

Conservation News

Environmental News and Information from the City of Melbourne Utilities Department



Celebrate National Drinking Water Week with showerhead exchange

To celebrate National Drinking Water Week, the City of Melbourne is inviting water customers to come to Melbourne Square Mall on May 8 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the center court area near the men's Dillard's department store. But don't come empty-handed. Bring your old showerhead and we'll replace it with a new one free of charge.

The Showerhead Exchange is being held during National Drinking Water Week, which is observed the first week of May. This observance was declared in 1988 by a joint congressional resolution and signed by then President

Ronald Reagan.

The exchange is being conducted by Melbourne and the other water utilities in Brevard County, including Cocoa, Palm Bay, Titusville and Brevard County Water Resources.

If you can't make it to Melbourne Square Mall on May 8, you can also bring your old showerhead to Merritt Square Mall on Wed., May 7 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. The location will be near the food court entrance and Picadilly's.

There will also be an exchange held in Titusville for north/central county customers during the week.

The offer is only good for customers who are replacing old (pre-1994)

high-water using showerheads. Units made from 1980-1994 use between three and four gallons per minute (gpm). Pre-1980 models use between five and eight gpm. New showerheads only use 2.5 gpm.

Replacing existing low-flow showerheads does not qualify. However, all the showerheads in your home can be replaced if they are all the old high-water using models.



Water conservation video for students in production

You may not realize it, but a garden hose can pour out 600 gallons of water in an hour. A 20-minute shower with an older, water-guzzling showerhead can use 160 gallons, while a five-minute shower with a water-conserving showerhead uses only 12.5 gallons of water.

These are just a few of the many interesting water conservation facts that will be presented in an upcoming video entitled, "Conserving Water on the Space Coast."

The City of Melbourne Environmental Community Outreach Division is working with the water utilities from the cities of Cocoa, Palm Bay



Johnny Lascha of CCVideo Productions shoots video footage. The scene depicts teenager throwing laundry into hamper that could have been worn again, thus saving water by generating less laundry.

and Titusville, along with Brevard County Water Resources, to produce a video targeted to the middle-school age group to promote water conservation.

In a joint-funding arrange-

ment between the utilities, being cost-shared by the St. Johns River Water Management District, the video is expected to be completed this summer.

The video will be used at school programs throughout the county and will be placed in libraries and will be shown on Space Coast Government TV.

This fast-paced production will begin and end with a music

video type of format. While it will provide many useful water conservation ideas, it will also give information on water sources and treatment methods in Brevard County.

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Water Management District awards grant to assist rebate funding

Melbourne's popular toilet retrofit rebate program is now in its sixth year. To support the program and provide for additional toilet



replacements, the St. Johns River Water Management District has recently awarded \$5,000 in cost-share funds.

Residential customers who receive a water bill directly from the City can receive a one-time rebate of \$50 for replacing their old pre-1995 toilet with a new water-conserving toilet that uses only 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf).

Only one rebate is available per household or customer and the toilet must have been purchased in the last year to qualify.

Since the program began, 762 rebates have been provided, which translates to a savings of more than 10 million gallons of water per year. For a family of four replacing a typical 1970's model toilet that uses 5.0 gpf, the water savings would be 68 gallons per day, or 2,100 gallons per month.

Customers can review the rules of the program and obtain a rebate application from the City's web site at www.melbourneflorida.org/watercon/retrofit.htm or call 674-5761 and request a rebate application packet.

April phone book recycling

New phone books will begin arriving in April. They cannot be placed in your curbside bin for recycling, however, there are three designated drop-off locations in Melbourne where they will be collected for recycling. These include:

- North Melbourne — Melbourne Fire Station #77, at 3271 N. Wickham Road just south of B.C.C.
- Central Melbourne — Melbourne Auditorium at 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd.
- South Melbourne — Melbourne Fire Station #75 at 151 E. University Blvd.

Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Collection Events scheduled

It's time to gather all your old empty or not-to-be used containers of household hazardous waste, along with any junk electronic equipment, known as e-scrap, that you have laying around and bring them to the Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Collection Event.

Sponsored by Brevard County, there are two dates and locations scheduled this spring to accept these materials.

A collection will be held on Saturday, March 29, at Lowe's Home Improvement Store at 2150 Minton Road in West Melbourne from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A collection will also take place on Saturday, April 5 at Lowe's in Rockledge, 3790 South Fiske Boulevard, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Examples of household hazardous waste include:

- Used motor oil
- Pool chemicals
- Rechargeable batteries

- Car batteries
- Lawn and garden chemicals
- Used oil filters
- Paint thinners
- Brake fluid
- Solvents

E-scrap includes:

- Computers (CPUs)
- Televisions
- Laptops
- Monitors
- Scanners
- Printers

Residents can drop off no more than five household electronic items.

The collection is free to Brevard County residents. For more information call 635-7954. Businesses must contact U.S. Liquids at 1-800-624-5302, ext. 231 for disposal cost information.

Events held during February reach out to Melbourne customers of all ages

February was a month devoted to outreach to Melbourne's utility customers, with hundreds of citizens being reached during numerous popular events.



Eugene Harrison, water distribution foreman, explains how a fire hydrant works to a group of students from Palm Bay High School participating in High School Government Day.

The third annual Florida Friendly Landscape Seminar was held Feb. 15 with the largest turnout ever, as 502 people learned about planting and irrigation in a water-efficient manner.

Other public events during the month included the Home & Garden Show at the Melbourne Auditorium where water conservation was featured, and the Better Living Expo at Melbourne Square Mall where staff from water production, water reclamation, water conservation and recycling/solid waste met with hundreds of visitors during the weekend-long show.

Finally, the annual High School Government Day was held on Feb. 21 where students from schools throughout the area learned about the various aspects of Melbourne's utilities and streets and stormwater management operations.