# ONME



WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE



From left to right: Lucas Campbell, Ken Lugo, Robert Guerrero, John Shannon, Bill Higgins and Gary Schreib

### **UPDATE**

## **New Water and Solid Waste Utility Rates Take Effect in August**

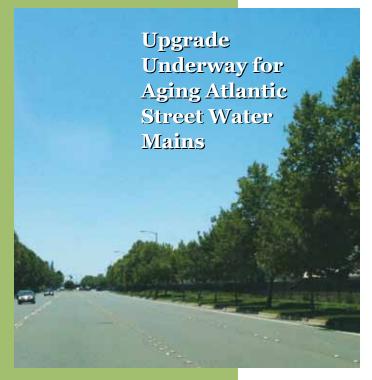
On Wednesday, June 1, 2011, the Roseville City Council approved a proposal to increase water and solid waste utility rates charged to customers. There were no proposed increases in wastewater utility rates (except for approximately 300 Sacramento Sanitation District customers that live in Roseville).

The new water utility rates will increase by approximately 9.5% in the August 2011 billing and 8.5% in the July 2012 billing. The solid waste utility rates will increase by approximately 1.5% in the August 2011 billing and 1.5% in the July 2012 billing.

For more detailed information on the approved utility rates, go to www.roseville.ca.us/eurates. They've been called the water cops by some, but it's simply not true. Our Water Efficiency Ambassadors are more educators promoting smart irrigation practices than enforcers of laws against water waste. Whether tipped off by an email or phone call, or cruising the city looking for puddle trouble, our Water Ambassadors are out to inform residents and businesses about repairing irrigation equipment or adopting practices that conserve water.

The Water Ambassadors have been on the streets for many years and have found that people wasting water typically have no idea they are doing so. They talk to residents and business owners or leave notices on doors alerting them to water runoff caused by overwatering or broken or leaking sprinkler heads and pipes. When they occasionally see someone spraying down a driveway or parking area instead of sweeping, leaving a hose running while washing the car, or otherwise wasting water, the Water Ambassadors stop and let the person know about water-wise ways of achieving the same result.

The city uses the Water Ambassadors as part of a long term water efficiency strategy and also to remain in compliance with our Urban Water Management Plan. So while the Water Ambassadors have the authority to write citations and fine water wasters, they rarely do so and only after repeated warnings and attempts to educate have failed.



In a few more years, the Atlantic Street water main will celebrate its 90th birthday, making it old enough to potentially join the 240,000 water mains that burst each year in our country. Though the line that runs from Yosemite Street to Wills Road has operated without any problems, the city is renovating it as part of its proactive maintenance program that replaces aging water and sewer lines before they break and cause costly spills.

Rather than dig up large sections of roadways, sidewalk and landscape areas to install the new water main, the city is taking advantage of an innovative method called slip lining that threads new 16-inch PVC fully restrained pipe into the existing 22-inch steel pipe. Using slip lining allows the city to avoid digging up the entire alignment of approximately 3,500-foot water main. A few open trenches will be required, including an insertion pit, a receiving pit and other tie-in points where the new main will tie-into the existing system. Approximately a 100-foot section of the existing 16-inch main is too shallow, so crews will need to lower this section of the main and will therefore install this section via open cut trenching. Overall the combination of open cut and slip lining methods allows the installation to occur with much lower impacts to the businesses and residents in the project vicinity.

The project is scheduled to take place this month and homes and businesses that get their water from the 22-inch Atlantic Street water main have already been moved to another parallel water main. Temporary water arrangements are currently underway to provide for the Caltrans yard water needs during the project duration.





# **Gardening Questions?**

Blue Thumb Bloggers Dish the Dirt on Water-Smart Gardening

If you're an avid gardener, you know how hard it can be to find answers to questions that relate to our hot-dry, cold-wet, valley-edge climate. And if you've every wished you had an accomplished landscape designer and a certified arborist and nursery professional standing by to take your questions, you're in luck. The Blue Thumb Blog at **www.BeWaterSmart.info** features CHERYL BUCKWALTER, an experienced residential landscape designer, and VICKY BARTISH, a certified arborist who holds advanced certification as a California Certified Nursery Professional. Both are Certified Landscape Water Auditors, as well, and both have lived and gardened right here in our region for many years.

Together the two tackle questions from people who want practical answers from a local perspective. They also publish a regular blog full of interesting information and answers to questions you may have wondered about for years.

- The Blue Thumb Blog is part of the Regional Water Authority's (RWA) BeWaterSmart.info
  website, which offers a wealth of additional information in the "Water-Smart Gardening" section.
  While you're on the site, make sure you check out the interactive database," Water-Wise Gardening in the
  Gold Country Region" at http://www.rwa.watersavingplants.com. The database lets you search for plants,
  view pictures and learn helpful details about beautiful, water-thrifty plants that grow well in our area.
- You can find links to the RWA site and others, along with information on water conservation programs
  that can help you make the switch to low-water-use landscaping, at www.roseville.ca.us/savewater.

# Coming This Fall: Native Salmon Swimming Freely to Spawning Grounds

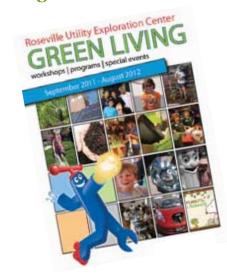
Native fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, whose ancestors have returned to Secret Ravine Creek for thousands of years, will soon be able to swim freely along their natural paths to spawning grounds. Currently, salmon returning in November and early December and steelhead trout that follow can make it only part way home before coming up against an unused concrete bridge and abandoned water pipes that create passage barriers. These barriers block upstream progress much of the year, trapping returning fish in pools below their spawning grounds.

This year, through funding from federal, state and regional partners, city crews will remove the water pipes and the concrete bridge and apron that blocks passage to about ten miles of stream above the area, which is located southeast of the intersection of Taylor Road and Roseville Parkway. The project will also help restore the delicate habitat required for eggs to hatch.

While making it easier for salmon and steelhead to spawn may not seem important, it's a vital piece of a bigger picture. The creek is designated as a critical habitat for native steelhead already on the threatened species list and the state's commercial and recreational salmon fishing industry depends on salmon making it to their freshwater spawning grounds. In addition, the genetic diversity our native salmon species contributes helps protect the greater Pacific salmon population, an important food source that has decreased dramatically in recent years.

The project is currently underway and must be completed by October 1, before the salmon start
heading home this fall. Interested groups can help, as well, by adopting a portion of Secret Ravine
Creek along the salmon and steelhead runs through our Adopt-A-Creek Program. To learn more,
visit www.roseville.ca.us/adoptacreek or call 774-5751.

# HOT OFF THE PRESS: 2011-2012 Green Living Guide



The Utility Exploration Center Green Living Guide for 2011-2012 is ready for download or pick up and it's packed with great new courses and old favorites. New for this year:

**Ask an Expert Day** from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. every second Saturday from September 2011 to June 2012, featuring experienced green gardening, irrigation, energy, water, and other experts.

**Green Gardener at Home Series** is a 10-week course designed for landscape professionals who maintain, install and design landscapes and want to gain a competitive advantage by learning the latest in green gardening principles.

# Tackling Those BIG Cleanup Jobs

If you're considering a major cleanup before the holidays, here are some suggestions on what to do with items that won't fit or can't be placed into your refuse container:

- Donate reusable items to thrift stores. Many nonprofit organizations are happy to pick up old clothes and resalable household items.
- Take recyclable items like cardboard, large pieces of expanded polystyrene foam (but not packing peanuts), newspapers, aluminum cans, and bottles to any of our five conveniently located drop-off sites.
- Rent a temporary dumpster from the city for light yard cleanup and household refuse.
   Fees vary by container size and include delivery and removal.
- Take advantage of our free pick-up service for certain household hazardous waste, including old TVs, computer equipment and other electronics; household and car batteries; fluorescent tubes and light bulbs; used motor and cooking oils, and other universal waste.
- Take toxic or dangerous household hazardous waste (paints and solvents, home and garden chemicals, pool chemicals, flammable liquids and gases, medical sharps, automotive fluids, etc.) to the Western Placer Waste Management Authority's HHW facility at the corner of Fiddyment Road and Athens Road in Roseville.
- Contract for temporary service with one of the haulers approved to operate within the City of Roseville.

For more information, including a list of approved haulers, bin rental fees, recycling drop-off center locations and household hazardous waste items included in our free pick-up service, visit the Solid Waste Division section at www.roseville.ca.us/eu or call 774-5780.

For information on the WPWMA HHW facility, visit www.wpwma.com or call 543-3960.

**Children's Cartoon Drawing** workshops in association with the Charles Schulz Museum's Peanuts Naturally Travelling Exhibit at the Center from February 2012 through April 2012.

We're bringing back popular workshops in gardening, landscape design and native California plants, irrigation, composting and vermicomposting, integrated pest management, holiday gift wrapping, plenty of children's arts and crafts programs, and more!

Download a copy from www.roseville.ca.us/explore or pick up a copy at any of the city's public counters or the Center, located at 1501 Pleasant Grove Boulevard. If you'd like to receive a copy by mail, call 746-1550.



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

