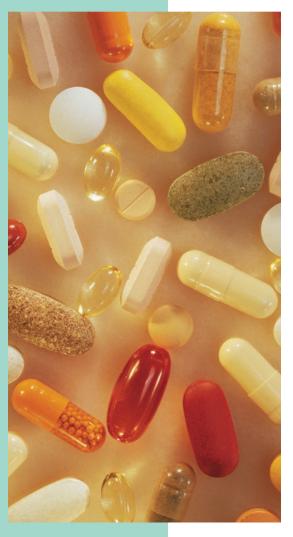
# ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES CITY OF ROSEVILLE August 2005

WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE

- Should I flush old medications down the toilet?
- A No, please don't. There are new recommendations for properly disposing of medication to protect our waterways from pharmaceutical pollution.



Most of us were taught to get rid of expired or unused medications by flushing them down the toilet. In recent years, scientists have discovered that's a bad idea for the fish and wildlife that live in and depend on our nation's waterways. Conventional wastewater treatment plants are not capable of removing all traces of medications such as antibiotics, hormones and steroids. Some of these compounds are not completely removed at the wastewater treatment plant and could end up in the local waterways. There is increasing evidence that these compounds are negatively affecting the reproductive capabilities of some fish, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates.

To further safeguard our environment, please consider the following alternatives to flushing expired medications and over-the-counter drugs down the toilet:

- 1 Take prescription and over-the-counter drugs to the Western Placer Waste Management Authority's Permanent Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility. The HHW facility is located at 3033 Fiddyment Road, Roseville and is open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 8 am 4:00 pm. For more information, call 916-645-5230 ext. 4.
- 2 Ask your pharmacy about their policy on disposal. In Roseville, pharmacies in national chain stores such as Wal-Mart, Target, and Long's Drugs accept expired medications for disposal. The pharmacies have programs in place for proper disposal and will accept medications from their own and other pharmacies. Costco also accepts expired medications from its members.
- 3 Seal medications tightly with their original childproof caps, tape them securely, and place them in your trash. In homes with small children and pets, it's a better idea to use option one or two above.

It's a good idea to go through your medicine cabinets once a year to clean out all expired medications. Consider a yearly trip to the HHW Facility by cleaning out medications at the same time you clean out household hazardous waste such as old paint, chemicals and fertilizers.



# **Utility Rate Adjustment Update**

Over 37,000 notices were sent in late May to advise our customers of the July 6th public hearing at which the City Council considered the proposed water, wastewater, and solid waste rate adjustments. Customers should begin to see any adopted rate changes with their October bills.

The higher water, wastewater treatment and solid waste collection rates were proposed to City Council to cover costs from rising oil prices, government man-

dated programs, increased employee costs, and state recycling mandates. Even with the rate increases, Roseville services remain among the most affordable in the region.

Final rate changes approved by Roseville City Council can be found on our web site at www.roseville.ca.us/eu.







# **Safeguard Against Summer Evaporation**

During summer hot spells, water vaporizes rapidly, carrying water from your lawns, plants, and pools into the atmosphere. With oceans and inland waterways already making ample contributions, you can feel good about conserving your water by placing it and keeping it right where you need it.

### For your pool . . .

- Use a properly fitted pool cover. The cover also lowers chemical costs and reduces heating bills by preventing night heat loss.
- Repair any swimming pool leaks. Even a small leak in a pool's equipment or structure represents substantial waste. In fact, an inch-a-day leak in a 15-by-30-foot pool can waste approximately 102,000 gallons per year!
- If heated, reduce your pool and spa water temperature. Warm water evaporates more quickly.
- Shut down unnecessary fountains and waterfalls. Introducing air into water (aeration) causes rapid water evaporation.
- Turn off the tile-spray device on your automatic pool cleaner. Splashing water invites evaporation losses and over spraying sends water out of the pool onto hot surfaces.

### For your lawn . . .

- Evaporation rates are highest at midday, so set your irrigation system to water early in the morning or after sunset.
- Raising your lawn mower height another 1/2 to 1 inch promotes water conservation and
  minimizes mowing. Grass shades itself and the soil, as it grows longer; reducing its water
  needs and growth rate. Experts recommend cutting grass to a three-inch height and
  removing no more than one-third of the leaf blade per mowing.

### For your plants . . .

Drip irrigation systems send water directly into the plant's root system. Using drip irrigation
minimizes evaporation, uses less water, and helps prevent weeds from growing.



Roseville now uses underwater divers to maintain its treated drinking water reservoirs. Instead of wasting water draining the treated water storage tanks for tank entry and wash down, the city hires a specialty underwater firm that cleans tanks using commercial divers, patented vacuuming gear, and sanitary practices to preserve the integrity of the water system. Dive cleaning costs about the same as traditional methods, but conserves water and only require tanks to be taken off line for a short period of time as opposed to draining, cleaning, re-disinfection and refilling for service.

# Illegal Dumping—VIOLATORS COST YOU \$\$\$

For the three busiest recycling months—November through January—the city hired part-time employees to help keep up with the normal recycling and trash dumped illegally at its recycling sites.

Besides paper products, people left behind sofas, mattresses, appliances, and assorted household goods. Even with the lower cost of part-time staff, the numbers were staggering for the three-month period:

Trash dumped illegally 26.71 tons
Cardboard picked up off the ground 87.56 tons
Total clean-up costs \$28,702.02

We're sure taxpayers agree that money spent on cleaning up careless and illegal messes could be better used elsewhere. You can help us eliminate the problem by carefully placing cardboard in the bins and reporting any illegal dumping you see.

Anyone hauling trash to the recycling site could just as easily take it to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at 3033 Fiddyment Road, Roseville. The MRF's nominal disposal fees are far less than the mandatory minimum fine of \$250 for any illegal dumping, and \$1,000 minimum fine for dumping more than a cubic yard.

## Wastewater Collection System Meets Proposed Standards

Rather than wait for new statewide waste discharge requirements (WDR), also known as Capacity Management Operations Maintenance (CMOM) standards, to be finalized by the California State Water Resources Board, the City of Roseville long ago upgraded its maintenance practices for its 500-mile sewage collection system. The city's system was recently cited as an example of a well-maintained system at a meeting on new standards aimed at minimizing sewage spills.

While the city is ahead of the curve on keeping wastewater flowing, we could still use residents' and businesses' help by keeping grease from animal fats out of the sewer system. Grease is the number one culprit behind clogged sewer pipes that back up and cause sewage spills.

# **Honoring our HEROES**

Each month our Customer Service Recognition Committee selects an employee to receive the department's Honoring Excellence and Rewarding Outstanding Employees (HEROE) award.

In April, **Steve Bizallion** was selected for his out-of-the-ordinary efforts that resolved a problem on the compres-



sors of the city transit system's natural gas station. After working a full shift as plant and equipment mechanic at the Dry Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, Steve researched the gas station problem and made the necessary repairs without interrupting the transit system's operations.

Tony Owens was selected in May for taking the initiative to assist a contractor with traffic control and educate



and crew on proper safety measures. Tony's actions exemplify taking to heart his role as Engineering Assistant for the EU Engineering Department by creating a safer environment for everyone-today and in the future.



If there's an Environmental Utilities
Department employee who has provided
you with outstanding service, we'd love to
hear about it. Please call us at 774-5770 to
nominate the employee for recognition as
our department's monthly HEROE.



TODAY is published for Roseville's residents by the Environmental Utilities Department of the City of Roseville. @2005.

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

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