

Tips *(From front page)*

That's why April is recognized in Florida as Water Conservation Month. Florida is the only state that recognizes the importance of water conservation in such a way.

The Hillsborough County Water Department encourages water conservation through educational campaigns and outreach, enforcement of water restrictions, rebate programs and construction of reclaimed water systems. Residents have paid attention, dropping the average daily water use per per-

son from 146 gallons in 1989, to the current level of 105 gallons per person per day.

Find out more by visiting the Water Department's web pages at www.hillsboroughcounty.org. Click on the "A to Z" index and go to "Water Conservation."

Remember, every drop counts. With your help, we can make a difference when it comes to conserving this vital resource.

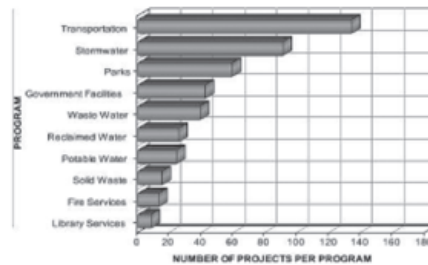
WATER WISE TIPS TO HELP YOU SAVE EVERY DAY!

- Clean your car at commercial vehicle washes that recycle their water.
- Install a rain sensor switch on your sprinkler system.
- Know and follow the water restrictions for your area.
- Put a nozzle on your hose.
- Install low-flow showerheads, toilets and faucet aerators.
- Raise the height of your lawn mower.

County Launches New Online Service

Go just about anywhere in Hillsborough County and you're likely to encounter a new construction sign or roadside project. But, have you ever wondered how long it would last or its purpose for being built? Those details and more are now available through Hillsborough County's new Project Information Management System (PIMS), an online service that allows you to learn about and

monitor the status of the County's capital improvement program. To access PIMS, visit the County's website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org and click on the link titled, "Find County Project Information and Maps." Simply follow the instructions and get all the details you need concerning a project. Details of approximately 450 active projects are now available online.



Charter Review Board Reconvenes

County government is under review. That's because members of the 2005-2006 Charter Review Board have begun to conduct a comprehensive study of all phases of County government. Every five years, as required by Hillsborough County's Home Rule Charter, the Charter Review Board convenes for this purpose.

Each County Commissioner appoints two members from their district, and those members elect a chairman. This year's chair is former County Commissioner Jan Platt, who, along with Hung Mai was appointed by Chairman Jim Norman. Other members include Keith Hall, appointed by Vice-Chair Ken Hagan; Mitch Thrower and David Storck, appointed by Commissioner Brian Blair; Jim Porter, appointed by Commissioner Kathy Castor; Gerald White and Sharon Miller, appointed by Commissioner Thomas Scott; A.J. Mandt and Jim Beeler, appointed by Commissioner Mark Sharpe; and Janet Wilson and Terry Ballard, appointed by Commissioner Ronda Storms.

Charter Review Board members have the ability to propose changes to the Charter, which then would go to voters for approval during the next General Election in November 2006.

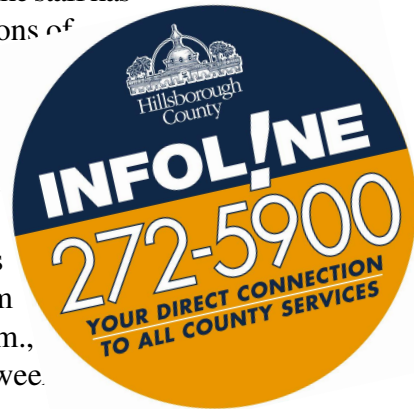
The Home Rule Charter was approved by voters in a countywide referendum in September 1983. It specifies how local government will be organized, with a division between the legislative branch – the Board of County Commissioners – and the executive branch – the County Administrator.

InfoLine Turns 30!

From basic information and referrals to all health, social and government services, plus various requests for assistance in between, Hillsborough County's InfoLine, a service of the Citizen Action Center, has provided help to citizens for 30 years.

Since 1975, the staff has handled millions of calls in a courteous, caring & professional manner. Last year, the group extended its hours from 7a.m. to 11p.m., seven days a week to handle the more than 100,000 calls they receive annually.

The Citizen Action Center was created by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners to provide a simple and convenient way for citizens to access health, social and government services throughout Hillsborough County.



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NEWS BRIEFS...

Is Online 911 Service For You?

If you're considering Internet-based telephone service, make certain it includes 911 service. When calling 911 from a land line telephone, emergency service providers can automatically pinpoint your location, even if you're not able to. The same may not be true for Internet-based telephone services, which may first require you to go online and manually enter your name and address, so any 911 calls you make using it can be routed properly. To find out more, call 744-5911.

The Switch Is On In South Central

This month, 75,000 homes and businesses throughout Brandon, Riverview, Gibsonton, Apollo Beach, Ruskin, Sun City Center and other communities will begin receiving drinking water treated with chloramines, rather than chlorine. Although chloramines are safe for humans and typical household pets, fish owners and kidney dialysis patients must take special precautions. For questions or more information, please call 272-5977.

Hillsborough County Communicator

Published every month by the Communications Department to inform residents about the programs, services and activities of their County government.

For more information, call the Hillsborough Information Line at 272-5900, or visit the county's website at: www.hillsboroughcounty.org

Board of County Commissioners

Jim Norman, Chair
Ken Hagan, Vice Chair
Brian Blair
Mark Sharpe
Kathy Castor
Thomas Scott
Ronda Storms
Patricia G. Bean
County Administrator



Hillsborough County
COMMUNICATOR
Keeping You Informed About County Government
APRIL 2005

April Is Water Conservation Month

Use What You Need, Need What You Use

Water is our most precious natural resource.

Seventy to 75 percent of the Earth's surface is covered with water, but less than 3 percent of that amount is fresh water.

You can survive a month without food, but only a few days without water.



There is no more water on our planet today than there was 3 billion years ago. Although water seems to

be abundant in Florida, the resources are not always readily available, and there is often competition between water users and natural resource protection. Lawn watering restrictions are no longer temporary – they've become a way of life.

And still, we take water for granted.

(See "Tips," inside)

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