

Brentwood Community News

Environment Update

Last Chance at the Farmers' Market:

The Northland Farmers' Market is just about to fold its tents for the season. Don't miss the last chance to catch them on the last Tuesday of September, from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the northeast corner of the Northland Mall parking lot. Take in your recycling at the same time, as the bins are right next door. Remember that all proceeds go back into the community to support environmental initiatives and education, especially for our children.

Rain Barrels, cont'd:

Jill Kirker reports that she has a soaker hose permanently attached to one of her rain barrels, and places the hose in an area that is sheltered from normal rainfall. Thus the garden receives a thorough watering every time it rains. Jill has also noted the difference in filling time for a watering can dipped straight into an uncovered barrel vs. letting it fill by gravity from the tap of a securely covered barrel. A good book is suggested for the latter approach, but it remains preferable, as there have been cases of endangerment or drowning of small animals, children and pets in uncovered barrels.

Alberta Sustainable House:

There have been questions about the rain barrels at the Alberta Sustainable House (ASH) in Scenic Acres. Their style of rain barrel can be purchased at Home Depot or Revy. ASH, and the Autonomous & Sustainable Housing Company, is located at 9211 Scurfield Drive NW. The phone number is 239-4449, and there are open house tours every 3rd and 4th Saturday of the month from 1:00 p.m. - 4 p.m. It's well worth the tour, and a great place to pick up environmental tips and info. Check out this web site under Calgary Explorer:

<http://www.caexplorer.com/ciash.html>

Olympic Environmental Initiatives:

The Sydney Olympics have been dubbed the Green Games because of their multifaceted end encompassing environmental initiatives. The Athlete's Village is powered by solar energy. There is environmental

sculpture, with arced fountains in walkways around settling ponds. Reclamation of a major industrial site has been coupled with rejuvenation of waterways and valuable ecosystems. Native seedlings and fully mature trees have been planted throughout the Olympic venues, stabilizing slopes and providing parkland. Here's another interesting web site: <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~man7/sydney/green.html> When we've lived in Sydney a couple of times over the past years, we've been most impressed with their weekly pickup of recyclables, their quarterly pickup of yard brush, and their ubiquitous containers for sorting recyclables available at every park in this outdoor, picnicking city. There surely are more issues for the city to address on the pollution and remediation front, but the 2000 Games showcase a long list of environmental successes.

Meteor Shower:

When you've finished watching the Olympics in September, remember to look upward in October. The Orionid meteor shower is to be the best one this year, as it occurs near a new moon and will peak Oct. 21. The other, usually better meteor showers are hampered by the full moons of Y2K. So turn out the lights, and enjoy the show!

Environmentally yours,

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