

# Conservation News



Environmental News and Information from the City of Melbourne  
Public Works & Utilities Department ~ Environmental Community Outreach Division

## Trash Bash gearing up early this year — date: March 17 — new sites being added

Typically held the third Friday in April, Trash Bash is being held on March 17 this year to take advantage of cooler weather, and to not conflict with proms and other events held during that time-frame in April.

The City of Melbourne is adding three new check-in sites for volunteers this year, for a total of ten.

The sites include:

- » Florida Avenue at the Melbourne Central Catholic baseball fields parking area
- » Florida Avenue at Southwest Park
- » Pirate Lane in the easternmost Palm Bay High School parking area
- » Lipscomb Park pavilion
- » Nieman Avenue at the Elks Lodge #1744
- » McGrath Field on Stewart Road



*A group of volunteers at the Lipscomb Park check-in site from last year's Trash Bash.*

- » Carver Community Center
- » Ascension Catholic School
- » Apollo Surgery Center parking area (375 S. Wickham Road)
- » Howard E. Futch Park, beachside east of Paradise Boulevard

Trash Bash is sponsored locally by Keep Brevard

Beautiful. It is held from 8:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. Breakfast food, coffee by Starbucks, water and other snacks will be provided to volunteers, along with necessary supplies. These include latex gloves, safety vests, trash bags and litter pickers. All participants will be provided with free T-shirts. Volunteers are strongly encouraged

to pre-register by e-mailing Jennifer Thompson, the City's environmental programs coordinator, at [jthompson@melbourneflorida.org](mailto:jthompson@melbourneflorida.org) or by calling 321-953-6302.

Students who participate can also receive community service hours for their efforts.

## Keep Brevard Beautiful south volunteers needed

When some people think of Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB), they think of the volunteers who pick up litter, but the organization encompasses much more.

Their mission is to assist, motivate and educate business, school group and individual partnerships to reduce litter, recycle, landscape, and beautify for the environmental and economic benefit of Brevard County.

KBB is one of the most successful affiliates of the Keep America Beautiful system and has been active for more than 30 years.

The South Chapter of KBB is seeking out volunteers to assist in the various activities of the chapter. These include activities such as the annual Secret Garden Tour, School Environmental Award judging, "We Noticed" award nominations, pepper busting,

community enhancing events, and much more.

The City's Environmental Community Outreach Division maintains an active role in the KBB organization.

If you are interested, please contact Linda Nichols at the KBB office in Cocoa at 321-631-0501 or e-mail her at [lnicholskbb@yahoo.com](mailto:lnicholskbb@yahoo.com). You can also visit the KBB web site for more information at [keep-brevardbeautiful.org](http://keep-brevardbeautiful.org).



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Drip. Drip. Drip. The average American household wastes more than 10,000 gallons each year from easy-to-fix water leaks—enough water to wash nearly 10 months' worth of laundry. If that doesn't seem like a lot, consider that across the country, easy-to-fix household leaks can add up to more than one trillion gallons of water lost every year.

That's why the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging homeowners to find and fix leaks during the fourth annual Fix a Leak Week, March 12 through 18, 2012. Sponsored by EPA's WaterSense® program, Fix a Leak Week reminds homeowners of the easy steps they can take to help save water in their community now and for future generations.

Fixing household leaks not only saves water but reduces water utility bills—by more than 10 percent. Be for water and start saving today with three simple steps: Check. Twist. Replace.

#### 1. Check

First, check your home for leaks. An easy way to start is to examine your water use. If it exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, you probably have leaks. Walk around your home with eyes and ears open to find leaks, and don't forget to check pipes and outdoor spigots. You can also detect silent toilet leaks, a common water-wasting culprit, by adding a few drops of food coloring to the toilet tank and waiting 10 minutes before flushing. If any color appears in the bowl during that time, your toilet has a leak. Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense/our\\_water/fix\\_a\\_leak.html](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/fix_a_leak.html) for do-it-yourself repair tips or contact a plumbing professional

#### 2. Twist

Apply pipe tape to be sure plumbing fixture connections are sealed tight and give leaking faucets and showerheads a firm twist with a wrench. If you can't stop those drops yourself, contact your favorite plumbing professional. For additional savings, twist a WaterSense labeled aerator onto each bathroom faucet to save water without noticing a difference in flow. Faucet aerators cost a few dollars or less and can save a household more than 500 gallons each year—enough to do 14 loads of laundry.

#### 3. Replace

If you just can't nip that drip, it may be time to replace the fixture. Look for WaterSense labeled models, which use at least 20 percent less water and are independently certified to perform as well or better than standard plumbing fixtures. Replacing an old, inefficient showerhead with a WaterSense labeled model will shrink your household's water footprint by 2,300 gallons annually while still letting you shower with power, thanks to EPA's efficiency and performance criteria. With less hot water passing through, WaterSense labeled showerheads can also save enough energy to power a television for a year.

Because we want to ensure water supplies last for future generations, the City of Melbourne is showing that We're for Water by supporting Fix a Leak Week and serving as a WaterSense partner.

Want to do more? Join thousands of your neighbors by supporting the We're for Water campaign, organized by WaterSense. Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) and take the I'm for Water pledge or "like" WaterSense on Facebook to share why you're for water and learn more water-saving tips: [www.facebook.com/EPAwatersense](http://www.facebook.com/EPAwatersense).

For more information and tips about how to save water during Fix a Leak Week, visit [http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our\\_water/fix\\_a\\_leak.html](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/fix_a_leak.html).

## Free environmental programs offered to schools/organizations

The City's environmental education program is in full swing for this school year, primarily focusing on third-graders and kindergartners. However, plans call for expanding the program into the middle school and high school levels. In addition, the program reaches out to student clubs and organizations, spring break programs, along with adult clubs and homeowners' associations (HOAs).

As of this school year, which is at the halfway point, the program has reached 797 students, along with 124 adults through clubs and HOAs.

In addition to these programs, the Environmental Commu-



*At last November's Indian River Lagoon Day, Jennifer Thompson, Environmental Programs Coordinator, plays the "EnviroWheel" with children and their parents.*

nity Outreach (ECO) Division, participates in many environmental/educational programs and events. These include Florida-friendly landscaping seminars, programs for teachers, career days, festivals such as the Lipscomb Community Center's Fall Festival, Indian River Lagoon Day, Paws in the Park, Home & Garden Show, Wonders of Water nights at various schools, Envirothon, Earth Day events and many others.

If your organization would like more information or to schedule a program, please call the ECO Division at 321-953-6302.