

Red-Hot Summer Prep Tips By Mark Miller Artwork by Rudi Franke

After eight years of volunteering as a Neighbors InDeed “Handy Helper,” SCLH resident Wayne Sloan has learned a few things. “Summers are getting hotter,” he says with a friendly grin. “We can reduce the stress heat puts on your landscape, house and pocketbooks by heeding a few time-tested tips. We have 50 friendly volunteer Handy Helpers that can help you prepare for this summer.”

Get a drip: If you don’t already have a well-functioning drip system, Wayne recommends getting one. “We can recommend quality vendors that can perform this task,” Wayne says. “Once installed or upgraded, our Handy



Helpers can assist you in repairing minor issues.” Drip systems are far superior to hand watering because they follow a regular schedule, reduce the chance of over watering and can automatically adjust to changing weather conditions.

Water by the clock: “Watering early or late at night will save you about 90 gallons of water every time you water,” he says. “Our recommendation is to water before 9 a.m. or after 9 p.m. Avoiding the high heat will dramatically reduce evaporation and will allow water to penetrate more deeply. Our Handy Helpers can navigate your system control box to alter days, times of day and watering duration.”

Cover up: “Add two to three inches of mulch to cover your yard in the Spring,” says Wayne. This can save you 30 gallons of water for every 1,000 feet of irrigated yard, according to the Placer County Water Agency. “We can provide qualified vendors who can source, deliver and spread mulch.” Remember the SCLH HOA approved mulch types.

Summer preparation includes *inside* the house, too.

Get the LEDs out: Pull out those old incandescent bulbs and replace them with LEDs (light emitting diode technology). “If you’re still using the Thomas Edison incandescent technology of 1879,” says Wayne, “consider moving to LEDs. LED technology has improved to cast the same warm light and the price is now much more competitive. In addition, LEDs use 75% less energy resulting in lowering your monthly bill.” According to Arcadia, an American-based clean energy technology firm, the typical American home has 40 bulbs. If you replaced them all with LEDs, you’d experience a \$300 a year energy savings. Handy Helpers are ready to tackle your bulb replacement project, even in the 12-foot ceiling lights!

We’re ready to help you!

For more information check out our website at www.neighborsindeed.org.

Please remember that we never answer the phone, but if you leave us your message at 916-223-2763, we will return your call as promptly as possible between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. If you’d like to join Neighbors InDeed, call our number and leave a message that you’d like to volunteer. Our Volunteer Coordinator will send you an application and information about our Programs.