

Two Programs to Simplify Utility Billing

Brentwood residents now have the opportunity to enroll in two City utility billing programs that offer convenience and predictability, says Doug Alessio of the City Finance Department.

The first allows residents to participate in a balanced billing program for their City utility bills, much like the one offered by Pacific Gas and Electric Co. The program was inaugurated last summer as a way to help residents avoid seasonal spikes in their bills and to keep the costs almost even throughout the year.

“This is a way to make it easier for residents to manage their personal finances. After it first came out it was very successful, but we want to get the word out that it is available to everyone who qualifies,” Alessio says.

Residents may call (925) 516-5415 or download the enrollment form off the City’s website, www.ci.brentwood.ca.us, to find out the requirements to qualify.

- At the City’s home page click on “Utility Billing” in the City Departments section.
 - On the Utility Billing page, click on “Balance Billing” under the options section to download the form.
- The enrollment form must be

mailed or delivered to the Finance Department’s Utility Billing office at City Hall.

The second program is the automatic payment or “auto-pay” plan where payment for a bill is deducted from one’s checking account or charged to a credit card. Residents can fill out a form directing the City to deduct the bills from a specified checking account or from the card number listed on the form.

Residents may go out of town on extended business trips or vacation without having to worry about paying late fees or having their service disconnected because they forgot to pay on time.

In addition to saving residents time, the program saves residents postage on their payments.

The “auto-pay” form is available by calling (925) 516-5415 or by downloading it from the City’s Utility Billing page. After arriving at the page, click on “Auto Pay with Checking Account/Credit Card” to download the form.

Please mail the form back or drop it off at the City Utility Billing Department at City Hall.

Enrollment in either program is voluntary, Alessio stresses.

Widening Set for Walnut Boulevard

Slightly less than a half-mile of Walnut Boulevard is about to widen to accommodate traffic demands, the City Engineering Department has announced.

“This is one more effort to keep ahead of the growth in the City,” says Brian Bornstein, the City’s Senior Associate Engineer.

Planned is a four-lane, 2,300-foot strip of Walnut Boulevard from Balfour Road to Oak Street at a cost of about \$4.5 million, Bornstein says. The additional lane in each direction will increase traffic circulation along Walnut Boulevard and help move people in and out of the downtown quickly and more efficiently.

Because federal funds are included in the financing of the project, the California Department of Transportation must review the project plans before it can go to bid.

Barring delays, Phase I (underground utilities) of the project should be going out for bid in early 2006, Bornstein says. The roadway widening portion will go out for bid in spring 2006, pending Caltrans approvals.

Scouts to Pick Up Yule Trees Again

Local Boy Scouts and Police Explorers will collect yule trees for recycling over the three weekends following Christmas.

The service is free, although residents may make a contribution to the scouts. Leave your tree at the curb on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 31-Jan. 1 and Jan. 7-8, and Saturday Jan. 14. For information about the tree pickups, call (925) 634-7933.

Trees must be unflocked and stripped of decorations. Donations, made out to the Boy Scouts of America, are welcomed.

Residents also may recycle unflocked trees by trimming them to three feet or less in length and placing the cuttings in their yard waste cart for collection. Remove all ornaments and tinsel.

The City will haul away flocked or uncut trees for a fee of \$10.43.

RECYCLING & WASTE COLLECTION DO'S & DON'TS

Do's...

- Fill color-coded carts correctly: brown for garbage, blue for recyclables, green for yard waste.
- Call 5 days in advance of your regular pickup day if you have extra garbage, extra recyclables or extra yard waste.
- Leave carts out the night before your scheduled pickup day. Drivers often arrive early.
- Place carts in the street with wheels against the curb and keep lids closed.
- Leave 3 feet of space between carts.
- Keep carts at least 10 feet away from obstructions including mailboxes, parked cars and portable basketball hoops.
- Call 925-516-6090 with questions.

Don'ts...

- Do not mix regular garbage with recyclable material or yard waste.
- Do not overfill carts. Open lids will cause spillage and attract animals.
- Do not place toxics such as paint, anti-freeze, motor oil, car batteries or pesticides in any cart. Call Delta Diablo Sanitary at 925-756-1990 to recycle batteries, oil and latex paint and for safe disposal of hazardous wastes.
- Do not mix animal wastes or inorganic materials like concrete, rocks, plastic bags, glass or metal with yard wastes.
- Do not place ceramics, windows, drinking glasses and fluorescent and incandescent light bulbs in the recycling cart.