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WaterLines

April 2010

www.MNWD.com

Local Residents Talking Conservation

Citizens' Advisory Committee engages community in water discussion

You should not be surprised if your next chat with a neighbor involves sprinkler settings, or if you bump into friends and they want to talk about drought-tolerant plants. All across the Moulton Niguel Water District's service area, people are talking about water – and helping each other learn how to use less. A key reason for this increased awareness about



The MNWD Citizens' Advisory Committee is active in the community answering the questions and promoting wise water use.

water is the District's new Citizens' Advisory Committee, a group of community volunteers that helps spread the word about conservation, water quality and other water-related issues.

Nearly 30 volunteer customers from across the District submitted applications to become part of this year's team, and over the past few months they have been receiving briefings on MNWD's mission, infrastructure and the issues we are facing, including our response to the ongoing statewide water shortage. Committee

members have recently taken their knowledge into the community, and they are already making a difference. They have engaged their friends and neighbors in a community-wide conversation about water, have answered questions and are helping others take steps to become more efficient with our resources.

A Strong Voice for Our Customers

The Committee's primary function is to serve as an extension of MNWD in the community, helping the District reach as many people as possible with the information they need to become water-wise. The group also serves as an important sounding board, ensuring our Directors hear directly from our customers as they consider various policies and procedures.

The Citizens' Advisory Committee plays an important role in ensuring MNWD continues to meet our customers' water needs. However, you do not have to be a committee member to make an impact and start conserving. Visit www.MNWD.com to learn more about water conservation, and start helping us spread the word today!

Water Conservation Update

Since July 1, MNWD customers have conserved

10.6 %

compared to this time last year.

We are **required** to conserve

20%

Are you doing all that you can?

Conservation Tip

Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it is closely clipped.

For more easy water-saving tips, visit www.MNWD.com or call (949) 831-2500.

Water Awareness Day

Join MNWD and your neighbors for a fun family event

May is Water Awareness Month, and this year MNWD has teamed with the Santa Margarita Water District for a water-wise celebration that will be fun for the whole family! Mark your calendars for May 1 for our Water Awareness Day, and get ready for exciting, water-related activities, including:

- 🔹 Arts & crafts
- 🔹 Community exhibitors
- 🔹 Conservation education
- 🔹 District equipment
- 🔹 Face painting
- 🔹 Firefighters & fire engine
- 🔹 Fossil displays
- 🔹 Music
- 🔹 California-Friendly plant demonstrations

Free hotdogs, popcorn, soda and snow cones will be served, so bring the family and make a day of it!

**Used Less Water
Last Month?**

**If so, bring your
latest water bill to
win great prizes.**



Water Awareness Day Family Fun Day at Oso Reservoir

When: Saturday, May 1
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Where: Upper Oso Reservoir
off Los Alisos Blvd. in Rancho Santa Margarita (see map)

All activities and food are free for the whole family!



Directions to Oso Reservoir:

From the 5 Freeway, exit Alicia Pkwy. and head east. After approximately five miles, turn left on Santa Margarita Pkwy. Turn right on Melinda Rd. and follow it approximately 1.5 miles (Melinda turns into Los Alisos Blvd.). Turn right to Oso Reservoir.





Spring Sprinkler Solutions

Spring is the perfect time each year to give your sprinkler system a tune-up. Follow these five easy steps to ensure you are as water-efficient as possible:

- 1. Tune your timer.** Make sure your timer is set to match MNWD's irrigation schedule (see back page for schedule), since the default setting typically waters every day.
- 2. Replace the battery.** Without a reliable back-up power source, a power failure could lead to overwatering.
- 3. Check for problems.** Inspect each valve and look for wet spots that might indicate a leaky pipe.
- 4. Replace any broken sprinklers.** Make sure to use the same brand and model as the other sprinklers for optimum efficiency, and straighten the heads so they sit perpendicular to the soil.
- 5. Adjust the spray.** Turn the small screw atop each sprinkler to make sure there is no overlap and that you're not watering patios and sidewalks.

California-Friendly Landscape Workshops

Please join us for one of our FREE landscape workshops to learn the California-Friendly way to a beautiful landscape that uses less water and saves you money.

You'll learn:

- How to pick the right plants
- How to manage your sprinkler system for efficient irrigation
- The proper way to fertilize and maintain your water-wise garden

**Saturday, April 10 and May 22
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

MNWD Operations Facility
26161 Gordon Rd., Laguna Hills

**Wednesday, April 21 and May 5 & 19
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

MNWD Headquarters
27500 La Paz Rd., Laguna Niguel

COST: Free

These workshops include refreshments. Space is limited and the reservations fill quickly. For more information or to RSVP, please call (949) 831-2500.

Mission Viejo Animal Services Center now irrigating with recycled water



In addition to saving local pets, the Mission Viejo Animal Services Center is now also saving more than 10 million gallons of drinking water each year. Thanks to a partnership between MNWD, the Santa Margarita Water District and the City of Mission Viejo, the Center is now irrigating its landscaping with recycled water, freeing precious drinking water that would otherwise be used for the same purpose.

This effort represents the 25th time in the past year MNWD has worked with local municipalities and large users to convert major irrigation systems to recycled water. In all, approximately 74 million gallons of drinking water has been saved in the process – for our customers and their pets.



Help Us Help You!

MNWD is always looking for ways to better serve our customers. Making sure we have up-to-date contact information for everyone in our service area will allow the District to more effectively communicate with our customers, especially during times of emergency. Please take a minute and complete the form below, and return it with your next payment.

Thank you for helping us help you!

Customer Name: _____

Account No.: _____

Service Address: _____

Billing Address (If Different than the Service Address): _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

**All information will be kept confidential. Yes, you can email me with important emergency news.*

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For meeting dates and agendas, visit www.MNWD.com.

WaterLines is a monthly publication to keep water users in the Moulton Niguel Water District informed about water-related issues and events. Please send any comments or suggestions to MNWD, 27500 La Paz Road, Laguna Niguel, CA, 92677, or call us at (949) 831-2500. www.MNWD.com.

Level 2 "Water Alert" Irrigation Schedule

Residential

Aliso Viejo and Mission Viejo
Monday and Thursday, and Saturday or Sunday

Dana Point, Laguna Hills and Laguna Niguel
Tuesday and Friday, and Saturday or Sunday

Commercial

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

MNWD's Water Conservation Program prohibits watering between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Recycled water users are exempt from this schedule.

**Conserve Today: Save Water. Save Money.
Protect the Environment.**