



City of Davis Public Works Department

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Environmental column

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By Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator

2009 RECYCLING CALENDARS ARE IN!

The new 2009 Yolo County Recycling Calendars are here! The calendar contains information on reuse and recycling in Yolo County and includes a directory of thrift stores and other non-profits that accept items for reuse in the Yolo County area. The calendars are available for free, while supplies last, at the Yolo County Library in Davis and at Davis City Hall.

Compost your tree after the holidays! Remove the lights, ornaments, tinsel and the tree stand. Cut trees over 5 ft. tall in half and put trees on the street with your yard material for recycling. Trees should not be larger than 5 feet in any direction. Davis Waste Removal will collect trees for composting on your scheduled yard waste collection day.

Reuse is better for the environment than recycling, so try to save all the gift boxes, bags, ribbons, bows and tissue paper that you can. If you can't save it, remember that you can recycle gift boxes and wrapping paper in your recycling cart.

Reducing the amount of water you use can have a large effect on your water and sewer bill. Last year, the City Council adopted a methodology for variable sewer rates based on water usage. Instead of a flat fee, sewer rates are now calculated using the average monthly winter water consumption. Winter water consumption is water used from November to February when irrigation is at a minimum. This methodology places an emphasis on estimating how much water is going down the sewer. To conserve water and save money on your sewer bill, be sure to re-set your irrigation timers for fall and winter. More water conservation tips are available online at www.cityofdavis.org.

It's that time of the year when the local wild turkeys become nomadic, forming large foraging groups and wandering around larger sections of town. Turkeys can be fun to watch and they may help to keep pests like slugs and snails reduced. However, they can also behave aggressively, tear up landscaping in search of food and pose a traffic hazard when crossing busy streets. Here are some ways that you can help to reduce conflict with wild turkeys:

- Do not feed turkeys.
- If turkeys begin feeding under hanging bird feeders, remove the feeders until the turkeys leave the area.
- If turkeys are causing problems in your yard, install motion-detecting sprinklers.
- If a group of turkeys begin to cross the road in front of your car, slow down carefully and stop only if it is safe to do so. Rapid stopping increases the risk of causing an accident with the car behind you; swerving may put a bicyclist at risk.

- If confronted by a wild turkey that has lost its fear of humans, an open umbrella may help steer it out of your path.

Feeding wild turkeys does more harm than good. Supplemental feeding of these non-native birds may lead to a population above what the limited habitat can support. Hand-outs will also cause turkeys to lose their natural fear of humans. Fearless turkeys become aggressive towards pedestrians and bicyclists. Excess and/or aggressive turkeys will need to be relocated or euthanized in order to protect habitat and public safety.

For more information on the management of Davis' wild turkeys, contact the City of Davis Wildlife Resource Specialist, John McNerney, at 757-5686.

Don't miss this month's free household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off events, January 9 and 10 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Yolo County Central Landfill. Bring your empty propane canisters, pesticides, fluorescent light bulbs, household cleaners, expired medicines and more for FREE and safe disposal. Mark your calendar for the HHW drop-off dates next month, February 6 and 7, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Check out the reuse opportunities at the landfill as well. During each HHW drop-off event reusable items are available for FREE. Stop by the landfill during a HHW drop-off event to take your pick of free paints, fertilizers, household cleaners and more.

For more information, visit www.davisrecycling.org or email me at PWweb@cityofdavis.org.