms like Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, and Nextdoor. Use clear, eye-catching signs around your neighborhood with the sale address. Remember: The Village will post banners, but cannot promote individual sales.
- **Collaborate with your neighbors:** This event is just as much about community engagement as it is about yard sales. Check the map to see who is hosting in your area to a) Collaborate with your neighbors to hold a larger sale b) get neighbors involved so more buyers will come to your area.
- **Consider a theme.** Think about what you are selling and how you can highlight your sale from the others taking place (vintage kitchenware, baby accessories, electronics, etc), and advertise accordingly.

Set Up Effectively

- **Categorize:** Arrange items by category (e.g., clothes, toys, books) to make browsing more convenient for shoppers. Especially with multiple sales on the same day, buyers may be less likely to spend lots of time at a sale if they can't immediately find items of interest to them.
- **Display:** Use tables, shelves, and racks to display items neatly. Ensure everything is visible and within easy reach.
- **Cleanliness:** Clean all items before the sale. A tidy, well-organized setup can attract more buyers.
- **Comfort:** Consider providing shade and seating for yourself and shoppers, especially if the weather is hot. Encourage shoppers to linger at your sale instead of moving on.
- **Safety:** Keep valuable items close to you and consider having a helper to keep an eye on things.

Extra Ways to Build Community

- **Greeting:** Be friendly and greet shoppers as they arrive. A warm welcome can make people more comfortable and willing to browse.
- **Refreshments:** Offering inexpensive refreshments like bottled water or homemade lemonade can entice customers to stay longer and shop more.

After the Sale

- **Donations:** Decide in advance what to do with unsold items. Consider donating them to charity or scheduling a pickup with a local donation center. The Eventbrite page includes a repository of potential donation resources, but this is not an exhaustive list.

The village will not be coordinating trash pick up or donation pick up: The purpose of this event is to encourage landfill diversion, so there will be no special trash pickup. It is impossible to predict the types, locations, and quantities of items being donated, so the Village is unable to engage a charity to drive around town with a box truck to pick up donations.

- **Cleanup:** Remove any remaining signs from your neighborhood to avoid fines and maintain goodwill.

Pricing and Sales Tips

Remember that this event is intended to help you declutter your house, not to fully fund your retirement. By having realistic expectations and following these pricing tips, you can attract more buyers, encourage sales, and ensure your items move quickly during your garage sale.

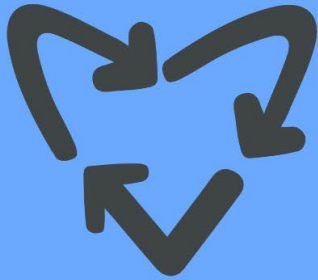
Set Your Prices:

- **Research pricing:** Check online marketplaces like eBay, Craigslist, and Facebook Marketplace to see what similar items are sold for. This will give you a baseline for pricing. You can also visit other garage sales in your area to understand local pricing trends. Note the prices of items similar to what you're selling.
- **Condition:** Price items based on their condition. Items in excellent condition can be priced higher, while those with visible wear and tear should be priced lower.
- **Depreciation:** Remember that used items typically sell for much less than their original purchase price. Aim for about 10-30% of the original retail price, depending on the item's condition and demand.
- **High Value Items:** Unlike estate or consignment sales, most garage sales include lower-priced items. If you'd like to include higher-value items in your sale, consider marking prices as "firm" if you're not willing to negotiate. If you are committed to a particular price, you may want to consider keeping that item out of your sale. Selling that item on Facebook Marketplace, eBay, or other specialty platforms can draw in serious buyers from a broader area that know the item's value and are willing to pay a higher price.
- **Negotiation:** Be open to haggling, but set a minimum price in your mind for each item. Bundle deals can also encourage buyers to purchase more.

Pricing like a Pro:

- **Bulk Pricing:** Offer bundle deals, such as "3 for \$5" on books or toys. This can help move items quickly and encourage buyers to purchase more, leaving you with less clutter.
- **Early Bird Discounts:** Offer and post on Facebook if you will offer a discount to early shoppers or for those who buy multiple items. For example, "Buy 2, get 1 free" or "10% off before 10 AM."
- **Low-Priced or Free Items:** Have a bargain bin with items priced at \$1 or less – or even a "free" section. This can lure more shoppers to your sale and help move smaller, less valuable items quickly.

- **Last-Day Deals:** On the final day/in the final hours of your sale, consider slashing prices or offering deep discounts to clear out remaining items.



REUSE-A-PALOOZA

YARDSALE BONANZA & REUSE FEST

SALE!

Community Yard Sale September 20-21, 2025

GROW Ecological Commission invites you to participate in our annual community yard sale! Reduce your trash by keeping useful items out of landfills, and shop for deals on unique, pre-loved items that reduce the impacts of buying new.

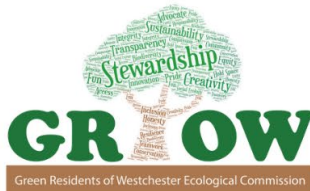
REGISTER YOUR SALE:
www.westchester-il.org/reuse



**Reduce
Reuse
Recycle**

Map of sales:

Visit www.gsalr.com and enter zip code or scan below



Mark your calendars, the annual **Pumpkin Smash** will be **November 8 & 9!**

Westchester's 7th annual Pumpkin Smash, brought to you by the Green Residents of Westchester (GROW), is an effort to keep pumpkins out of landfill. Drop them at collection bins at one of two locations and they'll be sent to be composted:

1. Behind the Westchester Community Church: 1840 Westchester Boulevard
 2. In the back of the Mayfair Recreation Center parking lot: 10835 Wakefield Street
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Recipe of the Month

Keep enjoying what's in season! This bake is easy to customize with your favorite spices and veggies and works well as a side or main dish. Leave out the parmesan to make it vegan/dairy-free.

Tomato Eggplant Zucchini Bake with Garlic and Parmesan

makes 6 servings

Ingredients

- 3 medium zucchini (about 1 1/2 pounds)
- 1 small/medium eggplant (about 3/4 pound)

- 1 pint cherry tomatoes or grape tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 large cloves garlic, minced
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ⅔ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese divided (about 2 1/2 ounces)
- ¼ cup chopped fresh basil divided
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley divided

Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease a deep 9x9-inch baking dish or similar 3 1/2-quart casserole dish with nonstick spray.
- Quarter the zucchini then cut into 1/2-inch slices and place in a large mixing bowl (each piece of zucchini should be roughly 1/2 to 3/4 inches in size). Next, slice the eggplant into 1/4-inch rounds, then stack the rounds and cut into roughly 3/4-inch pieces. Add to the bowl with the zucchini. Halve the cherry tomatoes and add them to the bowl. Drizzle the cut vegetables with the olive oil, then add the garlic, salt, pepper, 1/3 cup of the Parmesan cheese, and half of the basil and parsley. Toss gently to combine.
- Transfer the vegetables to the prepared baking dish. Bake for 25 minutes, cover the pan with aluminum foil, then continue baking for 10 to 20 additional minutes, until the vegetables are tender. Sprinkle with the remaining Parmesan cheese, basil, and parsley. Serve warm.

Source: www.wellplated.com

Have a plant-based recipe you'd like to share with the community? Send it to GROW@westchester-il.gov for consideration for future newsletters.

Green Fact of the Month

Recycled **aluminum** uses less than 5% of the energy to make original product.

Recycled **glass** uses about 75% of the energy to make virgin glass.

Recycled **steel** uses 60-75% of energy used to make steel from raw material.

<https://archive.epa.gov/epawaste/conserv/smm/wastewise/web/html/factoid.html>