

# BRADBURY NEWS

## Homeowners Guide to Fire Safe Landscaping

May 2010



As brush fire season fast approaches, one key to landscaping in fire-prone areas is to selectively replace highly flammable native plants with low-growing, less flammable plants of equal root depth and root strength. In reality, optimum rooting depth and fuel volume generally work at odds with one another. That is, low-growing plants usually have relatively shallow root systems and tall plants have relatively deep and broad lateral root systems. Landscaping requires a compromise between minimizing fuel volume and maximizing root depth. Drought tolerance and sprouting ability are also important considerations when selecting plants.

The plant's ability to survive on little water and re-sprout after a fire can mean savings over the years on water bills. Deep-rooted coyote brush is a good drought tolerant ground cover for moderately steep slopes, maintenance costs, replanting costs, and hillside repairs. Semi-woody ground covers like vinca and ivy, woody ground covers like coyote brush, hedges such as oleander and myoporum, and even some coniferous trees like Canary Island pine and Chir pine do not need to be replanted because they re-sprout readily. Most native Chaparral plants also re-sprout, and some native shrubs such as sugar-bush, scrub oak, ceanothus, sumac and chokecherries can be nurtured into short stemmed trees. At spac-



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## Volunteers Needed for Beautification Committee

The City of Bradbury is accepting applications for volunteers from Council Districts 1, 3 and 5 to serve on the City's Beautification Committee. The Committee has been established to assist with promoting beautification of the City through various programs, including the community's new annual Beautification Awards program. The Committee will meet as needed and serve as organizers for the new Beautification Award program.

Application forms are available with the City Clerk at City Hall, 600 Winston Avenue. A copy of the application is also available on-line at [www.cityofbradbury.org](http://www.cityofbradbury.org). You may fax your completed form to the City Clerk at (626) 303-5154.

The City Clerk will compile all the applications and provide them to the City Council members. Each member selected will serve a two year term for the selected District.

Volunteer interest forms are kept on file for two years. For more information about this Committee please contact Management Analyst Jeremiah Petsas at City Hall at 358-3218.

## REMINDER

To enhance service to residents agendas, minutes, newsletters and more are all on-line at [www.cityofbradbury.org](http://www.cityofbradbury.org)





## Recycling - Fluorescent Light Bulbs



All fluorescent lamps and tubes must be recycled, or taken to a household hazardous waste disposal facility, a universal waste handler (e.g., storage facility or broker), or an authorized recycling facility in the State of California. All fluorescent lamps and tubes are considered hazardous waste in California when they are discarded because they contain mercury. (Title 22, division 4.5, chapter 11, section 66261.50) This includes: Fluorescent lamps and tubes: Fluorescent tubes, including low mercury tubes. Compact fluorescents, including low mercury lamps.

When mercury-containing lamps or tubes are placed in the trash and collected for disposal, the lamps or tubes are broken and mercury is released to the environment. Mercury vapors from broken lamps or tubes can be absorbed through the lungs into the bloodstream. People who are particularly close to the breakage are especially at risk. Mercury from broken lamps and tubes can also be washed by rain water into waterways.

***How to Recycle or Safely Dispose Fluorescent Lamps and Tubes: It's Easy*** Households and Small Business with only small numbers of spent lamp or tubes at a time just take lamps and tubes to a household hazardous waste collection center or event. Find where to recycle or dispose fluorescent lamps and tubes at [Where Can I Recycle My...?](#), or [Earth 911](#), or call **800 CLEAN-UP (253-2687)**. One local drop-off center is Home Depot in Monrovia on Mountain Avenue. Enter your zip code to find the nearest recycling center. Includes information for many types of recyclable material, including household hazardous waste.

### Fire Safe Landscaping (continued)

ing's of about 25 feet, these plants can be kept relatively fire safe through occasional pruning. Resprouting broad-leaved trees, such as oaks, California pepper, sycamore, black locust, and California laurel, to name just a few, can be effectively blended into the landscape setting. For fire safety, trees must be pruned and should be limited to the number necessary to provide shade and slope stability.

The use of herbicides must be closely monitored in hillside landscaping. Over application can kill landscape plants and sterilize soils. The deepest rooted chaparral shrubs are the hardest to kill with herbicides. Since these shrubs serve the dual function of anchoring the soil to the bedrock and extracting water out of the ground, soil slippage is minimal where they are present. Mortality of such plants often results in soil slippage 5 to 10 years later, after the roots have rotted away. The original cause of such delayed slippage is seldom recognized.

Test plantings such as these indicate that Acacia ongerup (arrow) is a highly drought tolerant and fast growing woody ground cover, recommended for slopes. However, there is no guarantee that the species prevent slippage when the soil becomes saturated. Interplanting ground covers with shrubs and trees, as discussed earlier, will maximize slope stability.

For further information please call (323) 890-4330 OR write: County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Prevention Bureau, Forestry Division, 5823 Rickenbacker Road, Room #123, Commerce, CA 90040-3027.

## City Council Meeting Highlights & Items to Come

### MEETINGS START AT 7:00 PM

The City Council met on April 20th and took the following actions:

- Reorganized the City Council selecting Dick Hale as Mayor and Monte Lewis as Mayor Pro Tem
- Adopted Ordinance No. 316 regarding zone code amendments to comply with the State's Affordable Housing Mandates
- Adopted Ordinance No. 315 regarding minor changes to the Water Landscaping Ordinance to comply with State law
- Reviewed Animal Control Fees and Set a Public Hearing for May 18th
- Approved a Resolution to Join the Energywise Partnership with the SGVCOG and SCE
- Reappointed Laurie Stiver as City Treasurer for a two-year term.



### **TENTATIVE CITY COUNCIL ITEMS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 18TH AT 7:00**

- Review and Award of Civic Center Construction Bids
- Public Hearing regarding fees for Animal Control and Shelter Fees
- Payment of Easement to 1433 Royal Oaks North Drive
- Resolution for new signatures of bank accounts
- Burrtec Waste Services Contract Amendment
- Closed Session - Evaluation of the City Manager

**Please call City Hall at 358-3218 if you have any questions.** *The above agenda items are tentative and subject to change until posted at the City Hall entrance gate on the Friday before the meeting.*

#### **NEW—Los Angeles County Animal Shelter - Public Hours**

**Monday through Thursday 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Friday through Sunday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

Extended hours being offered to assist with adoption of available animals and redemption of lost pets. Baldwin Park Shelter can be reached at (626) 962-3577.

**REMINDER:** *All Agendas are posted on the City's website for viewing the Friday before the meeting. Visit at [www.cityofbradbury.org](http://www.cityofbradbury.org)*

City of Bradbury  
600 Winston Avenue  
Bradbury, CA 91008

[www.cityofbradbury.org](http://www.cityofbradbury.org)



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### Dates to Remember For May

- ◆ May 8th 8:00 AM -12:00 PM City Council Retreat
- ◆ May 18th 7:00 PM Regular City Council Meeting
- ◆ May 26th 7:00 PM Planning Commission Meeting
- ◆ May 27th 7:00 PM Emergency Response Committee Meeting

### City Hall Hours

**Monday through Friday**

**8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

### Building Department Hours

**M, W, T 8:30 a.m. -11 a.m.**

**Email: [cityhall@cityofbradbury.org](mailto:cityhall@cityofbradbury.org)**

**(626) 358-3218**

**Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich invites you to the  
13th Annual Veterans Event at Arcadia County Park  
Remembering Our Veterans & Their Families Past, Present and Future  
Saturday, May 29, 2010 10 AM until 3 PM  
Arcadia County Park 405 S. Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia  
For more information call (626) 967-1441 or (909) 394- 2264.**

### Important Phone Numbers

Emergency	911
LA County Sheriff	448-9861
Fire Station 44	358-3118
Bradbury City Hall	358-3218
Animal Control	962-3577
SC Edison	800-655-4555
So Cal Gas	800-551-8463
Burrtec Waste Services	800-325-9417
Mosquito & Vector Control	814-9466
Time Warner Cable	888-twcable
Dept. Fish & Game	909-484-0167



### City Council

Mayor Hale, District 1

[dick.hale@cityofbradbury.org](mailto:dick.hale@cityofbradbury.org)

Mayor Pro-Tem Lewis, District 2

[monte.lewis@cityofbradbury.org](mailto:monte.lewis@cityofbradbury.org)

Councilmember Barakat, District 3

[barakat1911@aol.com](mailto:barakat1911@aol.com)

Councilmember Lathrop, District 4

[bruce.lathrop@cityofbradbury.org](mailto:bruce.lathrop@cityofbradbury.org)

Councilmember Pycz, District 5

[rick.pycz@cityofbradbury.org](mailto:rick.pycz@cityofbradbury.org)

### Planning Commission

Chairman Frank Hernandez, District 1

Vice-Chair Karen Dunst, District 5

Bill Novodor, District 2

Joe Gifford, District 4

Darlene Kuba, District 3

### City Treasurer

Laurie Stiver

Michelle Keith, City Manager

Claudia Saldana, City Clerk

Jeremiah Petsas, Management Analyst

Cary Reisman, City Attorney

David Meyer, City Planner

Dominic Milano, City Engineer

Stephen Fagan, Building Inspector