

DWANA News

DESERT WATER  WINTER 2019

Let's make every drop count!

RETURN OF THE BUTTERFLIES

The second annual Butterfly Block Party featuring fun for the entire family, returns on **March 9**. The event takes place outside our main office on Gene Autry Trail in our public pollinator garden and includes live music, children's activities, garden tours, snacks, refreshments and the perfect spot for a selfie.

The pollinator garden was planted by members of the Palm Springs High School Garden Club and attracts butterflies and bees.

The wall art features vibrant butterflies and flowers and a welcoming doorway that gives way to the San Jacinto Mountains. It was designed by two Palm Springs High School students and brought to life by the PSHS art department.

The event is open to the public and sure to be just as fun and memorable as last year's was. For more details, check our website at dwa.org closer to the date. Hope to see you there!



Community members gather during the inaugural Butterfly Block Party.



GO BEHIND THE SCENE WITH DWA

Desert Water Agency is offering its next tour in late February. The behind-the-scenes tour is open to the public and provides an up close and educational journey into water delivery and management in the desert. The tour kicks off at our main facility on Gene Autry Trail and includes stops at various facilities where experts explain how each facility operates. If you're interested, get on our tour interest list at www.dwa.org/tours or send a request to vicki@dwa.org.

Tour stops may include:

- Snow Creek Hydroelectric Plant near Snow Creek village
- A groundwater well site
- Two solar fields
- Water recycling plant



Tour participants at the DWA recycling plant on Gene Autry Trail.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Happy 2019! We'd like to thank our customers for their conservation efforts. We live in a desert and conservation is a way of life here. The new year gives us an opportunity to reflect over the past year and see just how much the community has taken advantage of DWA's various conservation opportunities. These measures and many others are important in helping the agency reach its conservation goals.

Here's a rebate recap:

- **Grass to desert landscape:** Residential and commercial customers have transformed 112,866 square feet of grass to water efficient landscape over the past year. For residential turf removal we offer \$1 per square foot for visible areas with a maximum of \$1,500. For HOA and commercial property turf removal we offer \$2 per square foot with a maximum rebate of \$40,000.
- **Smart controllers:** Our customers have installed 121 weather-based irrigation controllers. We provide residents up to \$150 for eligible devices and up to \$100 for professional installation. For HOA's and commercial we offer up to \$2,500 for devices and up to \$750 for install.
- **Efficient nozzles:** Our customers have installed 952 precision nozzles or fixed bubbler heads. We provide \$5 per nozzle plus up to \$2 for professional installation.
- **Toilets:** Our customers have installed 490 high efficiency models that use 1.28 gallons per flush or less. We offer \$100 per toilet with a limit of two toilets for homes and 100 for businesses.

Limited funding is still available. If you'd like to do your part in helping preserve our precious resource, check out our rebate offerings at www.dwa.org/rebates and apply soon.



FAQ

Why does my water smell like chlorine?

We are lucky to have a high-quality groundwater basin. The slight chlorine we add is to help disinfect the pipeline system. What helps eliminate any odor or taste of chlorine is putting the water in the refrigerator for a few minutes and letting it chill before you drink.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

DWA is plugged into various events. Here's how our winter is shaping up:

- Jan. 5 - Farmers Market, Palm Springs Cultural Center
- Jan. 26 - Palm Springs Health Run & Expo, Ruth Hardy Park
- Feb. 13 & 14 - PSUSD science fair
- Late February - DWA tour
- March 9 - Butterfly Block Party
- March 23 - One-PS Annual Picnic, Ruth Hardy Park.

YEARNING FOR SOME LEARNING? APPLY NOW

Desert Water Agency and its CV Water Counts partners will host their annual Water Counts Academy starting Jan. 29. The program welcomes anyone interested in learning about water conservation, sustainability and infrastructure. The academy is held at UCR-Palm Desert over the course of four weeks. It concludes on Feb. 23 with a tour that features Desert Water Agency facilities and a graduation ceremony. DWA General Manager Mark Krause will be presenting on State Water Project supplies during the Feb. 12 class. There is no tuition or fee to participate. Food and refreshments will be provided. Last year the program received 80 applications for 35 spots. This year about 40 spots will be available. Program completion requires students attend the four evening classes from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the Saturday tour from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Here's the schedule of classes:

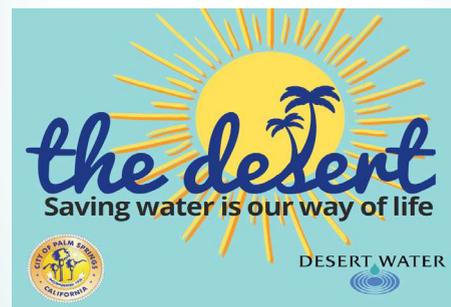
- Jan. 29 - Welcome, water conservation in the Coachella Valley
- Feb. 5 - Water quality, groundwater and long term sustainability
- Feb. 12 - Imported water supplies, agriculture and water-efficiency
- Feb. 19 - Golf & recycled water, economics of water rates
- Feb. 23 - Valleywide water infrastructure tour and graduation ceremony

To apply go to cwwatercounts.com/academy/.



CV Water Counts Academy graduating class of 2018.

HELPFUL SINK SIGNAGE



If you've been to the Palm Springs International Airport and washed your hands lately, you've probably noticed these new signs posted above the sink. It's one way we help spread the word about conversation. After all, we do live in a desert and "saving water is our way of life."

FIND US ON INSTAGRAM!



Filtration Plant planned for Snow Creek

A new filtration system will be installed this year at Snow Creek so the Agency can continue to deliver clean, quality water to customers in Snow Creek Village. The agency has proposed \$2.3 million in the 2018/19 budget for the filtration system. The system will also incorporate water from Falls Creek where it meets up with Snow Creek and allow DWA to capture more acre feet per year of creek water.



WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING?

The public is always welcome at our board meetings on the first and third Tuesday of every month, beginning at 8 a.m., at Desert Water Agency, 1200 S. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs. To see an up-to-date schedule of all our meetings, please visit our website: www.dwa.org.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- James Cioffi
- Joseph K. Stuart
- Kristin Bloomer
- Patricia G. Oygar
- Craig Ewing

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact: DWA Outreach & Conservation Manager Ashley Metzger at 760-323-4971 ext. 184, or Ashley@dwa.org. For more information on DWA's conservation programs, please visit: www.dwa.org/rebates.

