Because most water use occurs out of sight, we tend to think we use less water than we actually do. For example, sprinklers go off when we are sleeping and water from showers doesn’t pile up, it disappears down the drain. The same goes for washing machines and toilets. Would you be surprised to learn that, on average, residents of West Sacramento used around 28,000 gallons of water in July? It’s true! And most of that water came from sprinklers running longer than needed. When it starts warming up again, take a look at your sprinkler schedule. If the runtimes are more than 10 minutes, consider reducing the runtime and adding additional start times. Or, better yet, apply for a free Water Wise House Call. We’ll help you find a more efficient way to keep your landscape growing and lower your water bill. For more information visit www.cityofwestsacramento.org/water or call at 916-617-4590.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2020

This free event will feature vendors of locally made arts, crafts, and food; City and local services information tables; interactive activities such as egg hunts for the kids, a bounce house, and face painting; and a free raffle. Drewski’s food truck will be offering food for sale and DJ Justin will provide a music soundtrack for the day’s events!

Please join our celebration on Saturday, April 11th from 10am to 1pm at Bryte Park (1276 Carrie Street, West Sacramento). For more information, visit: WestSacRecycles.org or call (916) 617-4590.

While we all know about air pollution from car exhaust, it’s important to know that pollution can also come from vehicle maintenance. Vehicle maintenance pollution can enter the storm drain system, and eventually local waterways, when storm runoff carries automotive toxins like oil, grease and anti-freeze off your driveway and into storm drains. Always use caution when taking on any vehicle maintenance yourself and be sure to follow these safety guidelines:

USE ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS:
- **Buy Recycled** – Whenever possible, buy re-fined motor oil.
- **Try Less Toxic** – Search for alternatives to conventional anti-freeze, which is made from the extremely toxic chemical ethylene glycol. For example, you can buy anti-freeze made from propylene glycol, which has a lower freezing point, a higher boiling point, and lasts longer than ethylene glycol.

CLEAN UP RESPONSIBLY:
- **Avoid Spills** – Drain your radiator into a drain pan to prevent spilling into the street and into the storm drain.
- **Dispose Properly** – Take your used oil, oil filters, and anti-freeze to your local hazardous waste collection center. You may also recycle your motor oil and oil filter curbside through Waste Management. Call 866-844-1508 for more information and to order an oil collection jug.

DIRTY CAR? CONSIDER YOUR OPTIONS:

**If going to a car wash…**
- Wash your vehicle at a car wash that reclaims wash water. This will prevent oil, grease and toxic fluids from washing into the street and the storm drain system.

**If you’re going to do it yourself…**
- Use soaps, cleaners and detergents that are labeled phosphate-free or biodegradable. Safest products are vegetable based or citrus-based soaps.
- Wash your car where the water can soak into grass or gravel or can be diverted to nearby landscaping, away from the street and storm drains.
Q: Can I put large green waste out for my curbside bulky waste pick up appointment?

A: Yes. Large green waste, such as tree trunks, branches, and leaves are allowed in your curbside bulky pick up, but with certain restrictions. Tree trunks and branches may not weigh more than fifty (50) pounds and must have a diameter of not more than two (2) feet and a length of not more than six (6) ft in its longest dimension. Please cut tree trunks into smaller dimensions for ease of transportation and employee safety. Loose leaves need to be bagged (paper or compostable bags only) or place them loose in your organics cart for regular pick up.

Bulky pick up appointments may include 4 cubic yards of loose bulky items that would not fit in your residential carts, plus (3) additional large items, e.g. appliances and furniture, that can be lifted by 2 people. Any bulky pick up over 4 cubic yards may result in a charge.

CURBY’S CORNER

Throwing food away not only wastes food, but it also wastes money, water, labor, nutrients and fuel. To make the most of your food and reduce waste, follow these simple tips:

- Plan your meals in advance and use a shopping list.
- Freeze excess fresh and prepared foods in usable portions to eat later. For example, if only half of a loaf of bread will be eaten at a meal, slice and freeze the rest of the loaf to re-heat and eat later. Same goes for soups, stews, fresh berries, even scrambled eggs.
- Have wilted vegetables? Give them new vitality by soaking them in ice water for 10 to 15 minutes before use.
- Transform left-overs and over-cooked veggies by using them to make soup stock or sauces for your next meal.
- Look up the true meaning of the date on your food packaging. Refrigerated pasteurized milk is produced to remain consumable for 1 week past its listed sell by date, while refrigerated fresh eggs should remain consumer safe a minimum of 3 weeks after the sell by date listed on the carton.
- Bought too much of something or have a garden or fruit tree producing more than you can eat? Share excess food with co-workers and friends or post these items to Olio. Olio is a food sharing app where you can find or give away free food! Visit Olio.com for more information.
- If you still have food scraps or spoiled food put them in your organics cart. West Sacramento residents can turn food waste into compost by putting food scraps and yard waste in the same organics brown lid cart. To learn more about organic recycling, visit WestSacRecycles.org.
- Love these tips and want more? Visit SaveTheFood.org for meal planning and food storage tips, recipes and a community discussion board all full of great ideas to eliminate food waste.