# ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES CITY OF ROSEVILLE

December 2009



WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE

#### Neighborhood Santa Retires

It seems that the economic crisis has taken its toll on almost everyone, including our own Neighborhood Santa. After 14 years of delighting Roseville residents of all ages, Neighborhood Santa has stepped down due to the city's tightened budget and its more pressing need to maintain high quality standards in delivering vital services. We bid Neighborhood Santa a fond farewell and thank the countless City of Roseville employees who made the program a success.

## Christmas Tree Drop-Off Program

Turn your Christmas tree into beneficial compost and woodchip mulch by taking advantage of one of our three recycling options:

- Bring your unflocked trees to one of the city's Christmas tree drop-off sites on any of the following dates: December 26 or 27, 2009; January 2 or 3, 2010.
- Place unflocked trees in your green waste bin. Remove all branches and cut the trunk into sizes small enough to fit within the bin. Make sure the tree fits completely within the bin with the lid closed.
- As a community service and fundraiser,
  Roseville's Boy Scouts of America troops
  will pick up Christmas trees throughout
  the city on the two weekends following Christmas. To take advantage of this
  service, place your tress at the curb before
  9:00 a.m. Donations are appreciated and
  are used to cover Boy Scout Summer
  Camp costs.
- Visit www.roseville.ca.us/eu for drop-off site locations and additional information.



## Voluntary Water Restrictions Ended



After more than 18 months of concern and increased water conservation, the Roseville City Council has decided to end the voluntary water restrictions in place since February. The water shortage that brought about a Stage 1 drought declaration in 2008 and Stage 2 in 2009 has eased, leading Environmental Utilities Director Derrick Whitehead to recommend the City Council lift the drought stage alert.

While immediate concerns have diminished, water levels remain precarious throughout the State, which relies solely on the season's rainfall and snowpack for its water. Much of California remains under drought declarations due to abnormally dry conditions since 2006. If the weather forecasts are correct, it may be a wetter 2010. Additional rainfall with a healthy snowpack would help replenish the State's major reservoirs that have suffered these past few years.

"The threat of drought is an ever-present concern in our region," said Whitehead. "While we're ending the official alert declaration, we're still asking Roseville residents and businesses to remain conscious of their water consumption and to continue to use water wisely."

On Sunday, October 11,
BOY SCOUT TROOP #1
OF ROSEVILLE cleaned
Engine 2252, a historical
train engine located in
Downtown Roseville.
Cleaning the train with
the environment in mind,
the scouts used minimal
water and relied on a lot
of "elbow grease" instead.



Let Mother Nature water for you, turn off your sprinklers.







#### Give Back to the Earth this Holiday Season

This year, be kind to the earth by using a little ingenuity to turn the most wasteful month of the year into a time of creative fun. Start by thinking outside the gift box by trying out some novel holiday gift ideas:

- Give an act instead of a gift. A book of coupons redeemable for house and yard work is always welcome, or consider a single action that saves the recipient time and money—or both.
- · Extend the holiday spirit by giving tickets to a sporting event, play, workshop, concert of other event.
- For those on limited budgets, gift cards for goods and services like gas, groceries, and oil changes may be very welcome.

#### Hold the wrapper

- Instead of buying wrapping paper, consider using old maps, reusable cloth bags, newspaper sections tailored to the recipient (comics for kids, home and garden sections for gardeners, cooking sections for cooks, etc.), or make your own from paper grocery bags.
- Wrap your gifts in another gift with just a bow or decorative gift—place small gifts in a scarf or hat
  fastened with a hair clip, fishing lures in a tackle box, jewelry in a trinket box, medium-sized gifts in
  a reusable shopping bag, toys in a new backpack, a selection of items in a previously used basket,
  seeds and bulbs in a vintage cigar or seed box.

#### Ditch the disposable

• Toss out the word "disposable." Instead use the china, cloth napkins and table linens; buy rechargeable batteries, and use refillable pens and pencils. Give reuseable water bottles and cloth lunch bags. Also consider buying colored pencils and crayons instead of markers.

Visit www.roseville.ca.us/beyondrecycling

#### **Dreaming of a Green Christmas?**

Our Utility Exploration Center is offering classes to help your dream come true. Sign up kids for a **Holiday Gift Making Workshop** at our Utility Exploration Center (while you slip away from some shopping). We're offering four December classes.

Visit www.roseville.ca.us/explore

**Ages 4 thru 7** (*Participant Fee \$20/\$16 Resident Discount*)
Saturday, December 12, 1:00–3:00 pm
Saturday, December 19, 1:00–3:00 pm

**Ages 8 thru 12** (Participant Fee \$25/\$22 Resident Discount)
Saturday, December 12, 9:00 am-12:00 noon
Saturday, December 19, 9:00 am-12:00 noon

#### Forget the Sun, Soak up the Rain: Create a Rain Garden

Long before city stormwater systems were diverting rainfall into creeks, gardens were slowing down excess runoff, and absorbing the water instead. Rain gardens are being rediscovered today as a smart way to prevent thousands of gallons of stormwater from surging through and scouring our local creek beds. Oftentimes, these flows carry pesticides and herbicides that harm wildlife and contaminate our water.

Creating a rain garden requires careful planning to determine a good place to send runoff from roofs and hardscape areas like driveways and patios. It's well worth the effort to do it right. A well-designed rain garden can absorb as much as 30 percent of a home's stormwater runoff, serve as a filter to remove pollutants, and provide an attractive landscape feature.

If you interested in creating a rain garden, we can help. Our Stormwater Management team has developed an instructional brochure on how to install a rain garden at your house.

To receive a brochure, call 774-5751 or send an email to stormwater@roseville.ca.us. For more information, visit



L to R: Mayor Gina Garbolino, Councilmember Carol Garcia, Bob Garrison, Councilmember Jim Gray, Naaz Alikhan, Mike Shellito, Sam Elmer, Trish Dawson, U.S. Green Building Council Rep. Brian Sehnert and Sean Bigley.

## **Utility Exploration Center/ Riley Library Building Achieves LEED Gold Certification**

The innovative building that houses the Utility Exploration Center and Riley Library was recently named the first Placer County building to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC.org). Designed by Williams+Paddon Architects, the building underwent an extensive review of its design, construction, and energy consumption by the Green Building Certification Institute.

The USGBC LEED rating system promotes new construction and renovation projects that conserve energy and water, reduce waste sent to landfills and decrease harmful greenhouse gas emissions. LEED certified buildings offer lower operating costs and improved health and safety for occupants.

For more information about recycling, please visit—

roseville.ca.us/recycle

Living Green

### Electronics Recycling—Five Days a Week

The Utility Exploration Center is offering free electronics recycling of televisions, computers and monitors, home and cell phones, digital cameras, printers, and more.

Just bring in your electronic equipment anytime during our regular hours: Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Friday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The center is located within the Martha Riley Community Library at 1501 Pleasant Grove Boulevard, Roseville. Money raised through the recycling program goes to support the center's environmental education programs.

Call 746-1550 or visit www.roseville.ca.us/explore.

# Recycling and Disposal Made Easy www.onebigbin.com



### Keeping Batteries Out of the Landfill

Did you know that Americans buy more than three billion dry-cell batteries each year? Those batteries offer a convenient power source for electronics, toys and other items we use daily, but they also add toxic heavy metals to our air and landfills. Battery recycling is required by law in California and Roseville makes it easy to comply by working with local businesses and schools to provide more than two dozen battery drop-off tubes around town. We also provide free doorstep pickup of all universal waste, and free household hazardous waste drop-off at the Western Placer Waste Management Authority's (WPWMA) Material Recovery Facility (MRF). There's no charge for any of the city's battery recycling services.

Visit www.roseville.ca.us/batteries.

To schedule a free universal waste pickup, call 774-5780.

#### **Going Beyond Recycling**

Recycling paper, plastics and metals is great, but sparing a tree's life or leaving natural resources in the ground is even better for the environment. Our Solid Waste Division is committed to reducing the amount of waste our city generates and has created a new web page full of great ideas for using less and leaving more for future generation.

 $\label{lem:visit} \textbf{Visit www.roseville.ca.} \textbf{us.beyondrecycling.}$ 



#### ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES

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Comments and suggestions are welcome—please send to the attention of Sean Bigley.