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New Salvage Store Offers Bargains on Building Materials

By Steve Clements

There is a new store in our area that should prove interesting to anyone involved in construction, remodeling or recycling.

The H.O.P.E. listserv had a posting about this organization that piqued my interest. Community Forklift is on Tanglewood Drive, near the railroad tracks. When I went there, Tanglewood was temporarily closed to through traffic due to work on the railroad track, which meant that I had to go around and come back in off of Kenilworth Avenue.

They have a 40,000 square foot indoor facility that has a wonderful inventory of lumber and building materials. Lumber is typically priced at roughly half of the current selling price at Home Depot or similar outlets.

One of the more fascinating items in their inventory is a 1,100 sq. foot log cabin that was deconstructed in McLean, VA. When it was taken apart, each piece was numbered and recorded as to its place in the structure. The pieces are now housed in steel containers, ready to be re-assembled. The price for the package is \$25,000 or

best offer.

Their press statement summarizes their activity: "Community Forklift, a surplus and salvaged building materials outlet with a community-revitalizing mission, has recently opened its doors to the public. Community Forklift (CF) sells - at very affordable prices - reusable building materials obtained from a variety of sources, including the deconstruction of local houses and other buildings. Deconstruction is the manual disassembly of buildings targeted for demolition, and it generates a rich supply of recovered materials.

"In addition, under the auspices of CF's not-for-profit parent organization - Sustainable Community Initiatives - CF receives new, used, and otherwise recovered material donations from construction, renovation, and demolition contractors, facilities management companies, government agencies, hardware stores, and the general public."

President Jim Schulman explains: "The primary purpose of Community Forklift is to sell high-quality, low-cost construction materials to provide area contractors and residents with supplies of af-

fordable building materials for construction and renovation projects, and in doing so, save property owners and their construction and demolition contractors' money by reducing disposal costs. The store will divert good reusable materials from going to waste, while fostering community revitalization and renovation activity.

"We see it as a community asset, he says, "economically, environmentally, and socially. We'll create new jobs in our store, but we'll also help create jobs in the salvage and deconstruction industries by providing a place to sell all these recovered materials. At Community Forklift, one person's trash really is another person's treasure."

If you are interested in a volunteer activity, they need help getting organized! They could also use volunteers who are marketing professionals, bilinguals, or members of the building trades.

The address is 4671 Tanglewood Drive. They are open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8AM to 4 PM; material donations are accepted Tuesday through Saturday by appointment only. Telephone 301-985-5180. It is definitely worth a trip.



Log cabin "in a box" (left) and log cabin before dismantling.