

Time to Consider Water Conservation

Despite the plentitude of water from the winter rain, City officials are reminding residents to conserve water in the summer and autumn months.

Visit www.h2ouse.org for information about water conservation. Operated by the California Urban Water Conservation Council, the site is a virtual encyclopedia of water conservation for any home. Here are a few tips when washing a car:

- Use minimal amounts of biodegradable phosphate-free soap.
- Wash your car on grass or gravel (this allows the soapy water to percolate through the dirt, soil and grass).
- Put a spray nozzle on your hose to conserve water.
- Empty any soapy water into a sink or

toilet or pour onto landscaped areas.

- As an alternative, go to a full or self-service car wash that uses recycled water.

The site highlights five things residents can do to save water around the house:

- Check for leaks in indoor plumbing and appliances and in the irrigation system outside.
- Replace old toilets with new ones that can use as little as 1.6 gallons per flush.
- Replace an old clothes washer. Newer models save water and energy.
- Garden with plants that are right for the climate in Brentwood. Appropriate landscape design and irrigation will help conserve water.
- Water your garden plants with only the amount they need. Do not overwater.

City Division Earns a 'Green' Award

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recycle. Our used oil is collected for a recycler. We recycle all our lubricants and anti-freeze. Our grease rags are laundered or cleaned and reused instead of tossed.

"We use an absorbent powder made of cork and absorbent pads that can be cleaned and reused. All our solvents are recycled by a company that cleans and recycles them for us. All our lead batter-

ies are recycled," he says.

"The building we are in is energy efficient with skylights and low-flow toilets. My guys here are very conscious of oil spills that could get into the groundwater. If we spill oil on the ground, we pick it up immediately with absorbent pads," he says.

To become a "Green Business" or to learn about certification, call (925) 646-2286 or go to www.greenbiz.ca.gov.

City Switches to New Water Treatment Method

The City is using a new method to treat its drinking water.

Chloramination is the process of combining chlorine and ammonia to disinfect the water supply and delivery system, says Assistant City Engineer Paul Eldredge.

Some of the agencies already using chloramination include the City of Antioch, Contra Costa Water District, Diablo Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District and the Cities of Martinez and Pittsburg, among others.

Water treated by chloramination is safe for dialysis patients to drink, cook with and bathe in. Dialysis patients

who have concerns are advised to consult their physicians or the Trans Pacific Renal Network at (415) 472-8590 or www.network17.org.

Pet owners who raise fish, amphibians and reptiles should continue to treat their water as usual before placing it in their aquarium or terrarium.

City Roads Best in 2005

(BEST ROADS, from Page 1)

the ratings four years ago, scoring 82, 85 and 85 from 2002 through 2004.

The City maintains its streets with a \$1.4 million pavement management program in addition to funds from the capital improvement budget, says Gallegos.

Three-Phase Program for Code Enforcement

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inoperative cars, trucks and motorcycles.

The second phase will address the storage of garbage and recycling carts, junk and debris in front yards and storage of portable basketball hoops in the City right-of-way. The third phase will focus on promotional displays, banners and signs.

A Code Enforcement Program brochure and "Important Community Notice" were mailed to residents on April 1 to kick off the first phase of the campaign and were accompanied by articles in *Hometown News* and the *Brentwood Press*.

The goal is to educate residents about common code violations, says Senior Code Enforcement Officer Berenice Arteaga.

"We are trying to educate residents in order to gain voluntary compliance," Arteaga explains. "Whenever possible, City staff wants to work with residents to take an active role in improving and maintaining their neighborhoods rather than issue citations."

Proactive Code Enforcement for the first phase of the program begins May 1. Residents who have not voluntarily complied will be subject to citation. Residents are urged to contact Code Enforcement staff at (925) 516-5405 if they have questions about correctly storing their recreational vehicles, boats and trailers and inoperative cars, trucks and motorcycles. City codes require that they be stored either:

- In a rear or side yard behind a properly located solid 6-foot fence;
- In the garage; or
- At an off-site facility.

Before building a fence, please call (925) 516-5405 and check with the Planning Division to be sure the fence meets the City's Municipal Code requirements on height and location on the property.

"We have received phone calls and e-mails from residents seeking clarification of the code requirements," says Arteaga. "Many residents are displaying community spirit and voluntarily eliminating code violations on their property. That's a big help to the City and to their neighbors as well."