



# ROSSMOOR NEWS

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

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## Collect nutritious nonperishable food now for Rossmoor Food Drive

*By Maureen O'Rourke*

News manager

The holiday Food Drive bag will be delivered with the News next week, and residents will be asked to fill it up with nutritious, nonperishable food and take it to one of the Rossmoor clubhouses on Monday, Nov. 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the Rossmoor Interfaith Council, the Rossmoor holiday Food Drive will be held at Rossmoor's clubhouses - Gateway, Hillside, Creekside and Del Valle (not Dollar this year due to the Event Center construction). Volunteers will be stationed at each clubhouse to collect the food donations. Residents can just drive up and drop off their donations of food-there's no need to even get out of the car. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

Every year, Rossmoor has the Food Drive for the benefit of the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. After the initial drive on Monday, food barrels will be left in the lobbies at Gateway, Creekside and Del Valle clubhouses throughout the holiday season.

In conjunction with the drive, the Interfaith Council sponsors a Harvest Festival Service on the same day at 3:30 p.m. at Hillside Clubhouse. This year's service is sponsored by Pilgrim Congregational Church.

### Most needed

The grocery wish-list printed on the bag includes peanut butter, canned meats and fish, beans, rice, pastas, low-sugar cereal and oatmeal, tomato sauce, canned fruits and vegetables, low-salt soups, stew and chili and powdered milk. Food Bank officials have asked that no glass containers be donated as they can easily break during transportation and sorting.

Do not donate fresh food such as meat and vegetables as there is no place to store it. Be sure not to donate outdated food because the Food Bank has to throw it away. Check the dates on food when cleaning out pantries.

### The Food Bank

All of the food and monetary contributions will benefit the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. The Food Bank has been serving the community for more than 36 years. During those years, the Food Bank has grown from an organization with two employees operating out of a trailer to become an organization that more than 20 employees operating out of two warehouses, distributing nearly 16 million pounds of food in 2011.

The Food Bank volunteers donated more than 50,000 hours of service last year alone. The Food Bank could not serve the needs of the communities without its volunteers.

Rossmoor has always been supportive of the Food Bank and has been generous with its donations. Last year, Rossmoor donated nearly 12,000 pounds of food and more than \$23,000 in monetary donations.

## How to donate

Residents can help the Food Bank by giving non-perishable food on Rossmoor's Food Drive day on Nov. 19. If that is not possible, then residents can drop off food donations in the barrels at the clubhouses during the holiday season.

Residents can also make financial donations. Make checks payable to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and mail them to P.O. Box 271966, Concord, CA 94527.

For information about the Rossmoor Food Drive, or to volunteer on Food Drive day, call Eleanore McGrath at 937-5261.