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Citrus Heights Resident Helps Neighbors Save

Neighbors help neighbors use less water, or that's how Jerry Roach sees it after discovering that his neighborhood uses more water than most. The Citrus Heights resident has embraced outdoor water conservation and sees a nice reduction in his water bill, while still enjoying a beautiful lawn and yard. He's happy to share the secrets of his success with his neighbors so that they can save water and money too.

Jerry began with focusing on his outdoor irrigation system. "I think most of us are over-watering," he says. "I experimented with cutting back and still have a nice green lawn and well-watered plants."

In fact, outdoor irrigation makes up more than 65 percent of a household's yearly use; of that, 30 percent can be lost due to over-watering or evaporation.

Jerry adjusts the timers for his irrigation system seasonally, making sure it turns on in the morning (not too early, so that he can see if any of the heads are broken). How much water is too much? One clue is if water is running off to the street instead of soaking into the ground. For residents with steep driveways, Jerry recommends watering for less time but more frequently, to avoid runoff.

The biggest water hog, though, is a broken irrigation system, so Jerry has his professionally tuned-up once a year.

If you want to reduce your outdoor water use, what's a good way to get started? Jerry recently took the Blue Thumb Pledge (BeWaterSmart.info) which has some great tips on easy ways to conserve every day, as well as fun prizes to win. For more conservation tips, visit chwd.org/conservation.



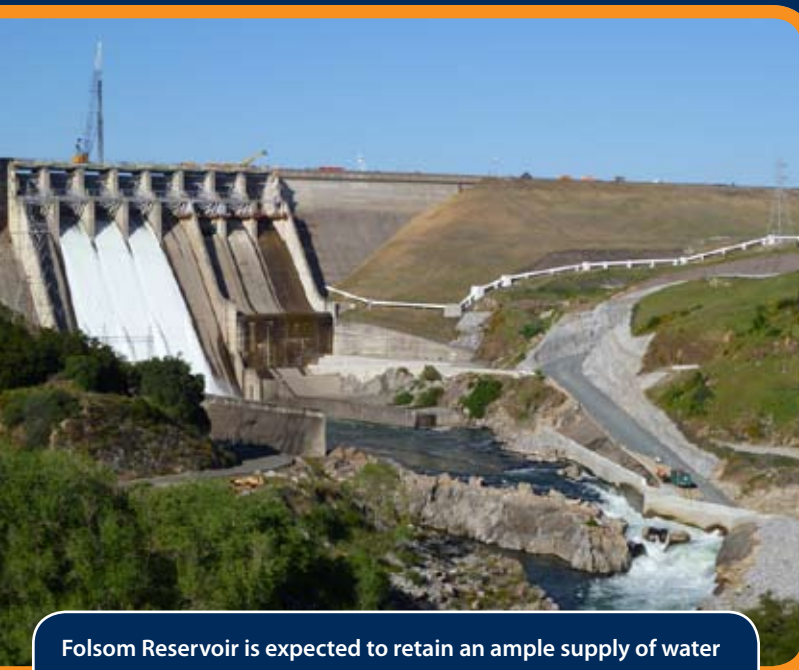
Jerry Roach wears his Blue Thumb gloves as he inspects a sprinkler head.

Take the Blue Thumb Pledge!

Sacramento-area residents are saving water and money (and winning fun prizes). You can too, by taking the Blue Thumb Pledge at BeWaterSmart.info!

What's involved? Pick five actions you can do:

- Reduce each irrigation cycle by 2 minutes
- Water your yard in the morning or at night
- Add 2-3 inches of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation
- Quickly repair leaks and broken sprinkler heads
- Install a water-efficient drip irrigation system
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean pavement
- Use an auto shut-off nozzle on your hose
- Adjust sprinklers to prevent overspray and runoff
- Plant low-water use trees and plants



Folsom Reservoir is expected to retain an ample supply of water this year thanks to plenty of snowfall in the Sierras this winter.

2011 Water Supply: Back on Track

Thanks to Mother Nature and abundant snowfall in the Sierras this winter, we forecast a “normal” water supply this year and expect to receive a sufficient water supply from Folsom Reservoir.

However, we all know Mother Nature can be fickle, so it’s good practice to continue to use water efficiently. Kudos to our customers who continue to use less water year after year, in part as a result of the nearly 3,000 water-efficient toilets installed since 1999. It’s making a difference – to the water supply and customers’ wallets! If you have an older toilet (that uses more than 1.6 gallons/flush), find out more about our toilet rebate program at chwd.org/rebates.

SAVE WITH REBATES

Replace your old toilet with an ultra-low-flush or high-efficiency toilet (that uses 1.6 gallons/flush or less) and permanently reduce your lavatory water usage by more than half. You may be eligible for a \$75 rebate as part of CHWD’s conservation program, in cooperation with the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and the Regional Water Authority. Rebates are subject to available funding, so check with CHWD before replacing your toilet.

Replace your clothes washing machine with a high-efficiency washer. CHWD is participating in a cooperative washing machine rebate program with SMUD, the local electricity supplier. You may be eligible for a \$50 rebate from CHWD on top of rebates of up to \$200 offered by SMUD to their customers with electric water heaters.

For more information, visit chwd.org/rebates.

Attend the 2012 Budget and Rate Workshop this Fall

To keep ratepayers informed of the proposed budget and charges for water service in 2012, the Citrus Heights Water District Board of Directors will be holding a public workshop in September and a public hearing in November. The workshop is held during a District Board meeting and provides the opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide input on District programs and financial plans. Both meetings will be held at the District office at 6230 Sylvan Road, Citrus Heights. Please join us!

WORKSHOP

Tuesday, September 13
6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, November 8
6:30 p.m.

Who’s a Conservation Kid? Our 15th Annual Water Conservation Poster Contest Winners!

Another year of fierce competition... with 795 submittals from students in grades 4, 5 and 6 to our annual water awareness poster contest, we selected this year’s winners, who illustrated the theme “How I’m A Conservation Kid.” The winner receives a \$100 U.S. savings bond, each runner-up receives a \$50 U.S. savings bond and the teachers receive a \$100 check for their class. Congratulations!

- 1st place: **Michael Kinda** from Erin Hodge’s 5th grade class at Skycrest Elementary
- Runner-up: **Anita Dubinetskaya** from Wayne Lang’s 4th grade class at Skycrest Elementary
- Runner-up: **Olga Kuzyk** from Brenda Kastl’s 5th grade class at Skycrest Elementary



Conservation Kid poster contest winners (from left to right): Olga Kuzyk, Anita Dubinetskaya, and Michael Kinda

Lonnie Moore Looks Back Over 31 Years at CHWD

If you've ever had a water emergency like a busted water pipe or broken fire hydrant, chances are you've met CHWD Water Distribution Specialist Lonnie Moore, who was typically first to the scene. After more than 31 years of service, Lonnie is retiring, replaced by Tim Cutler - who knows he has big boots to fill! In between his final field calls and before beginning his new career as full-time grandpa, we were able to talk to Lonnie about his years of service with the District.

Q: How has the District changed over three decades?

LM: When I started here, we had our shop and a 300-square-foot office. Now we have a new shop and office building. We have more equipment to do the job than we ever had before, which makes the job easier and go faster. Computers make for less administrative work - and keep me from writing something on a piece of paper and carrying it around and losing it!

Q: What was the most memorable call you went out on?

LM: Digging 7 feet to a water main in the rain to make a repair by hand...in the good old days. There were three of us out there for six hours doing it!

Q: What was your favorite part of the job and what will you miss most?

LM: It was great meeting the customers; some I've worked with for years. I'll miss the people I've worked with; many of us have been here for 20 years...it's a real good group to work with.



Tim Cutler (left) has replaced Lonnie Moore (right) as CHWD's Water Distribution Specialist.



Thank You for Your Service!

Debbie Burns retired in May after more than 10 years with CHWD in several positions, including Accounts Payable/Human Resources Specialist. She provided outstanding service to the District's customers and to her fellow employees, and has received much recognition and gratitude over the years from customers that benefited from her efforts on their behalf. Debbie will be greatly missed! Lisa Smoot is assuming Debbie's duties.

Debbie Burns (left) celebrates at her retirement party with replacement Lisa Smoot (right).



Inside:

- Take the Blue Thumb Pledge
- 2011 Water Supply Update
- 2012 Budget and Rate Workshop
- Water Conservation Poster Contest Winners

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ECRWSS

*Postal Customer and Water Consumer in Citrus Heights
Water District*

Top Tips for Summer Water Savings

- 1. Get over over-watering.** Did you know that over-watering, not under-watering, is the main culprit of plant loss? You may be using 30 percent more water than you really need. Choose drought-resistant plants to minimize water needs.
- 2. Tune up your turf.** Adjust your irrigation timers to water for shorter, more frequent intervals, so that the water soaks into the ground instead of running off your landscape. Set the system to water between late evening and early morning hours to minimize evaporation.
- 3. Mow your lawn longer.** Keeping your lawn a little longer (about 3 inches high) during summer months will keep it healthier. Longer blades keep the soil shaded and damp longer. This is also the best time to ditch the bag and mulch your lawnmower clippings, providing shade and nutrients to the soil.
- 4. Lick the leaks.** Leaks cost you money. The most common sources of water waste are running toilets and broken sprinkler heads, but leaks can also be found in your pool, spa, fountain or pond. Please repair leaks immediately!

For more tips, visit chwd.org/conservation.



Groundcovers such as aster are drought tolerant and provide colorful blooms – and butterflies love them too.