

WALNUT VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WALNUT VALLEY WATER DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE MAKES A BIG SPLASH

Who knew, outside of its use in a swimming pool and as refreshing ammunition in a water gun, that water was so much fun?

The folks at the Walnut Valley Water District demonstrated what fun water conservation and education could be Saturday, May 22, at its biannual Open House. From the smiles on the faces of the kids in attendance with their parents, the District was successful. With the smell of freshly popped popcorn in the air, blue and yellow balloons everywhere, and pink cotton candy and hot dogs being consumed by the young and not-so-young alike, part of the District's parking lot was turned into the place to be for fun.

"It's a great opportunity to not only educate the public about water conservation and its uses," said Dr. Allen Wu, member of the District's Board of Directors, "but to have fun while doing it." Three year-old Calliee Rubio and her mom, Laura West of Rowland Heights, enjoyed the day by making a water cycle bracelet. District employees helped both boys and girls make bracelets using different colored beads that symbolized sun (yellow), rain (light blue), evaporation (transparent), ground (brown), plants (green), clouds (white), and water in the rivers (dark blue). "I wanted to introduce her to the different uses of water," West said. She also said that she learned a lot of valuable information at the different booths. The booths provided information on water conservation, household water usage, water education, water quality, water meters, and recycled water.

Another family on hand included Johnny and Susan Mitchell and their two daughters Jennay, 3, and Leah, 1, of Diamond Bar. “We’re new to the area, and it’s great to see events like this,” Susan said. “Our kids like the crafts.” The two girls especially liked making a visor painted with water conservation themes. Other fun activities included face painting, a water wizard spinning wheel, planting seeds in a cup to take home, and a water cycle puzzle.

One of the more popular stops among the many booths was the one entitled, “How Much Water Does it Take to Make a Cheeseburger?” Terry Lewis, the Consumer Service Manager for the District, explained using a huge, stuffed cloth cheeseburger, how much water it takes to produce a meat patty, a bun, a slice of tomato, and other ingredients to those who stopped at the booth. In total, it takes 616 gallons of water to produce all the ingredients in the average Cheeseburger.

The day’s festivities also provided an opportunity to meet District staff and members of the Board of Directors, to view the display of artwork that appears in Metropolitan Water District’s 2004 “Water is Life” calendar and the winners of the District’s essay and poster contests, and to participate in a raffle for the drought tolerant plants on display.

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