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*ON THE COVER: The Arnold Residence project earned the Sweepstakes Award for MSM Landscape Services, Inc. in the San Fernando Valley Chapter's 62nd Annual Beautification Awards.*



**SWEEPSTAKES WINNER – MSM Landscape Services, Inc.** took top honors in the SFV Regional Landscape Awards Competition that concluded with an Awards Dinner June 10 at Monterey Concessions at Encino Golf Course in Encino. Receiving the award are Jeff and Mickey Strauss (second and third from left). Presenting for Sponsor BrightView Landscape Development are Rochelle and Tadd Russikoff. (See complete winners list and more awards photos on pages 6-8.)

California Landscape Contractors Association  
San Fernando Valley Chapter  
c/o El Dorado Communications  
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**STATE AND LOCAL EVENTS**

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*Subject to Change – Check with Chapter Office First*

**WATCH FOR LAST-MINUTE CHANGES DUE TO COVID-19**

- July 6 SFV Board Meeting, 9 a.m. via Zoom.
- July 27 Estate Planning, Wills TBD
- Sept 15 Channel Islands & Friends Fishing Trip, Hook's Sportfishing, Oxnard 5 a.m.
- 26 SFV Regional Golf Tournament, DeBell Golf Club, Burbank.
- Oct Auxiliary Auction TBD
- Nov 8-11 CLCA Convention, Hyatt Regency Hotel and Spa, Monterey, CA
- Dec Holiday Party TBD



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**FRANCISCO SALAZAR**  
SFV Chapter  
President  
Groundcare  
Landscape Co.

## It's Finally Here...Our Beautification Awards. Yeah!

Hello fellow San Fernando Valley chapter members, it is the middle of the year with lots of exciting things to come.

June brings us our long awaited and planned Landscape Awards Dinner on June 10. With our Awards Night just days away as I write this, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the contractors that submitted projects and wish them good luck. Thank you to our Judges for their time and work along with media guru Bronwyn Miller. Also, let's not forget

our volunteer drivers. And many thanks as well to all our generous Sponsors.

With the date set and the venue ready I hope to see everyone there and wish everyone a good night.

After this event is over, we have a very busy rest of the chapter year planned for you. First off is an Educational Seminar on July 27 that will feature subjects including Estate Planning, Wills, and Insurance. Location and additional details to be announced. September 16, we are all invited to attend the Channel Islands Chapter & Friends Fishing Trip. And on September 26 we will have our SFV Regional Golf Tournament to be held at DeBell Golf Club in Burbank. If you wish to sponsor this event, please feel free to contact us right away.

We will close out the year with the SFV LEAF Fundraiser Auxiliary Auction in October (date and location TBA), the CLCA State Convention in Monterey November 8-11, and our Holiday Party in December. Sounds like fun. Don't miss any of these great events. See you there. – *Francisco*

### IN MEMORIAM

## Landscape Legend Oliver Holt Passes Away

Long-time San Fernando Valley Chapter member Oliver Holt passed away June 3 due to complications from Covid. His wife Regina delivered the sad news. A celebration of life was held June 9 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Northridge, with burial services after in North Hollywood.



*Regina and Oliver Holt*

Oliver joined CLCA on October 14, 1996, and had been an active member ever since. An award-winning contractor, Oliver's projects were consistently honored at the Chapter's Beautification Awards. He was also a Christmas Tree supplier, with his trees bringing Holiday cheer to many homes and businesses in the San Fernando Valley. He will be greatly missed.

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## GoFundMe Fundraising Effort Started for Long-Time CLCA Member Charles Nunley

CLCA Ambassador, Past State President and former LA Chapter President Charles Nunley needs your help. He suffered a heart attack and stroke late last year, has been bedridden for five months, and is now in hospice care.

A group of Charles' friends, along with his sisters and brother, have come together to help Charles with his medical care and day-to-day expenses. A landscape contractor for over 40 years, Charles was told he would never work again.

A GoFundMe page has been established in Charles' name to get him the care and support he needs and deserves. **You can reach Charles' GoFundMe page by visiting <https://gofund.me/57cdca97>, or by clicking on the QR code here:**



Here are some of the highlights of the life of Sir Charles Nunley...

Charles Nunley has been a landscape contractor, having worked in the trade and in his own business in Southern California for over 40 years. Charles is a Life Member of CLCA (California Landscape Contractors Association) and has served as the Los Angeles Chapter President in 1979 and CLCA State President in 1998. Born in Los Angeles in October 1939, Charles is 83 years old. He was raised

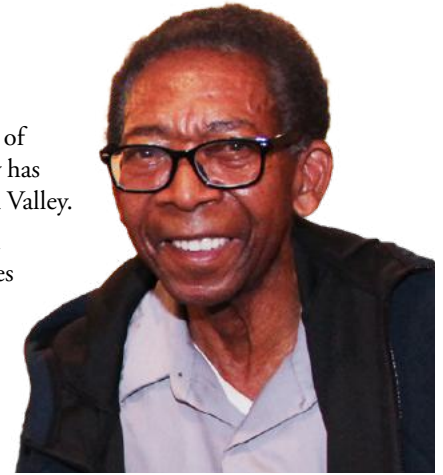
in the South-Central part of the city and most recently has resided in the San Gabriel Valley.

Charles has been a CLCA member since the seventies and has been an active member since the day he joined. In addition to State and local presidencies he has served in many other capacities including

Certification Chairman, as well as having been named a Knight of the Garter and an Allegiance award winner. There are few if any CLCA chapters Charles *has not* visited, often volunteering to help on various local events and committees.

Charles Nunley is a Green Industry Hall of Fame Co-Founder as well as a recipient. He also has volunteered for years at a local food bank, helping pass out food to the homeless.

Now it's our turn to give back to Charles in his time of need. Please help with any donation you can afford. From everyone who loves Charles Nunley, thank you and God Bless.



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# Stars Shine at SFV Regional Beautification Awards Dinner



**PRESIDENT'S CHOICE AWARD** – Winner is Groundcare Landscape (Alex Salazar and sons). Presenting for Sponsor Green Thumb Nursery is Ramon Orozco.



**SPECIAL EFFECTS AWARD** – Goes to Enviroscope (Marie Hoffman). Presenting for Sponsor Landscape Contractors Insurance Services is Mickey Strauss.



**AWARDS EMCEE** is State CLCA President Evan Moffitt, shown here with the evening's multi-media creator Bronwyn Miller of Eyescapes.



**BOB MOORE MEMORIAL AWARD** winner is MSM Landscape Services (Jeff Strauss). Presenting for Sponsor Channel Islands Chapter is its President Ivan Salazar.



**COLORSCAPE AWARD** goes to Gothic Landscape (Tony Sayegh). Presenting for Sponsor Kellogg Garden Products is SFV President Francisco Salazar.



**TURF GREEN AWARD** goes to Groundcare Landscape (Ivan Salazar and Jose Chevarria). Presenting for Sponsor Southland Sod is Renato DeSousa.



**SMALL RESIDENTIAL** First Place goes to Enviroscope (Marie Hoffman). Presenting for Sponsor SiteOne Landscape Supply is State President Evan Moffitt.



**MEDIUM RESIDENTIAL** Outstanding Achievement goes to Oliver Holt Landscape (Regina Holt and JR Wallworth). Presenting for Sponsor Gro-Power, Inc. is SFV President Francisco Salazar.



**LARGE RESIDENTIAL** Outstanding Achievement goes to SK Landscape Design (receiving for Steven Kinzler is Jan Veis). Presenting for Sponsor Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery is Alex Ross.



**CUSTOM RESIDENTIAL** First Place winner is Groundcare Landscape (Alex Salazar and his son). Presenting for Sponsor Smith Pipe & Supply are Steve Sanborn, Julio Orellana, and Kevin Nolke.



**XERISCAPE** First Place winner is Enviroscope (Marie Hoffman). Presenting for Sponsor El Dorado Communications is John Hernandez.



**NIGHT LIGHTING** First Place and Outstanding Achievement is SK Landscape Design. Receiving for Steven Kinzler is Francisco Salazar. Presenting for Sponsor Stay Green is Nina Ochoa.

## Landscape Excellence Showcased on Awards Night



**WATER FEATURE** First Place goes to Enviroscope (Marie Hoffman). Presenting for Sponsor Performance Nursery is SFV Vice President Programs Tom Lucas.



**JUDGES HONORED** – The judges of the Beautification Awards, Tom Lucas (right) and Sal Hernandez (unable to attend) are thanked by SFV President Francisco Salazar with a little gift from the chapter.



**MED. COMMERCIAL MAINTENANCE** First Place goes to Stay Green (Nina Ochoa). Presenting for Sponsor SK Landscape Design is SFV President Francisco Salazar.



**LG. COMMERCIAL MAINTENANCE** First Place winner is Gothic Landscape (Colby VanWinkle left and Kristin Hatfield). Presenting for Sponsor Pacific Equipment is Francisco Salazar.



**SPECIAL AWARDS** Landscape photos and photos of awards dinner attendees to appear in the July issue. Watch for it!



**SMALL RES. MAINTENANCE** First Place goes to Groundcare (Ariel Salazar and Javier Martinez). Presenting for Sponsor Landscape Warehouse is John Hernandez.



**LARGE RES. MAINTENANCE** First Place winner is Groundcare Landscape (Jose Chevarria and Ivan Salazar). Presenting for Sponsor Vineland Growers Nursery is Jan Veis.



**LARGE HOA MAINTENANCE** Outstanding Achievement goes to Gothic Landscape (Tony Sayegh [center] and Kristin Hatfield). Presenting for Sponsor Ewing Irrigation and Landscape Supply is Francisco Cano.



**SMALL HOA MAINTENANCE** Outstanding Achievement goes to Stay Green (Jorge Donapetry). Presenting for Sponsor Green Industry Co-op (Golden Oak) is Mickey Strauss.



**MEDIUM HOA MAINTENANCE** First Place winner is Gothic Landscape (Colby VanWinkle, Tony Sayegh [3rd from left], and Kristin Hatfield). Presenting for Sponsor Arborjet/Ecologel is Wister Dorta.



**PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE** First Place goes to Stay Green (Christopher Hernandez). Presenting for Sponsor MSM Landscape Services, Inc. is Mickey Strauss.



# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY 2023 BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS LIST OF WINNERS

## SMALL RESIDENTIAL

Sponsored by Site One Landscape Supply

**Enviroscape**

**First Place**

for the Levitt Residence

## MEDIUM RESIDENTIAL

Sponsored by Gro-Power, Inc.

**SK Landscape Design**

**First Place**

for the Hopper Residence

**Oliver Holt Landscape**

**Outstanding Achievement**

for the Neville/Benson Residence

## LARGE RESIDENTIAL

Sponsored by Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery

**SK Landscape Design**

**Outstanding Achievement**

for the Botwinik Residence

## CUSTOM RESIDENTIAL

Sponsored by Smith Pipe & Supply

**Groundcare Landscape**

**First Place**

for the Eden Residence

## XERISCAPE

Sponsored by Eldorado Communications, Inc.

**Enviroscape**

**First Place**

for the Levitt Residence

## WATER FEATURE

Sponsored by Performance Nursery

**Enviroscape**

**First Place**

for the Yarborough Residence

## NIGHT LIGHTING

Sponsored by Stay Green Inc.

**SK Landscape Design**

**First Place**

for the Botwinik Residence

**Outstanding Achievement**

for the Hopper Residence

## LARGE COMMERCIAL MAINTENANCE

Sponsored by Pacific Equipment

**Gothic Landscape**

**First Place**

for the Corporate Pointe at West Hills

**Stay Green Landscape**

**Outstanding Achievement**

for the Keck Medical Center of USC

## MEDIUM COMMERCIAL MAINTENANCE

Sponsored by SK Landscape Design, Inc.

**Stay Green Landscape**

**First Place**

for the Santa Clarita Medical Building

**Gothic Landscape**

**Outstanding Achievement**

for the Valencia Country Club – Clubhouse

## LARGE RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE

Sponsored by Vineland Growers Nursery

**Groundcare Landscape**

**First Place**

for the Casa Vista

## SMALL RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE

Sponsored by Landscape Warehouse

**Groundcare Landscape**

**First Place**

for the Genesee Project

## PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE

Sponsored by MSM Landscape Services, Inc.

**Stay Green Landscape**

**First Place**

for the West Creek Park

## LARGE HOA MAINTENANCE

Sponsored by Ewing Irrigation & Landscape Supply

**Gothic Landscape**

**Outstanding Achievement**

for the Long Canyon HOA

## MEDIUM HOA MAINTENANCE

Sponsored by Arborjet/Ecologel

**Gothic Landscape**

**First Place**

**Stay Green Landscape**

**Outstanding Achievement**

for the Cornerstone HOA

## SMALL HOA MAINTENANCE

Sponsored by Green Industry Co-op (Golden Oak)

**Gothic Landscape**

**First Place**

for the Twenty Oaks HOA

**Outstanding Achievement**

for the Clarendon Apartments

## PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE

Sponsored by MSM Landscape Services, Inc.

**Stay Green Landscape**

**Outstanding Achievement**

for the City of Downey – City Hall

## SPECIAL AWARDS

### COLORSCAPE AWARD

*Best use of color in overall landscape.*

Sponsored by Kellogg Garden Products

**Gothic Landscape**

for the Long Canyon HOA

### BOB MOORE MEMORIAL AWARD

*Best use of rockscape in the landscape.*

Sponsored by Channel Islands CLCA

**MSM Landscape Services, Inc.**

for the Arnold Residence

### SPECIAL EFFECTS AWARD

*Best use of unique methods or materials and/or special artistic effects.*

Sponsored by Landscape Contractors Insurance Services

**Enviroscape**

for the Levitt Residence

### TURF GREEN AWARD

*Natural turf exhibiting best appearance and healthy green color.*

Sponsored by Southland Sod

**Groundcare Landscape**

for the Casa Vista

### PRESIDENT'S CHOICE AWARD

*Best Residential Project.*

Sponsored by Green Thumb Wholesale Nursery

**Groundcare Landscape**

for the Eden Residence

### STUART SPERBER MEMORIAL SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

*Judged best overall from all categories.*

Sponsored by BrightView Tree Company

**MSM Landscape Services, Inc.**

for the Arnold Residence

**Thank you for entering  
the San Fernando Valley  
Beautification Awards  
competition!  
Congratulations to all the  
winners!**



## Spread the Risk as Well as Opportunities for Success

### Education Series Kicks Off

By the time you read this, Landscape Warehouse will have held its latest in a series of educational events for landscapers and gardeners. Set for Saturday, June 10 (earlier in the day of the SFV Landscape Awards Dinner) our BATTERY-OPERATED / ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT Educational Event will take place at our **Quartz Hill Garden Center** in the Lancaster area. This information-packed event focuses on the ever-growing importance of battery-operated landscape equipment. Stihl and Husqvarna are scheduled to showcase their latest battery-powered landscape equipment and discuss the CORE Project.

CORE stands for Clean Off-Road Equipment Voucher Incentive Project. This special program incentivizes California fleets to purchase or lease cleaner off-road equipment, and landscapers to move away from gasoline powered tools and equipment and replace them with battery-operated, zero-emission CORE models. CORE provides a streamlined voucher process by which potential purchasers can receive CORE voucher incentives for zero-emission Professional Landscape Service Equipment.

The Quartz Hill event, along with our second PRINCIPLES OF IRRIGATION & HYDRAULICS class held in our **North Hollywood** store May 31, are kicking off the Landscape Warehouse Summer Series of educational events to help attendees learn, grow, and take their businesses to the next level and the next. Check our website at [www.landscapewarehouse.net](http://www.landscapewarehouse.net) for more valuable classes you won't want to miss.

### Increasing Business Opportunities

Speaking of summer, our summer sales in some areas are off to a slower start than we'd like, primarily due to wacky weather and an unstable economy. But in other areas, such as on the equipment side, we are having a fantastic season because of the big push for battery-powered equipment. Our nursery sales are also doing well. This reminds me of the old truism: **"Don't put all your eggs in one basket."** Landscape Warehouse offers a broad range of irrigation supplies and equipment for landscapers as well as a full line of plants, trees, and other nursery products from our nursery locations. This gives us a sound business foundation year 'round.

Just like the water restrictions brought the landscape industry new business with irrigation system and controller changes, the ditching of loud and odor causing gasoline-powered equipment – and the replacing of it with quiet, odorless, and more efficient battery-operated versions – will most certainly improve your standing with your customers, which could lead to more business and increased fees you can charge.

When one aspect of your business is a little low, look to another aspect to make up the difference. If you don't have another aspect, start one. Works for us! – José



**JOSÉ ROBLES**  
Owner  
Landscape Warehouse

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# ANGLER SIGN-UP FORM

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual CLCA Channel Islands Chapter

### Deep Sea Fishing Trip

Friday, September 15, 2023

5 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### New Boat, New Sportfishing Landing, Same Big Fun!

Join us on Friday, September 15 on the 65-ft. Coroloma Sportfishing vessel for a full day of fishing in the waters around the beautiful Channel Islands. The Coroloma is based out of Hook's Landing in the same general area as our previous fishing trips, but on the other side of the harbor.

Previous years' trips have sold out in a matter of days, so don't be left out. Get your reservations in now while there is still plenty of room for you and your fishing buddies.

Fill out the names of the anglers in your party if that has been decided. If not, call John Hernandez at (626) 715-1757 and tentatively reserve your spots. Fishing spots are only fully secured when payment is received.

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No. of Angler(s) @ \$125 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Name #4 \_\_\_\_\_

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Send completed form and check (made payable to California Landscape Contractors Association – Please write "Channel Islands Fishing Trip" in the Memo line) to: John R. Hernandez, CLCA Channel Islands Chapter Treasurer  
18466 Dragonera Drive, Rowland Heights, CA 91748. For more information: (626) 715-1757

## 10 Ways to Joy and Peace of Mind

From an article by Mark Matteson, *Sparking Success*

**A**be Lincoln once said, “It has been my observation that most people are about as happy as they make up their mind to be.” Happiness is elusive. It’s like spontaneous combustion or a bird landing on the railing of your deck in the summer. When it happens, we are surprised, often delighted. On the other hand, what most of us are really looking for is Joy and Peace of Mind. These are the things money can’t buy.

So how do we attract those things into our life? Here is a list of Ten Habits we can take to increase our chances of attracting those positive emotions and people into our life.

### 1. Decide to have a Positive Mental Attitude (PMA) each day upon arising.

PMA is daily choice. Man is the only animal that choose his thoughts, emotions and actions. Respond versus react. Think twice, speak once (or not at all.) Create a little distance between what others say or do to you and how you respond. It’s simple, not easy. And oh yes, optimists live longer than pessimists do.

**2. To have joy, bring joy to others.** What can you do or say to brighten someone else’s day? Become a Good-Finder. Say what you see (if it’s positive.) “You look like you are having fun!” “You make that look easy.” To keep joy, give it away. It’s one of life’s little paradoxes. To be happy, make others happy. Simple isn’t it? What do you want? Give that to someone else. You want more friends, be a friend. You want others to be compassionate to you? Be compassionate to someone else. Do you want to be understood? Listen and be understanding first. Each of us is a mirror. We reflect back what we are given.

**3. Bring these concepts home.** When I was a teenager, I watched my father treat his clients and friends one way and his family another. I simply wanted congruence from him. It was a great lesson. I serve my family the same way I serve my clients, by going the extra-mile in lots of little ways. Thoughtful notes of appreciation to my wife and children. Making meals my boys like when they come over. Unloading the dishwasher, and like a ninja, disappearing without fanfare or acclaim.



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**MARK MATTESON**  
*Sparking Success*

**4. When you share your personal joy with a loved one or good friend, you double it.** Let those closest to you know about your WINS. Listen to theirs. Why keep the good stuff to yourself. Share the joy.

**5. When you share your setbacks and losses with those same people, you cut the effect of them on you in half.** You also make yourself authentic, real and human. Let the people in your life know when you are struggling, afraid or worried. You will live longer and make real connections with those closest to you.

**6. Be aware of your reactions to others’ behavior.** When someone offends you with a personal affront, a slight, a sarcastic jab, remain calm. Take a minute to think about who they are or what they might be going through. Your self-talk says something about the way you think and process information. As Elmore Leonard wrote, “Be Cool.”

**7. Take care of your health.** Get to the gym. Walk, swim, do Yoga, lift weights, take a Spin class. Eat small portions, real food (like veggies and fruit) and drink

lots of water. One doctor I talked to said, “Most of my patients are simply dehydrated.” Drink 8-10 glasses a day. It’s free.

**8. Forgiveness is a magical habit.** It doesn’t heal the offender. It heals the offended. It’s a choice. What if you let go and let God handle the long-term effect of someone else’s cruelty, neglect or belittling? It’s the high road, the narrow path, the serene choice.

**9. Be grateful for the things and people in your life.** Make a list. Gratitude attracts abundance, cynicism attracts lack. It’s a law, like gravity.

**10. Pray.** Ask God (or whatever higher power you believe in) for what you want. Write it down. Ask for help. Wait. Listen. Act.

These are the things no one can take from you. They can steal your money, but they can’t take how you respond or who you are becoming. These ten habits, more than anything else, can bring you Joy, Peace of Mind and True Wealth. In the end, isn’t that what’s really important? Why not give it a try? What have you got to lose? Maybe some fear, anger, worry, resentment, and self-pity.

Honest Abe was right. “We are as happy as we make our minds up to be!”

Mark Matteson is an inspiring speaker and the author of the international bestseller, *Freedom from Fear*. His company, *Sparking Success*, is located in Edmonds, WA. Phone: (206) 697-0454.



**JONATHAN GOLDHILL**  
The Goldhill Group

## How to Benchmark Pay Rates in a Family Business

By Jonathan Goldhill, The Goldhill Group

**B**enchmarking pay rates in a family business can be a sensitive and challenging task. However, there are some steps that you can follow to establish fair and competitive pay rates:

**1. Define job roles and responsibilities:** Start by defining the roles and responsibilities of each family member working in the business. This will help you determine the appropriate pay rate for each position.

**2. Conduct market research:** Look at job postings for similar roles in your industry and geographic region to get an idea of the market rate for each position. You can also consult with industry associations or compensation consultants to obtain market data.

**3. Consider the financial health of the business:** The financial health of the business will impact the pay rates that you can offer. Consider factors such as revenue, profit margin, and cash flow when determining pay rates.

**4. Evaluate performance:** Performance evaluations can help ensure that each family member is being paid fairly based on their contributions to the business. Consider implementing a performance review process to evaluate each family member's performance and contributions.

**5. Develop a pay structure:** Once you have gathered all the necessary information, you can develop a pay structure for your family business. This should include the pay rates for each position, as well as any bonuses or incentives that may be offered.

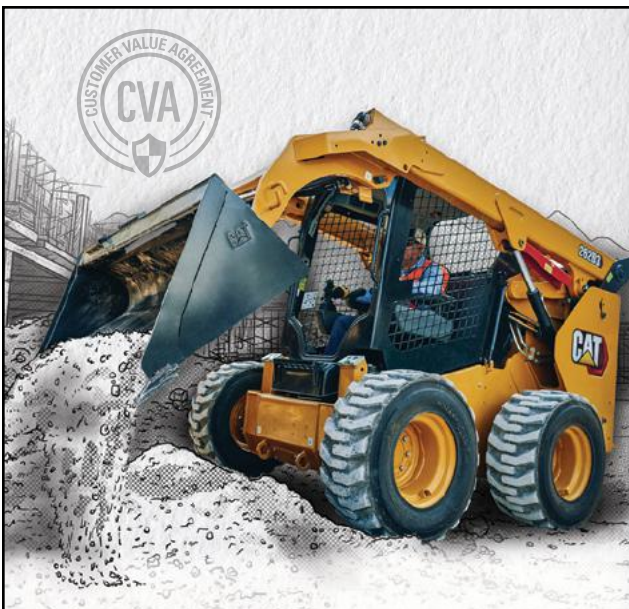
**6. Review and adjust pay rates regularly:** Pay rates should be reviewed regularly to ensure that they remain competitive and fair. Consider conducting a review annually or bi-annually to make any necessary adjustments.

It is important to approach benchmarking pay rates in a family business objectively and transparently. Make sure that everyone understands the process and criteria used to determine pay rates to avoid any misunderstandings or conflicts.

This article is part of a six-part series:

1. When Should a Family Business Set Up a Board of Directors?
2. When Should a Family Business Set up a Family Council?
3. How Do You Establish a Family Council?
4. What Is a Sample Agenda for a Family Council Meeting?
5. How to Benchmark Pay Rates in a Family Business.
6. What is a Succession Planning Roadmap for a Small Family Business?

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## Seven Causes of Water Scarcity in the United States *By Richard Restuccia, Jain Irrigation / Revulis*

People are often surprised when they learn we have water scarcity issues in the United States. For example, Flint, Michigan, experienced water issues for over six years. In 2014 a change in water supply from Lake Huron and the Detroit River to the Flint River caused severe problems for residents of Flint, Michigan. High levels of lead leached into the water supply. Around 100,000 people were exposed to elevated lead levels. Residents found other ways to cook, clean and bathe because they did not have clean running water for years.

The Town of St. Joseph, Louisiana, has experienced water problems for years due to a poorly maintained and deteriorating water distribution system. It is recommended that residents use an alternative water source for personal consumption, ice making, brushing teeth, or food preparation and rinsing. The population of this town has been shrinking for the last 30 years.

Several small towns in the Central Valley of California (even after the rains this past winter) are experiencing dry wells and no running water. Rio Verde Foothills is in unincorporated Maricopa County in Arizona. Many residents have private wells, but about 500 residents rely on water hauled from Scottsdale, Arizona. Scottsdale cut the water supply off, and now residents are on their own for water for at least a couple of years. The mayor of Scottsdale, David Ortega, said, "Water is not a compassion game." I couldn't disagree more.

We will all have to make some sacrifices to solve water scarcity issues. The first step is to look below at seven common causes of water scarcity to learn how we can work together and prevent more of these issues from happening.

**Drought** – Periods of prolonged dry weather reduce water availability specific to regions. The big challenge is today, an area can have plenty of water and, in just a couple of years of dry weather, be upside down with water. This is becoming more common and more challenging.

**Population Growth** – There are many great reasons to move to one of the Southwest states in the U.S. An abundance of water is not one of them. The big challenge here is that cities responsible for honest assessments of water supply are also responsible for attracting new residents and prosperity. There is a built-in conflict of interest.

**Climate Change** – This goes hand in hand with drought and the changing rain patterns in the U.S. This past winter in California was an example of too much rain in too short of a period. Currently, there is no way to capture all the water that fell, and constructing water storage for these rogue water years is expensive and hard to get taxpayers to pay for during times of normal rain.

**Water Pollution** – Industrial waste or agricultural runoff can impact areas quickly. Contaminates are a real issue, sometimes caused by companies and sometimes by individuals.

**Inefficient Water Use** – Inefficient irrigation systems for agriculture and urban areas largely contribute to water scarcity issues. In the West, Agriculture uses around 80% of the water. Implementing smart irrigation and technology when that is readily available at a reasonable price will go a long way to help solve water scarcity issues.

**Aging Infrastructure** – A Stanford University study in 2020 estimates that 20% to 50% of water is lost to North America's supply

*Continued on page 15*

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## Delight or Disaster?

This spring I watched a great many trees and dormant shrubs come into leaf. It is our Creator's miracle as a natural law of our universe and has been happening for billions of years. There is also a law in the universe that lets us have whatever or wherever we place our thinking. For what you think on manifests as the effect that you wanted – delight or disaster.

This is the way it works. Think about it and what you will discover, as I have, is that only those who can sow the seeds of strong, positive thinking can hope to reap a good harvest. Our earth and all that is in it is made bountiful and fruitful and lovely as the sunrise and sunset. We are surrounded by an abundance of possibilities and experiences. It is a way of my wonder and a wonder of my way...so many opportunities to explore.

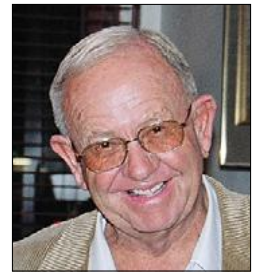
Mankind and womankind are meant to enjoy and recognize what love our Creator has bestowed within the gifts given to us. Can you bear the consequences of the way you might be thinking? Abundance, love, prosperity, and health is our nature. Know that

there isn't any obstacle in thinking as a co-creator of God's love. Know that there isn't any obstruction in being creative and receptive to new pathways and enjoying the experiences they bring.

I believe that quiet meditation – even for just a few minutes – draws to each of us what it is that we “think” on to create as action in each experience. This is a healing power in truth and is within.

As a young man I was told that God was on the mountain above us watching over His creation. I now understand God is the Mountain! And He is in everything in the universe and every person that acknowledges Him as God. That is a good feeling, even now as a senior. Love does, always. Namasté – *Dave*

“Man suffers the consequences of his own thinking and believing.”  
– Ernest Holmes



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### Seven Causes of Water Scarcity from page 13

system leaks. There was a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed in 2023 that includes over \$8 billion for the aging water infrastructure.

**Over-Extraction of Groundwater** – Over-pumping groundwater faster than it can be replenished is a big water issue. Agricultural practices like drip irrigation slow the over-pumping of groundwater by reducing the amount of water wasted. We need more growers to use smart irrigation practices like drip irrigation to help solve water issues.

This is not the final list or even a perfect list. There are many more challenges and solutions. The challenges tend to move from region to region. The key is awareness of the issues, learning from the challenges, and taking steps to ensure the problems don't reach your community. If you enjoyed this post, follow me on Twitter at H2oTrends.

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