

Vanderploog Named to Permanent Post

Paul J. Vanderploog can remove the word “interim” from his signature line as head of Hillsborough County’s Water Department.



1998 as a manager in the Public Works Depart-

ment. He also served as director of the department’s Transportation Maintenance section for four years. A native of Rochester, N.Y., he has a master’s degree in management, is a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and numerous other military programs, and has been recognized by the military and the Department of Defense for distinguished service.

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Water and Wastewater Hurricane Tips

Even though it had been downgraded to a tropical storm by the time it brushed across our area in late September, Hurricane Jeanne created big problems for the Hillsborough County Water Department. Power outages during the storm affected nearly 300 wastewater lift stations, two Tampa Bay Water wellfields that serve county water customers, three wastewater treatment plants and two water plants.

With predictions for another active hurricane season, now’s the time to learn from previous lessons:

•**Make your water do double-duty.** Fill up jugs with drinking water in advance of a storm and put the containers in the freezer to keep your refrigerator and freezer cooler longer if you lose electricity.

•**Be a good neighbor – restrict water use.** After a storm, avoid unnecessary water use, such as toilet flushing and doing large loads of laundry.

•**Know what a “boil water” notice means.** If officials issue a boil water notice, bring water used for

cooking, drinking and brushing teeth to a full rolling boil for one minute. Cool before using. Allow the water to run clear before washing clothes. Discard any ice made with automatic ice-makers.

•**Protect your private well.** Make sure the well cap is secure, sealed and the vent screen is intact so contaminants cannot enter. If the appearance or taste of the water does change, the well will need to be disinfected, tested and declared safe before normal use can be resumed.

•**Know the location of your sewer clean-out cap.** In a worst-case scenario where sewage is backing up into your home, you can divert the flow to the yard by removing the sewer clean-out cap. The cap is positioned outdoors, but the exact location varies depending on the home.

•**Stay away from standing water.** It may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines, or be contaminated by runoff or sewage.

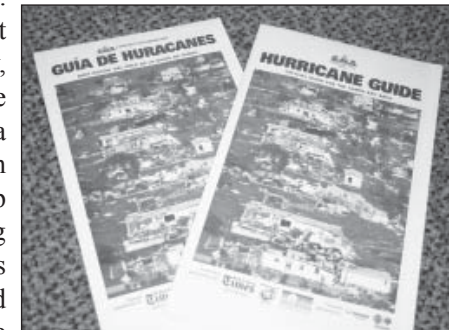
2005 Hurricane Guides Now Available

The 2005 hurricane season is now under way, which means residents need to start preparing. To assist, Hillsborough County is making 2005 Hurricane Guides available at a number of locations.

The free brochure contains information about simple safety precautions to take before storms develop, what to do when a storm is headed your way, and what to do after a disaster.

The guide has a list of shelters, special instructions for businesses, information on protecting pets and advice for seniors who live alone and are frail or disabled.

Most importantly, the guide contains a Hillsborough County map showing which areas are covered by the five evacuation levels.



The guides are available in both English and Spanish in the following locations:

- Frederick B. Karl County Center, First Floor
601 E. Kennedy Blvd. in downtown Tampa.
- Hillsborough County Public Libraries
- Post Offices

**Para información,
llamar al 272-5900.**

Claiming Your Reclaimed Water

Reclaimed water is wastewater treated to meet stringent regulatory standards for reuse in irrigating lawns and landscaping. Hillsborough County's Water Department provides about 14 million gallons of reclaimed water daily to 13,000 residential and commercial customers in the unincorporated areas of the county. Reclaimed water is popular among property owners because it is exempt from lawn watering restrictions and it costs less to use for irrigation than potable water.



During a recent Town Hall meeting in the Citrus Park area, a question about how the Water Department determines what areas get reclaimed water was raised.

The answer is that reclaimed water requests are handled on a first-come, first-serve basis with customers bearing the cost of constructing the infrastructure.

In existing subdivisions, homeowners typically reimburse the Water Department for design and construction costs by establishing a Reclaimed Water Improvement Unit, allowing them to pay the costs over time as a non-ad valorem assessment on their property tax bill. This can sometimes take two to four years for the project to work its way through the capital improvement process, particularly if the department has more pressing needs. Conversely, developers of new subdivisions often have the resources to construct the reclaimed water infrastructure quicker. In either case, transmission mains must be located nearby and a supply of reclaimed water available.

For more information, call 272-5977, or visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/water/reclaimedwater.

NEWS BRIEFS... Fire Station Opens In Town 'N Country

Tampa Shores Area Fire Station 39, the County's newest fire station, opened recently. The fire station, located at 7371 Montague Street in northwest Hillsborough County, serves the Tampa Shores area westward to the county line at Racetrack Road. It is the third fire station being opened as part of a County effort to reduce response times of fire rescue units to the scene of an emergency.

County Wins Statewide Award

A partnership among Hillsborough County's Agriculture Industry Development Program, the Agriculture Economic Development Council (AEDC) and the Farm Bureau received an award from the Council for Sustainable Florida, which recognized the county's groundbreaking approach to helping support its agriculture industry.

Examples included the County's identification of agricultural regulations and permits that needed streamlining, and designing the "Hillsborough Grown" campaign to highlight locally-grown agriculture.

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

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COMMUNICATOR
Keeping You Informed About County Government
JULY 2005

More Changes On The Way

Hillsborough County water customers in our Northwest service area will experience a temporary change in the way their tap water is treated in August.

During this period, the Water Department will use chlorine, rather than chloramines, as a preventive measure to reduce the potential for occurrences of bacteria in the distribution system which serves this area. The temporary change is a standard practice for many water systems and is being done to ensure the water we deliver to you daily is of the highest quality.

Customers may notice a chlorine taste and/or smell during this time. These changes are normal and carry no negative health effects. Distribution lines will be flushed during the maintenance program to make way for the chlorinated water.

The switch should not affect kidney dialysis patients since treatment processes that remove chloramines also remove chlorine. Similarly, fish owners should not be affected since products that remove chloramines also remove chlorine.

Water customers who have questions or concerns about the chlorine maintenance program can contact the Water Quality line at 264-3835 for more information.

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