



# Conservation News

Environmental News and Information from the City of Melbourne Utilities Department



## Popular Florida-Friendly Landscape Seminar scheduled in February

A free landscape seminar will be held in Melbourne on Feb. 23, from 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

This second annual "Florida Friendly" landscape seminar will feature Janice Broda, of Florida Natives for the Space Coast; Sally Scalera, a Brevard County horticultural extension agent and *Florida Today* columnist; and a guest speaker from the South Florida Water Management District.

The seminar, designed to teach homeowners how to create an attractive, low-maintenance yard, will be held at Florida Tech's Gleason Auditorium in

Melbourne and will include a free continental breakfast, rain gauges, hose nozzles, and other surprises. Pre-registration is mandatory and space is limited. To attend, please call 674-5761.

In addition to the

Melbourne seminar, there will also be one held in Cocoa at the Florida Solar Energy Center on Feb. 9. To register for the Cocoa seminar, please call 639-7655.

Sponsors are the Cities of Melbourne, Cocoa, Palm Bay and Titusville; St. Johns River Water Management District and Brevard County Water Resources. Contributors are the Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and the University of Florida's Brevard and Indian River County extension services.



*Seminar participant at last year's program views City of Melbourne water conservation display during a break from seminar sessions. Some 225 people attended the Melbourne program last year.*

## Water conservation posters now available

The City of Melbourne recently collaborated with the other water utilities in the county and the St. Johns River Water Management District to produce a set of posters — one aimed at children and another at adults.

The children's poster features the H<sub>2</sub>O super hero asking kids to be a water saver and giving them easy ideas they can use such as only filling the bathtub up halfway and not leaving the water running when they

brush their teeth.

The poster aimed at adults points to the dollar savings that goes along with water savings. On each side of the poster tips for conserving water indoors and outdoors are given.

These colorful posters are 19x25 inches. They would be great to hang in businesses, schools, kids' rooms, or anywhere else. Call Jennifer Wilster, Environmental Community Outreach Manager, at 674-5761 to request posters.



*Children's poster gives tips kids can use.*

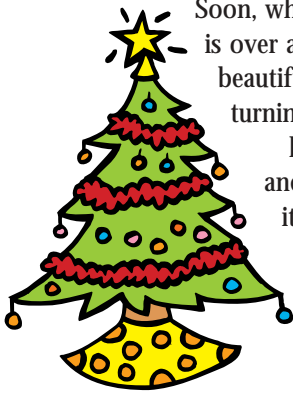


*Adult's poster is filled with practical advice for big savings.*



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## Christmas trees can go curbside for recycling



Soon, when Christmas is over and that once beautiful tree is turning a little brown and brushing by it causes a dry needle shower, well, that means it is really time for it

to go before an official fire-hazard zone is declared.

Don't just throw it away. Recycle and it can enjoy a second life as mulch in someone's garden. On your regular yard trash day, just place your old tree curbside; just remember to remove all the old tinsel and other decorations. Do not place the tree in a bag and it does not have to be cut into four-foot sections as is normally the case for yard trash.

Your old tree will be taken to the landfill and turned into mulch, which is free to residents. The Sarno Landfill is open Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For additional information, their phone number is 255-4635.

Also, remember there is no trash pickup on Tuesday, Dec. 25.

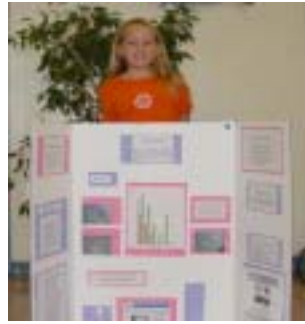
## 4th year Groundwater Guardian status earned



The City of Melbourne has recently been notified by the national Groundwater Foundation that we have been awarded

Groundwater Guardian designation. This is Melbourne's fourth-year designation and is based on groundwater-related protection activities the City's team has performed over the past year.

## Science fair win for 4th grader on water



Rebecca Shaver with her winning science fair display.

Rebecca Shaver, a Harbor City Elementary 4th grader, recently took first-place honors for 4th grade in the Environmental Category for the Science Fair competition at her school. Her project originally was to find out which type of water had the highest content of bacteria — bottled pure water, bottled spring water or City-supplied faucet water from the sink.

Using a testing kit, she found that none

of these sources contained any bacteria at all so she changed her method to test water she knew would have bacteria.

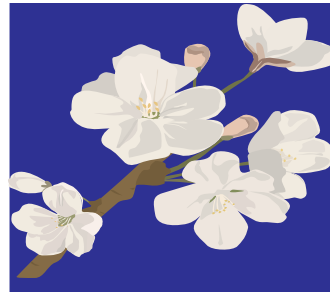
“At first I was interested in why there were different prices for different kinds of water,” Rebecca says. “But, it really didn't matter because none of them had any bad things in them.”

Her new samples were canal water, ocean water, rain water, river water and well water. She found the highest bacteria concentration was in the canal water which is what she had hypothesized. She says she was surprised to learn that rain water had bacteria and surmised that it must pick up particles from the air.

As the first place winner from her school, her project will now be entered into county-wide competition.

## Arbor Day program set for Jan. 11

At Melbourne's annual Arbor Day celebration, 1,000 Florida dogwood seedlings, which is this year's ceremonial tree, will be given away thanks to a donation by the Melbourne Garden Club.



A journalist and then editor of Nebraska's first newspaper, he used this forum to spread agricultural information. He later became secretary of the Nebraska Territory, and on Jan. 4, 1872, Morton proposed a tree planting

holiday to be called Arbor Day. Arbor Day has now spread beyond the U.S. and is observed in many countries of the world.

The program will be held on Friday, Jan. 11 starting at 11:30 a.m. at Southwest Park, located at 397 West Florida Avenue which is between Dairy Road and Babcock Street on the south side of the road. Gregory Reynolds, past president of the American Society of Landscape Architects, will be the guest speaker and Keep Brevard Beautiful's mascot, Pelly the Pelican, will be on hand. University Park Elementary School children participating in the City's mentoring program, along with their mentors, will also share in the celebration.

The City of Melbourne, a designated Tree City USA community since 1987, has a history of placing a strong emphasis on the importance of trees. Dan Porsi, secretary to the Melbourne Beautification and Environmental Advisory Committee that plans and organizes the event, and the City's Senior Code Enforcement Officer, has always been a strong proponent of trees. “As Melbourne continues to expand in population and industry, the need to keep existing native trees and plant trees for our future is evermore important,” Porsi explains. “Legacies come in many ways. Melbourne's one to its residents is in the beauty of ancient trees and the seedlings that will grow along with our City.”