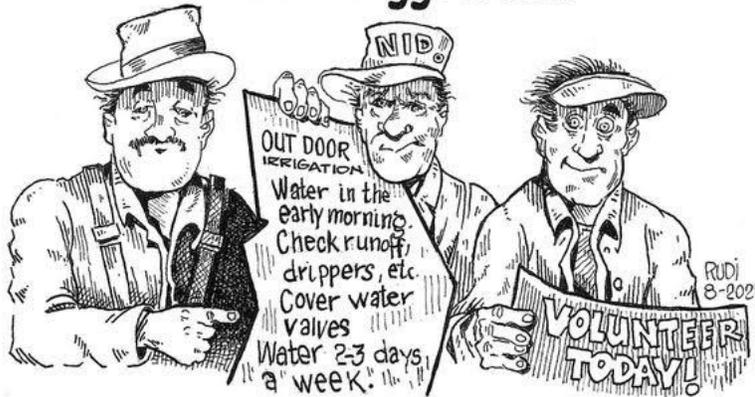


Summer Suggestions



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By Janet Roberts

Artwork by Rudi Franke

Summertime and

Summer has arrived with some heat waves behind us and more still to come. Add to that a drought that has not been formally announced as of this

writing. So, it's time to stay cool and control our water use and costs. Here are a few past suggestions:

Indoor Temperature Control

- Reprogram your thermostat to its summer setting. When you turn on the AC, set it high in your "comfort zone" – 78 – 80 degrees. You'll adjust and still feel comfortable.
- Keep your furnace filter clean for maximum air circulation and efficiency.
- Open your windows on those cool evenings to let the cool air in and circulate.
- Use your ceiling fans to circulate the cool air during the night and daytime, too. Make sure the fans are in the DOWN draft position to push cool air down (turning counter clockwise).

Outdoor Irrigation

- Water 2-3 days/week and minimize the duration of the watering time. During these high heat waves, you may want to provide additional water by hand in the morning.
- Water in the early morning for less evaporation.
- Prevent wasted runoff onto sidewalks and gutters by adjusting timers and sprayers to retain all water on your lawns and plantings.
- Check and repair your drippers, sprinkler heads, and sprinkler lines that have severed lines, leaks, drippers going nowhere, etc.
- Cover your watering valves by the side of your house to protect them from sun damage.
- Read more on the Placer County Water Agency website at pcwa.net/smart-water-use

Neighbors InDeed can help you with many of these tasks. Handy Helpers can reprogram thermostats and sprinkler controllers, change furnace filters, and do some minor repairs on irrigation system. Information & Referral (I&R) volunteers can provide referrals to HVAC professionals and vendors who can check and repair your irrigation system. Just call us at the number below.

Volunteering is ...

Fun and easy to do. We need Handy Helper, I&R, and Dispatcher volunteers. If you like to do small household tasks, or talk on the phone to residents and Handy Helpers, we can find a place for you on our teams. We'll train you to do those tasks. It's a terrific place to volunteer and help out your friends and neighbors.

And ...

*As always, please remember that we do not answer the phone. Leave us a message at **916-223-2763** and we will return your call as promptly as possible between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.*