



Points of Interest

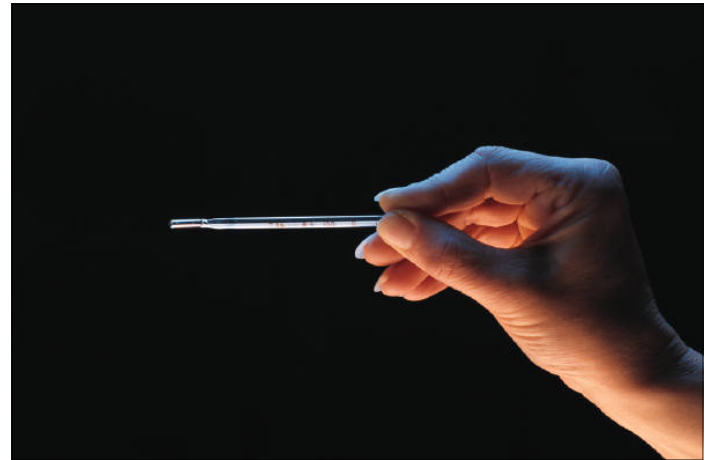
- Earth Day Activities
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**Sewer blockage or overflow?
Call us first at 644-8949**

MERCURY THERMOMETER EXCHANGE AT EARTH DAY

Bring your old mercury thermometer to the Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District booth at the Vallejo Farmers' Market on Saturday, April 19 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and receive a FREE digital thermometer in exchange (*while supplies last*).

Mercury thermometers are made of glass and are about the size of a straw, with a silvery-white liquid inside. Mercury fever thermometers have been used for decades as a first step in caring for someone who feels sick. But, ironically, the mercury thermometer can be a risk to the health of families and communities. Mercury is a toxic substance that can harm both humans and wildlife.



Many families have had a mercury thermometer in their medicine cabinets for years without breaking it. But mercury thermometers are very easy to break and very difficult to clean up. To function properly, mercury thermometers must be "shaken down" before use, creating a frequent high potential for breakage.

Public health officials across the country report a steady stream of concerned calls about broken mercury thermometers.

Mercury affects the human

brain, spinal cord, kidneys and liver. It affects the ability to feel, see, taste and move. Wildlife populations are already exhibiting effects of mercury poisoning.

Help us keep mercury out of your home and environment by trading in yours on Earth Day, April 19 in Vallejo!

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EARTH DAY AT LAKE CHABOT

Join the Vallejo Watershed Alliance at Lake Chabot on Sunday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to noon for Earth Day activities for adults and children.



FATS, OILS AND GREASE (A.K.A. FOG)



Did you know that more than 80% of the sewer overflows in Vallejo residences are caused by too much cooking grease?

Sewer overflows caused by backups can create health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment.

Grease gets into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.

Most often, grease that comes from home cooking gets washed into the plumbing system through

the kitchen sink. Over time, grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.

Commercial additives, including detergents that claim to dissolve grease, may pass grease down the line and cause problems in other areas.

Do not pour grease down drains or garbage disposals. Scrape plates

into the trash before washing or loading into the dishwasher. Wipe out small amounts of grease in pans with a paper towel prior to washing. Put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty them into the trash for disposal.

If you have a large amount of grease left over from deep frying, you can recycle it.

Simply bring it to Vallejo Garbage Service at 2021 Broadway in Vallejo. Hours are Thursday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary, but they're closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. For more info call 552-3110.

The easiest way to solve the grease problem, prevent sewer overflows, and protect your local waterways is to keep cooking oil and grease out of the system.

If you'd like to receive a free brochure on Fat Free Sewers, call 644-8949 ext. 292.



Tip of the Season

At the writing of this newsletter, the weather is still damp and rainy. Perhaps by the time it is delivered into your homes, we will all be basking in the sun.

If not, we want to remind residents that the District makes free sandbags and sand available to Vallejo area residential customers.

The Sandbag Station is located at the back of the wastewater treatment plant at 45 Solano Avenue. Simply press the "sandbag" button on the gate keypad.

Sandbags are available weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., and during major storms.



Currents is produced bimonthly by the Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District. For more information, visit www.vsfcd.com or call (707) 644-8949.