



ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

3001 BLUME DRIVE, ROSSMOOR, CA 90720 / (562) 430-3707 / FAX (562) 431-3710

Rossmoor CSD News



VISIT US ON THE WEB

www.rossmoor-csd.org

E-mail: rcsd@rossmoor-csd.org

ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Everywhere and everyday there is talk about being "green". Business is talking about it. Government is talking about it. Conservation groups are talking about it. *The question is: What is everyone doing about it?*

The District is currently conducting an energy audit with Southern California Edison to determine how best to cut the use of electricity, while saving money at the same time. Some solutions are easy and inexpensive; others are not. On the simple side are installing energy efficient light fixtures, programmable thermostats, and new window shading treatments. More challenging ideas like solar energy-powered buildings and facilities come with a higher price tag.

The audit will provide the District with the facts and figures to decide which options are feasible. Systems such as solar energy panels on buildings require a good deal of investigation. On the plus side, *the State of California provides rebates for solar energy.* These rebates offset a portion of the capital costs. Another thing to consider is whether a roof has sufficient life to make such an installation feasible. If not, the cost of a new roof must be factored in.

Climate also needs to be considered. In coastal communities such as Rossmoor, fog,

overcast, and rainy days strongly influence the effectiveness of solar power. Nevertheless, this is an option which should be evaluated.

Water conservation requires balancing need versus saving water. Irrigation is the District's highest use of water. Maintaining green, attractive parks is a community and a District priority. *Another thing to consider is the amount of water reduction the landscape can actually tolerate.* The replacement of our existing irrigation controllers with smart controllers is presently underway. *Smart controllers use satellite data* which monitors temperature, humidity, hours of daylight and other environmental factors. This data translates into a watering cycle that applies the appropriate amount of water to keep the grass green and attractive, while avoiding water waste. Other things the District will evaluate is the possible replacement of our existing bathroom fixtures with low flow devices, adjusting sprinkler head locations to maximize coverage without watering concrete, and replacing manual faucets with automatic turnoff capabilities.

Resource conservation is never an immediate results campaign, but rather a program of ongoing study and earnest evaluation of sensible solutions. Whether on a



OCTOBER 2008
ISSUE IV

"CLICK"

- www.rossmoor-csd.org
- www.rossmoor-rha.org
- <http://legov.ocgov.com>
- www.oclafco.org

For more info.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ENERGY & WATER RESOURCE CONSERVATION	1
HENRY'S DESK	1
THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM	2
THE OTHER "ROOT" OF THE PROBLEM	2
QUARTERLY QUOTE	3
HONEST ABE	3
WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION	3
HOLIDAY RECIPE	3
POETRY CORNER	4

cost-benefit basis or a contributory benefit to the community in general, *we must all do what we can to maintain the best quality of life possible for future generations. The time is now.*

-Henry Taboada

RCSD Board of Directors

President
Shawn Wilson
1st Vice President
Alfred Coletta
2nd Vice President
Erwin Anisman
Director
Mark Nitikman
Director
Joel Rattner



STAFF

General Manager
Henry Taboada
Administrative Assistant
Elizabeth Deering
Accountant/Bookkeeper
Kathleen Bell
General Clerk
Jo Rappleye
Tree Consultant
C.J. Crockett
Park Superintendent
Omero Perez
Maintenance
Larry Pace
Recreation Coordinator
Sean Isaacson
Recreation Leader
Marisa Baeza

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **THE ESSENCE OF YOGA:** Mon. Evenings & Wed. Mornings in Rush Park East Room. Contact Holly Hill at 760.613.8778 or hollysyoga@yahoo.com
- **YOGA :** Tues/Thurs at Rush Park- Call the Los Altos YMCA at 562.596.3394 for further info.
- **TENNIS LESSONS:** Contact Fernando Molina at 562.-209-3648. OR Mike Moorewood at 562-225-6931
- **STREET SWEEPING:** 1st & 3rd Mondays of each Month. No StreetParking from 8 am-4:30pm.





From Henry's Desk



Our Tree Consultant Says...

***"Did you know...
the Community
of Rossmoor's
urban forest
is valued at
more than
\$16,000,000?"***



LEASH YOUR DOG In Rossmoor's Parks. Owners of unleashed dogs will be cited.



**FOR INFO. ON SO CAL
OFF LEASH AREAS**

GO TO:

www.hautedogs.org/offleash.html

The business of the District is going on as usual for this time of year. A final Budget was adopted by the Board in August. The budget is balanced with a modest surplus being forecast. The question which hung over the budget planning process was the possible effect of the state budget crisis on the County, and ultimately the District. Proposition 1A, which protects raids on local property tax by the State, contains a loophole which was not used this year as a means to solve at least a portion of the State's budget shortfall. The Governor has approved the State budget, but the State's fiscal problems were not solved, only pushed forward to next year.

In spite of the economy's downturn, the District's investment portfolio continues to accrue a high rate of return, coupled with safety and liquidity. Reserves are a primary source of funds for funding capital projects such as those described above. These funds are also a hedge against unforeseen future costs or budget cuts.

The District's budget contains a number of capital projects for the coming year. The replacement of the deteriorated wooden patio cover at the Rossmoor Park Community Center has been removed and the RCSD Board of Directors has approved its replacement with a metal canopy, which is both attractive and functional. Improvements to the Rush Park Auditorium are also budgeted and include replacement of the central air conditioner, lighting, sound system, and replacement of 200 chairs. Also planned are upgrades to the existing irrigation systems at both Rossmoor and Rush Parks, with the addition of smart controller water saving devices.

CR&R Annual Large Item
Pickup takes place on the last
Saturday of October (25th) at
Rossmoor Park.

-Henry Taboada,
RCSD General Manager

**For GRAFFITI Removal
call the County's
Graffiti Hotline at
(714) 834-3400**

THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM (Who's Tree Is It Anyway?)



One of the more interesting topics RCSD staff deals with on a daily basis; is parkway trees. Resident viewpoints regarding Rossmoor's parkway trees vary from the tree lover, who is passionate about protecting our urban forest, to those who see trees as a nuisance, vowing to kill any tree planted in their parkway. The latter group is in the minority since 95% of suitable planting sites have a parkway tree. However, the question remains, *whose tree is it?*

First the parkway is that area between the curb and the sidewalk. Technically, it is the property of the homeowner. The County, however, has an easement that is tantamount to a property right to the parkway. Therefore, any trees which are

planted in the parkway are the property of the County. Rossmoor is somewhat unique in that, by a vote of the people, the Rossmoor Community Services District has been given the right and responsibility for the management and the care and planting of parkway trees. District Policy No. 3080 sets forth the manner and methods for planting, caring, and removal of parkway trees.

Controversy most often occurs when a resident refuses to accept a tree planting or wants a healthy tree removed. In the latter case, the policy is quite explicit on valid reasons under which a tree may be removed. Not wanting an existing tree isn't considered a valid reason; this also applies to not wanting a new tree planted. Because parkway trees are considered a community asset, not an individual homeowner's asset, the District uses reasonable means to

meet both collective and individual needs. Failing to come to agreement on the appropriate course of action can and has led to enforcement of the policy, but only in extreme and rare instances.

For a copy of the District's policy, contact the RCSD office and one will be sent to you. The services of the District's tree consultant are available for evaluating a particular tree issue. Please keep in mind that more often than not, what makes Rossmoor unique from neighboring communities is the trees; not to mention the cleaner and cooler air we breathe because of them.

-Henry Taboada

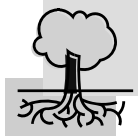


The Other “ROOT” of the Problem...



A more specific issue with parkway trees, and in one case, median trees, is residential sewer backups and other damage from tree roots. In the latter case, a homeowner has a right to remove tree roots which are causing, or may cause, damage to property up to the sidewalk. *This is purely a homeowner responsibility* and neither the County nor the District can assist with these removals.

connection between the home and the main sewer line, usually located underneath the street. *Removing tree roots from sewer laterals is another homeowner responsibility.* Failure to properly maintain these laterals can cause serious damage to private property.



The Rossmoor/Los Alamitos Sewer District maintains the **main sewer lines** in Rossmoor. They have had great

success with the use of, and also recommend **ROOTX**, a *non-toxic* chemical which dissolves tree roots in sewer pipes. An annual application of the product by a licensed plumbing contractor during sewer cleanout, will more than likely eliminate backups due to tree roots. Another option is for the homeowner to apply the product themselves after carefully reading the instructions.

For more information, contact the Sewer District at **562.431.2223**.



All my life I have tried to pluck a thistle and plant a flower wherever the flower would grow in thought and mind.

ABRAHAM
-LINCOLN-

BOARD MEETINGS : 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Rush Park Auditorium. Also aired on LATV3. Agenda is published on the RCSD Website and copies of these and other public records are available upon request.

WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION

- Eliminate any sources of standing water you find at home, the work place and anywhere else you spend time
 - Buckets, flower pot saucers and tarps
 - Anything that can hold water for a week can produce mosquitoes
 - Yard drains frequently have sumps that hold more than enough water
- Report any source of standing water that cannot be eliminated to OCVCD
 - Abandoned homes with out of service pools present real problems
 - Storm water facilities can produce many mosquitoes
- Make sure door and window screens are properly installed and in good condition
 - Two 20th century inventions have reduced the incidence of mosquito-borne disease: Television keeps people indoors at night & screens keep mosquitoes out
- Wear a suitable repellent when outdoors at times when mosquitoes are active.
 - They are most active at dawn and dusk
 - DEET, Picaridin and IR3535 are recommended active ingredients



ORANGE COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL

Website: www.ocvcd.org

Phone: 714.971.2421

Cranberry Braids

2 cups cranberries, chopped 1 whole orange, finely chopped 1 1/3 cups firmly packed brown sugar 1 1/2 cups milk 2 (1/4-ounce) packages active dry yeast or 5 teaspoons active dry yeast 1 3/4 cups all-purpose or bread flour, divided use 1 1/2 cups butter or margarine 3 large eggs 3/4 teaspoon salt Approximately 7 cups all-purpose or bread flour

1. Combine chopped cranberries, chopped orange, and brown sugar in a saucepan. Simmer for 10 to 15 minutes, or until thickened, stirring constantly. Cool.
2. Scald milk then cool to 105 to 115°F. Add yeast and let stand for 5 minutes. Add 1 cup flour; mix well, then set aside for 1 hour.
3. Cream butter and 3/4 cup flour with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in the yeast mixture. Add salt and up to 7 cups flour to make a stiff dough. Knead on a floured surface for 8 to 10 minutes, or until smooth and elastic. Place in a greased bowl, turning to grease the surface. Let rise, covered, in a warm place for 1 hour, or until doubled in bulk.
4. Divide dough into three portions and roll each into a 12-inch square. Cut each square into three strips. Spoon the cranberry filling onto each strip and fold to enclose the filling; sealing the edges. Braid the three strips together; seal the ends and tuck under. Repeat with the remaining dough. Let rise, covered, for 45 minutes.
5. Bake for 30 to 45 minutes in a preheated 350°F oven, or until golden brown. Cool on a wire rack. Makes 3 braided loaves.

Quarterly Quote...

*“Knowing trees
I understand
the meaning
of patience.
Knowing grass,
I can appreciate
persistence.”*

-Hal Borland-





ROSSMOOR CSD NEWS

OCTOBER 2008

ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

3001 BLUME DRIVE,
ROSSMOOR, CA 90720



PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 140
LOS ALAMITOS, CA
90720

NEWSPAPER RECYCLING:

- Last Saturday of each Month at
Rossmoor Park between 8 am.-1 pm.



FOR FACILITY RESERVATIONS: FIRST REVIEW OUR WEBSITE AND/OR PICK UP A BROCHURE AT THE RCSD OFFICE. YOU CAN ALSO HAVE ONE MAILED TO YOU. BY CHECKING THESE INFORMATIONAL TOOLS FIRST, YOU CAN SAVE VALUABLE TIME WHEN YOU ACTUALLY CALL TO CHECK ON AVAILABILITY.



the
POETRY CORNER
A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE



Visit us on the web...

24 hrs a day-7 days a week



To contact us:

**3001 Blume Drive
Rossmoor, CA 90720**

Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Phone: 562.430.3707
Fax: 562.431.3710

Email: rcsd@rossmoor-csd.org
Website: rossmoor-csd.org

After Hours & Holidays
562.497.0118

TUCKED AWAY

*It's that time of year again...
The time between sand and snowmen.*

*Perfumed leaves parachute to their fate of
mulch in the great earthbound slumber party.*

*My footsteps rustle the ruby and gold quilt
across my path. I witness the flick of a bushy
grey tail rounding the base of an ancient tree.
One last revolution and he's out of sight with
his acorn.*

*There's a nip in the air and the morning's
misty...coffee sounds
good...or maybe some
tea. I can warm my
hands around the mug.*

*It's that time of year again...
The time between pumpkins and
gingerbread men.*

*Sweet scents drift from kitchens
that time forgot to render obsolete.
I marvel at the small groups of children
blissfully riding their bikes to school.*

*I am tucked away deep in a pocket,
hidden behind a signature wall,
In a place where the American Dream
still lives. I am in Rossmoor.*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*From all of us at RCSD, to all of you...
We wish you a joyous season.*

Liz Deering

©1998