



County Commission Chair Pat Frank presents Ed Radice, director of Parks & Recreation, with the Excellence In Government Award.

County Employees Honored

A sentimental favorite, Parks & Recreation Director Ed Radice won the Hillsborough County's Excellence In Government award, the highest honor paid to county employees under the County Administrator, recognizing high standards and significant achievement.

Radice and other employees received their awards at the 2002 Employee Rally held in August at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center.

John C. Ferdon, an inspector with Community Improvement, took home the Employee of the Year award; Edgar Martinez, Health & Social Services, Manager of the Year; Daniel J. Kronk, Children's Services, Supervisor of the Year; Carlos Fernandes, Public Works, Citizen/Customer Service; Florence Gainer, Public Works, Citizenship; Evon Jenkins, Children's Services, Helpfulness Award; Joseph Couture, Health & Social Services, Service & Program Improvement; Real Estate Safety Action Team, Safety Effectiveness; Stormwater Management Construction Team, Team Effectiveness.

The awards program is for employees who work under the County Administrator. Departments select nominees, and committees comprised of past winners and the executive team choose the final winners.

Bond Rating Upgraded

An upgrade in bond ratings and a highly successful bond refinancing transaction that will produce \$5.3 million in interest rate savings translate into good news for taxpayers and Hillsborough County's reputation in the financial market.

The refinancing involves \$100 million in bonds originally issued in 1987. An interest rate swap will lock in current low interest rates on county bonds to be refinanced in 2003. The winning bidder, Bear Stearns Financial Products, will pay the \$5.3 million in savings to the county up front, to be held in reserve until the swap becomes effective next year.

In other financial news, Standard & Poor's Rating Services has raised its rating on the county's unincorporated area GO bonds from "AA-," to "AA+."

The agency attributes the upgrade to county government's "track record of strong financial and debt management practices that have allowed management to

maintain strong reserves and a very low debt burden." The agency noted that county government's financial performance and position are strong.

Higher bond ratings translate into lower costs to the county for future borrowing, and enhances the county's attractiveness to companies interested in relocating here.

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For more information, call Public Information at 272-5314 or the Hillsborough Information Line at 272-5900.

Web site: www.Hillsboroughcounty.org

Daniel A. Kleman
County Administrator

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners



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Keeping You Informed About County Government

October 2002

Sprinkling Ban Has Silver Lining

Some water customers found a silver lining in the storm clouds. The silver amounted to some significant savings when they turned off their sprinkler systems for a month.

A quick check of water accounts showed that some customers reduced their water use by more than 75 percent.

A Brandon customer, who had been using more than 23,000 gallons of water each month, cut his use to 5,200 gallons during July -- a 77 percent decrease. This is a savings of more than 600 gallons each day for the month.

Not only did this person respond to the temporary irrigation ban in the eastern and southern part of the county, he also saved \$57.90 on his water bill. His bill for July was slightly more than \$25, much less than his \$83 bill for June.

Even some customers who typically use about 6,000 gallons a month found they were able to cut their use by 40 percent to 3,600 gallons. That represents 100 gallons a day for the month. While the savings was only about \$7.70 for this Brandon resident, this person helped the Water Department achieve its objective of helping its supplier, Tampa Bay Water, avoid exceeding its pumping

level permit.

Another Brandon customer chopped his usage from 20,700 gallons in June to 7,500 gallons in July. This is a 13,200 gallon saving for the month, or 440 gallons per day. This customer saved more than \$42 on his water bill from the previous month.

These three examples show that many water customers exceeded the average savings of 50 gallons a day or 1,500 gallons a month for each of the area's 60,000 customers. Collectively, these 60,000 customers reduced their water use by 3 million gallons a day during July. This reduction pushed a potential permit violation back from the brink.

The Water Department thanks everyone for conserving water during this period and urges its customers to continue their efforts to preserve our vital resource. Rainfall has been plentiful during the summer, but the aquifer levels are still at the low edge of normal. The area is starting to come out of the four years of drought, but it has not completely recovered.

You can help the rain ... by keeping your sprinkler system turned off during this wet season.

CAMPAIGN SIGNS HAVE THEIR PLACE -- BUT NOT IN RIGHT OF WAY

It happens each election year -- campaign signs pop up like summer weeds.



Unfortunately, some of those signs end up in rights of way, where they're not just unsightly, but also can be dangerous if they block the view of oncoming traffic.

"It's a pretty significant problem," said Don Shea, director of Community Improvement. "We get an awful lot of complaints."

In a typical election season, it's not unusual for county code enforcement staff to confiscate as many as 10,000 signs, Shea said.

In unincorporated Hillsborough County, campaign signs can be no larger than 32 square feet, and must not be placed in the right of way, including on light poles. The signs must be removed within 30 days of an election.

Breaking the rules can be expensive. Property owners can be cited if a banner or sign is larger than the allowed size. And the signs that are confiscated from rights of way? The county used to stockpile them, but campaign supporters would find them and put them right back in the rights of way. So now, the policy is to take the signs to the county's Resource Recovery Facility.

"A lot of people think it's very silly for us to devote the manpower that we do to remove the illegal signs, but it's the law," Shea said. "We're not given a choice to disregard the requirements of the law."



October Is Adopt-A-Dog Month

Emily Tesson and Dugan visit Animal Services to say "thank you" for bringing them together. Tesson adopted the terrier mix from Animal Services. After behavior and obedience training, Dugan settled in to become Tesson's loving companion. There are many, many dogs and cats waiting at Animal Services to be adopted. All adoption animals are spayed or neutered, micro-chipped and have their rabies vaccination and tags. Visit Animal Services weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., or on Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The shelter is located at 440 Falkenburg Road, north of State Road 60, south of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

GOT QUESTIONS?

GET ANSWERS!

272-5900

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