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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020

### OVERTON OFFICE

615 N. Moapa Valley Blvd.  
P.O. Box 395  
Overton, NV 89040  
Telephone: (702) 397-2512  
Fax: (702) 397-2583

### MESQUITE OFFICE

731 Turtleback Road  
Mesquite, NV 89027  
Telephone: (702) 346-5710  
Fax: (702) 346-5880

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Visit us online at  
[www.opd5.com](http://www.opd5.com)

### UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

August 19, 2020  
3:00 p.m.

Mesquite Office  
Engineering Building  
Board Room

September 16, 2020  
3:00 p.m.

Mesquite Office  
Engineering Building  
Board Room

October 21, 2020  
3:00 p.m.

Mesquite Office  
Engineering Building  
Board Room

Board meetings are subject to change. Please check our website, Facebook page or twitter feed a day prior to the meeting for a copy of the agenda.

## New Lobby Hours

OPD5 reopened its offices in Overton and Mesquite to the public and implemented a wide range of health and safety enhancements to protect our customers and employees. Both offices are open to the public with revised hours from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each weekday.

OPD5 will continue following all public health recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Southern Nevada Health District and others. We are also complying with all COVID-19 guidelines issued by Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak. As we reopen our offices to visitors, OPD5 health and safety enhancements include:

- For added protection, we have installed plexiglass barriers and are in the process of installing protective glass barriers in areas where customer service staff members interact with customers.
- Customers and employees are strongly encouraged, but not required, to wear a mask when visiting OPD5 offices and facilities.
- We have implemented enhanced cleaning procedures and will consistently maintain these enhanced procedures at all facilities.
- Customers and staff members are urged to continue frequent handwashing and maintaining a safe distance of at least 6 feet from other people when visiting OPD5 facilities.
- Customers who have essential business needs that must be conducted in person, such as new customers signing up for service or customers who are transferring service, should schedule an appointment to meet with a customer service representative.

OPD5 staff will continue to be available during our regular business hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. via phone and e-mail to answer customer inquiries. We will also continue to operate, maintain and conduct any needed system repairs if a power interruption or service problem were to occur. OPD5 also continues to offer a variety of contactless payment options. Payments can always be made online or through our mobile app, available for download through the Apple Store and Google Play store. Customers can also make payments by phone using the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system or by speaking with a customer service representative. Additionally, customers can set up autopay from a debit or credit card or checking or savings account.

Our offices will be closed on :  
July 3 - Independence Day September 7 - Labor Day

# Energy Conservation



## Tips and tricks for staying Energy-efficient this summer and planting a Summer Garden

June 20 is the first official day of summer. But if you've spent any time outside lately, you know it has felt like summer around here for some time. Higher temperatures typically translate to higher energy bills. To offer some relief from both, we dug up some tips.

No matter what the calendar says, don't let our warm weather keep you from enjoying your home and the outdoors. While our dry climate does present some challenges when it comes to planting this time of year, that shouldn't discourage you from giving it a try.



The key to gardening in a hot, dry climate is proper soil preparation and consistent watering and fertilizing.

### Identify your tree and garden space

Planting shade trees on the side of your home that receives the most impact from the sun is a good way to lessen the burden on your air conditioner, and your energy bill. Placing a tree that will shield windows from the direct sun, mainly the south and west sides of your home, will help

reduce the amount of heat that builds up inside.

Identify the gardening strategy you'd like to implement. For example, desert climates are good for planting in pots, on windowsills, hanging pots or square-foot plots. If you go with a square foot plot, identify an area on your property where you can best maximize space. A square-foot garden allows for a variety of crops to be planted, since a large amount of space is not needed to grow. A raised bed with a mixture of native soil and bagged organic soil is a recommended approach for growing crops.

### Work around the sun

In Southern Nevada, there is no shortage of sunlight, which is why it's important to allow breezes to flow through your property. Creating a wind tunnel will direct strong breezes to mill throughout your property. Planting a row of trees or a cluster of trees will keep things cooler. The sun is also a key factor for gardening. When you choose the plants and/or seeds you're going to grow, make sure you check labels to see what kind of sunlight is required. Typically, the label will indicate if the plant or seeds need full and direct sunlight, or partial sunlight, etc. With this information, you'll be able to better map out where to place everything in your garden. Air circulation is also important, so you'll want to identify an area that has good air circulation and avoid areas that are very windy.

### Soil and fertilizers

Depending on what you grow, whether it's trees or crops, you'll probably need proper fertilizers. Trees need macro-nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Nitrogen is especially deficient in desert soil. Additionally, in order for trees to survive in our desert, they require calcium, magnesium and sulfur.

**Continues on Page 3**

# Energy Conservation



## Continued from Page 2

The required micro-nutrients that are needed in smaller doses are zinc, manganese and iron. You'll need to properly fertilize consistently and efficiently in order for your trees to grow strong in our desert environment.

When you're planting your garden, remember that leafy crops require a lot of nitrogen. Fruit crops, such as tomatoes and peppers, need less nitrogen and instead more phosphorus and potassium. A mixture of native soil and bagged soil is recommended, since our desert landscape presents difficulties when it comes to water absorption. Organic soils, compost and fertilizers can be purchased at your local nursery.

## What to plant

There are a number of fast-growing shade trees to consider that are well adjusted to growing in Southern Nevada, your choice will depend on the amount of space available. Some good options for home use are: Catclaw Acacia, Honey Mesquite and the Desert Willow.

There are a variety of vegetables and crops that thrive in a desert garden. For example, tomatoes do well in a desert garden, as well as asparagus, kale, soybeans, squash and citrus trees.

Your local nursery is a great resource for trees and crops and deciding what to grow and when to plant it.

## Water is key

Of course, water is the most important part of gardening, regardless of climate, and desert gardening does require more water. For ample tree growth, you want to water enough to reach a soil depth of at least 18-24 inches to reach the roots. A moisture meter can be used to check the depth and avoid water waste.

For gardening, a recommended and popular method for our desert environment is drip irrigation. A drip irrigation system is designed to disperse water and minimize waste by delivering water directly to base of the plants. Drip irrigation systems allow you to control and deliver water in proper quantities while conserving water and saving money on water your bill.

Another way to conserve water while gardening is to carefully water by hand and only water in the early morning or late evening when the weather is cooler.

For more information about tree planting visit: <http://forestry.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/trees%20for%20Tomorrow.pdf>

For more information about gardening visit: <https://impact-nv.org/sustainability-in-the-news/southern-nevada/urban-gardening-how-to-garden-in-a-desert-city>.

## ASK KATIE

What does Block 1, Block 2, and Block 3 mean on my residential electric bill? Your energy usage is calculated in three Blocks or Tiers. Block 1 is energy usage from 1 - 500 kilowatt hours (kWh) and the rate for each kWh is \$0.0672. Block 2 is energy usage from 501 - 2000 kWhs and the rate for each kWh is \$0.0872. Block 3 is energy usage Over 2000 kWhs and the rate for each kWh is \$0.0980



# WATTS UP



## What you need to know about electrical transformers

### What is an electrical transformer?

Have you ever noticed the big metal power boxes that are mounted on top of concrete bases in your neighborhood or apartment complex?

The next time you're out for a stroll or walking your dog keep an eye out and you'll see that these power boxes are usually tan or green and known as pad mounted electrical transformers. The purpose of an electrical transformer is to transform high-voltage electricity that is transmitted underground into lower voltage electricity that is then transmitted into and used to power your home. One transformer can service several homes or multiple apartment units.

An electrical transformer is like a cupboard that is comprised of electrical cables, wiring and fuses needed to transform and transmit electricity. The unit also contains mineral oil, which helps to keep the electrical components from overheating.

### What causes an electrical transformer to leak?

Over time, environmental factors and age can cause transformers to corrode and leak oil. While a transformer will continue to function, it's important to prevent leaks and report them as soon as possible for the necessary repairs to be made and to keep power flowing consistently.

A transformer that contains mineral oil can leak, which is why if you happen to notice a leak coming from a transformer we ask that you report it to OPD5 in order for us to perform the needed maintenance and clean and replace all necessary equipment.



### How do I report a leak or safety concern?

We value the safety of our customers and our staff. Please call customer service by phone at 702.397.2512 to reach the Overton office or 702.346.5710 for the Mesquite office, or by e-mail at [customerservice@opd5.com](mailto:customerservice@opd5.com).

LIKE US ON  
FACEBOOK, FOLLOW  
US ON TWITTER AND  
INSTAGRAM @OPD5

Our Facebook page and twitter feed are valuable resources to provide our customers with news and updates whenever an unplanned power outage occurs.

You can access both thru our website, they are setup in a way that does not require you to have a Facebook or twitter account to view the information.

We also post great tips on energy conservation, safety and emergency preparedness on Instagram.

Please remember, in the event of a power outage, do not report it via Facebook or twitter, we can't guarantee the delivery of messages received via social media to the right personnel in a timely manner.

In case of an unexpected power outage, please call us at (702) 397-2512 or (702) 346-5710. Overton Power District No. 5 has personnel on standby 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, including weekends and holidays to respond as quickly as possible in the event of an emergency.

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