

City Focuses on Proactive, Equal Code Enforcement

Over the past several months, City Code Enforcement staff has been inspecting all of Brentwood's neighborhoods, leaving courtesy notices for violations involving basketball hoops, garbage containers, boats, recreational vehicles, trailers and inoperative vehicles.

"The staff is pleased with the overwhelming number of residents who voluntarily complied," says Senior Code Enforcement Officer Berenice Arteaga of the proactive program. "Few citations were issued overall."

The sweeps, done in two phases, were conducted to prevent further violations and reflect a new proactive Code Enforcement program endorsed by the City Council.

"Previously, enforcement was complaint driven. The Council now wants us to be more proactive," Arteaga says. "The Council wants the laws enforced equally throughout the City."

With phases one and two done, Code Enforcement staff will continue to address violations proactively in order to remind residents about City laws, Arteaga says.

"We began the first phase of the proactive campaign with boats, RVs, trailers and inoperative vehicles," she says. "We conducted a citywide sweep issuing courtesy notices for those that were parked in driveways. The police handle enforcement for anything parked on the street."

In the second phase, staff issued

courtesy notices to residents for garbage carts left outside and for junk visible from the street.

Garbage carts must be stored behind fences or gates or inside garages after being serviced. Residents who are going to be away several days should make arrangements to have someone store the carts properly.

Code Enforcement staff issued warnings for portable basketball hoops left on the sidewalk, on a planter strip or on the street. Items left in the public right-of-way are hazards to pedestrians and vehicular traffic. The hoops also interfere with garbage collection and street sweeping.

Since the initial enforcement sweeps, RVs and boats have been seen in driveways again by Code Enforcement staff. Garbage carts have also been left outside.

Citywide proactive Code Enforcement efforts will continue, Arteaga says.

She adds, "City staff works with residents to take an active role in improving and maintaining the quality of life of their neighborhoods, as well as maintaining property values."

For more information or questions about Code Enforcement, call (925) 516-5405.

To report a vehicle parked on the street longer than 72 hours, call the Police Department's parking enforcement number at (925) 809-7827.

Teaching Kids How to Use Water Wisely

As Brentwood grows, water will be ever more important in residents' daily lives – both its availability and its quality.

The education process has already begun. Brentwood Water Reclamation Specialist Diana Williford says the City benefited from a grant used by Project WET to allow her and colleague Kelly Warren to help teachers educate students about water conservation.

In a workshop at the Brentwood Union School District in November, Williford and Warren showed teachers activities they could do with students to illustrate the science behind water's unique properties.

Some were competitive including fitting as many drops as possible on a penny or floating the most paper clips in a bowl of water. Others such as powering cardboard boats over water with soap had a heavier dose of science behind them.

Project WET provided teaching aids, a curriculum and other materials, which were passed out to teachers at the workshop, Williford says.

The curriculum outlines hundreds of activities. Some are geared to grade

schoolers, others to high schoolers.

Teachers may call Williford at (925) 516-6000 if they would like to have a workshop or to learn more about materials provided by Project WET.

"Adequate water supplies are critical for California," says Williford. "It is important that we do our part to educate our future leaders on the importance of this resource."

Through the dissemination of classroom-ready teaching aids and other efforts, Project WET in California and elsewhere promotes the awareness of water's importance as a resource.

Cardboard Dropoffs Now at Corporation Yard

(CARDBOARD, from Page 1)

The gated area is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

Cardboard boxes should be broken down, flattened and placed in the dumpsters displaying "Cardboard Only" signs — and not on the ground, says Carlson.

No garbage or any other material should be left in the dumpsters or at the site, says Carlson.

Video cameras monitor the site 24

hours a day, and images recorded by the cameras are fed to the Brentwood Police Department.

Business owners and residents, who have questions or want more information about managing large loads of cardboard, should contact the Solid Waste Division at (925) 516-6090.

Cardboard is no longer collected at the previous recycling site behind the Brentwood Cafe.