YOUR UTILITIES

Although this column usually is reserved for information about Pima County's wastewater utility, Pima County wishes to share some important information about dog licensing.

PIMA COUNTY

Pima Animal Care Center

A reminder to please license your pet

Sure, it's the law. But beyond that, it keeps your pet safer.

Imagine a high wind blows open the gate. Or thunder rolls through the valley and your pet escapes in a panic.

That license helps us know where your furry family member belongs, so we can reunite the two of you. If possible, we'll try to reach you right away so your pet won't even have to come to the shelter at all.

But if that's not possible, a license helps make sure your pet will be held for you for at least seven days while every effort is made to contact you.

The licensing fee – which is only $15 a year for a dog that has been spayed or neutered – also helps support the work that we do in this community, whether it's investigating complaints of animal neglect and cruelty, responding to dog bite cases or sheltering stray animals.

Licensing also supports public safety by making sure pets stay current with their rabies vaccinations.

Under the law, owners may face penalties if they don't license their pet once they reach three months of age.

If you get your new dog from Pima Animal Care Center, we'll ensure your pet is licensed before you leave. And if you already have a dog, licensing is easier than ever, now that we offer online services.

Please visit **www.pima.gov/animalcare** for more information or call us at (520) 243-5900.

CITY OF TUCSON

Environmental Services

Converting to Natural Gas Fuel

Over the next several months, you may notice a change when the trash and recycling trucks come into your neighborhood. Then again, you may not, because you might not hear them coming. Beginning this month, Environmental Services (ES) is adding 14 new collection vehicles to its fleet that run on compressed natural gas (CNG). These 14 new CNG powered trucks represent the start of ES' conversion to alternative fuel usage with plans to convert the entire fleet over the next five years.

There are economic as well as environmental benefits for making the switch to CNG:

- CNG is in abundant supply
- CNG is cheaper than diesel fuel
- CNG reduces vehicle emissions and is a more environmentally clean alternative gasoline and diesel. Natural gas is much safer than other fuels in the event of a spill
- CNG-powered engines run quieter (ES customers shouldn't rely on collection truck noise as a last-minute reminder to put out containers!)

While the initial costs for a CNG collection truck are higher, these vehicles are less costly in the long run due to the lower fuel costs. (With constant stopping and starting and heavy loads, garbage trucks burn a lot of fuel!) According to the Natural Gas Vehicles of America, trash haulers will recoup the higher initial costs of a natural gas truck within two years through fuel savings.

Additionally, natural gas burns cleaner than conventional gasoline or diesel due to its lower carbon content. Every gallon of diesel fuel burned emits more than 22 pounds of CO_2. ES expects that the carbon emissions on the CNG vehicles will be reduced by 20%.

Your utilities services statement includes fees for your water, wastewater, and environmental services.

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) – For more information about the regional wastewater system, call (520) 740-6500 or visit pima.gov/wwm.

Environmental Services (ES) – Learn about how ES is protecting our groundwater and the environment at tucsonaz.gov/esd and (520) 791-3171.