

MYTHS About Hillsborough County's Water Service

MYTH NO. 1 THE DROUGHT IS OVER

While we have received near normal rainfall this year, the deficits in lakes, streams and the aquifer remain. They are getting better but are not fully recovered. While we may be experiencing mild El Nino conditions now, there will again be drought conditions in the future.

MYTH NO. 2 THE COUNTY WASTES WATER

Since 1989, the county has saved more than 15 million gallons per day of water, thanks to our customers and the county's strong water conservation programs. Our per person water use of 105 gallons per day is one of the lowest in Southwest Florida.

MYTH NO. 3 RECLAIMED WATER ISN'T A PRIORITY

Hillsborough County is a leader in water conservation, with a well established reclaimed water program that is more than 10 years old. Its 10,000 residential and commercial customers use about 13.5 million gallons a day of reclaimed water. Another way of looking at that statistic is that Hillsborough County and its customers save 13.5 million gallons of drinking water a day.

The county has waiting and willing new reclaimed water customers, but we need new sources of re-

Hillsborough County Watering Schedule						
SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
No watering allowed	Address ends in 0 or 1	Address ends in 2 or 3	Address ends in 4 or 5	Address ends in 6 or 7	Address ends in 8 or 9 and no address	No watering allowed

As a reminder, here is the current lawn-watering schedule in effect for unincorporated Hillsborough County (and this is NOT a myth!).

claimed water, such as Tampa's supply, the majority of which is being dumped in Tampa Bay.

MYTH NO. 4 COUNTY WATER RESTRICTIONS ARE WEAK

The county's water restrictions are among the most stringent in the state. For example, the Southwest Florida Management District allows up to 60 days of watering for new lawns, whereas the county only permits 30 days of watering, followed by 30 days of watering on alternating days, as necessary.

The county also is tough in its enforcement of water use restrictions. In the past year alone, we have issued 3,810 citations and 1,268 warnings.

MYTH NO. 5 WE CAN "MAKE" MORE WATER

No new water is ever added to the water cycle. You are drinking the same water that the dinosaurs drank. Water merely follows the hydrologic cycle.

MYTH NO. 6 WATER RATES ARE INCREASING

Hillsborough County is required to buy all of its drinking water from the regional supplier, Tampa Bay Water. In order to develop new, environmentally sensitive supplies, Tampa Bay Water has steadily increased its water rates. Hillsborough County charges have not increased since 2000.

MYTH NO. 7 COUNTY STALLS NEW PROJECTS

Because the majority of the new water supplies being developed by Tampa Bay Water are inside the county, your county government wants to ensure that the new sources don't adversely impact our residents or the environment. Since 1999, the County could have legally challenged more than 55 permits needed by Tampa Bay Water for the new supplies.

Only one was challenged. Two other cases were withdrawn, and several others settled before hearings started. The county's oversight actually has served to enhance the water projects.

Bookmobile Makes Rounds Of E-Libraries

Since 1995, the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System and Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation Department have joined to provide access to library materials and computers through electronic libraries.

Five e-libraries are located in Parks & Recreation centers in Hillsborough County: Balm, Bealsville, Bethune, Keysville and Progress Village.

Library materials and databases are available to anyone with a computer through the library's web page hcplc.org, but many in our community do not have a computer or easy access to a library. E-libraries have helped bridge the gap.

As an added service, the Library's bookmobile makes stops at a different site e-library site each day from 2 - 5 p.m., giving residents easy access to a great collection of books and videos.

If you live in any of these neighborhoods, or know someone who does, let them know that they can connect to a world of information and books at their Parks & Recreation Center. **For more information, call 273-3652, ext. 2, or visit www.hcplc.org.**



A YOUNG READER LEAVES THE BOOKMOBILE DURING A RECENT VISIT TO THE PROGRESS VILLAGE RECREATION CENTER.

DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 3,000 bags of roadside trash were picked up by the Sheriff's Clean-up Crews last year in unincorporated Hillsborough County.
- Roadside litter collection and disposal costs the nation more than \$131 million annually.
- Cigarette butts take decades to decompose because of the plastic in the filter.



Free Program On Local Water Resources Issues Will Be Offered In February, March

Where does our drinking water come from? Why are there water restrictions when Florida gets so much rainfall? What happens when we desalinate seawater to drink?

If you are interested in answers to these questions, come and be a part of the Senior Water Resource Training (SWRT) program, to be held in February and March at the Hillsborough County Extension Office in Seffner.

SWRT includes guest speakers and field trips to local areas of interest. The first session of the course will begin on Feb. 18 at 1 p.m., and the course will be repeated beginning on March 18.

SWRT is funded by the Hillsborough County Water Department and is free of charge. If you are interested in joining SWRT, please call Fay Baird or Karen Hill toll free at Pandion Systems, 1-888-372-4774 or email fbaird@pandionsystems.com.

You do not have to call again if you already contacted us about the program in Fall 2002.

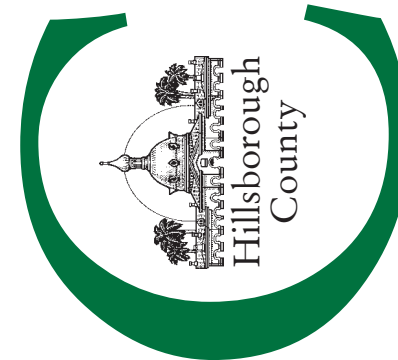
Hillsborough County Communicator

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For more information, call Public Information at 272-5314 or the Hillsborough Information Line at 272-5900.
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Daniel A. Kleman
County Administrator

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners



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Keeping You Informed About County Government

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