

City Offers Water-saving Advice



Hallandale Hosts Workshop on Water Conservation

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Hallandale Beach recently had a water conservation event at the Cultural Community Center.

Residents attended several free workshops, with topics including the use of rain barrels, edible gardening, tips on planting and landscaping and nature photography.

"I want our residents to know how critical our water supply is," Vice Mayor Bill Julian said. "Now is the time to teach our youth about conservation of water."

The city distributed water conservation kits, which included a massage shower head, kitchen and bathroom aerators and blue dye tablets to detect a leaking toilet. In addition, 12 rain barrels were raffled off to residents in attendance.

John Shave, a member of the South Florida Audubon Society and the Sierra Club, presented the rain barrel workshop.

"Get a rain barrel in your backyard to prepare for hurricane season," he told residents. "If a devastating hurricane came by, these rain barrels come in real handy in case the city water does go out."

The water collected in the barrels can be used in various ways, including washing your car, doing laundry, flushing toilets and for landscaping.

"It's such a simple, inexpensive solution for water conservation," Shave said. "It's like putting a bucket out under the rain."

Residents also were given a crash course on starting an edible garden.

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Karin Fields, of groOrganic, stressed that beginners should focus on the basics and be patient. She recommends growing lettuce, carrots, herbs and peppers to start.

"There's so much information out there, but people think they are going to fail," she said. "Gardening is not an exact science. Different things work for different people."

She urged residents to consider growing their own fruits and vegetables because it's good for the environment.

"Growing is so important," she said. "We have just gotten away from all these things, and we need to go back."

Manuel and Maria Rodriguez, who already have a flower garden, were encouraged by Fields' workshop.

"This was very informative," Maria Rodriguez said. "I think everyone needs to preserve the environment."

Julian said he will now use the rain barrels and gardening tips he learned and urged residents to do the same. As an incentive, he said the city will propose offering a discount to residents to lower the price of the barrels.

"We estimate saving millions of gallons of water," he said.