

# Watering Restriction Changes

Once-a-week watering restrictions in the Water Department's South-Central service area are automatically scheduled to change to a twice-a-week schedule on June 1.

To confirm your schedule, be sure to tune into news reports, and check your watering days by logging onto Hillsborough County's website at [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org).

Click on the A to Z index, and go to "Water Restrictions." Information can also be obtained from a recorded message at 275-7094, or Customer Service at 272-6680.

Watering at the wrong time can net you a fine. On the twice-a-week schedule, addresses ending in even numbers or the letters A-M may water on Tuesdays and Saturdays; addresses ending in odd numbers, the letters N-Z or locations with no address (such as



common areas) may water on Wednesdays and Sundays. Watering is allowed before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. on the assigned days.

The restrictions apply even to residents and businesses who receive their water from private wells. The only exceptions are reclaimed water users and residents who have received variances issued by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

County Commissioners placed the South-Central region on the once-a-day schedule last summer to alleviate the stress on the water treatment plant and well fields which serve this area. This spring, the Water Department and Tampa Bay Water completed various construction projects which now connect the area to the regional water supply system.

# Research Center Opens In Hillsborough County

The new Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, part of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, is now up and running, thanks in part to the Hillsborough County Commission's approval of a motion to convey the 475-acre site in Balm.

Commissioners also assisted with site development costs for the Research Center totaling nearly \$2 million dollars. Research on tomatoes, vegetables, ornamental and flowering plants and strawberries will be conducted to help growers identify and manage pest and disease problems on their crops.

The site, selected by a 12-member committee, was chosen because of its suitability for a variety of agri-

cultural and natural resource, research and education projects.

Hillsborough County ranks third in the State in agricultural production and is home to almost 3,000 farms, comprising more than a third of the land-mass of the county, making Hillsborough County an excellent location for a statewide agricultural program.

The Agricultural Research Center will have a considerable positive impact on the agricultural community and Hillsborough County by providing research-based answers to agricultural and environmental issues, and will help maintain agriculture as an integral part of Hillsborough County's economy and community.

# County Receives Top Honors

Hillsborough County received top honors from the Planning Commission during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community



**The newly refurbished West Tampa Library**

Design Awards program, recognizing excellence in planning, landscape, architecture, environmental sensitivity and architectural design in building and development projects

throughout the County.

The West Tampa Library preservation and renovation project is a significant step toward revitalizing historic West Tampa, resulting in an historically important resource that still supplies needed library services and public meeting space. **To see the changes in person, visit the West Tampa Library at 2312 W. Union St. in Tampa.**

## Flapper *(From front page)*

because of use, cleaning chemicals and the disinfectants used to treat potable water.

How do you know if the flapper needs to be fixed? Sometimes it's easy – you'll hear the tank make a "swoosh" sound even when the toilet hasn't been used for awhile. Most leaks aren't that obvious, though. To check, put a few drops to one teaspoon of food coloring, or a dye tablet, into your toilet tank. Wait about 15 minutes. If the color makes its way into the toilet bowl, you probably have a leaky flapper that needs to be replaced.

Flappers cost just a few dollars and are available at hardware stores and home discount stores. Be sure to buy the right size, since an improperly-fitting flapper can cause the same problems as a worn one. This small investment can make a big difference in conserving water and save money on your water bill.

**To find out how to buy the right flapper and install it, go to [www.toiletflapper.org](http://www.toiletflapper.org).**

# Hillsborough County Needs Employers

If you're a business owner ready to take down that "Help Wanted" sign, Hillsborough County may be able to help.

The Health & Social Services Department's new Employment Opportunity Program is now in search of local businesses that can participate by hiring able and willing employees.

The program is designed to help Hillsborough County residents regain economic self-sufficiency through employment.

Services include in-depth interviews to assess employment needs, evaluations of work history, removal of potential employment barriers, matching applicants to available jobs, and providing follow up with employers and clients to ensure job retention.

This program has already helped more than 1,000 residents find new jobs here in Hillsborough County.

However, to help in the success of this program, the County needs local businesses that are willing to participate in this wonderful matching opportunity.

**For more information about how you can participate, please call 272-5074, ext. 216.**

**Para información,  
llamar al 272-5314.**

## NEWS BRIEFS...

### Stormwater Upgrades Will Prevent Flooding

Hillsborough County government, along with the City of Tampa, will make extensive improvements over the next several years to eliminate chronic flooding around the University Square Mall in the Duck Pond Watershed, an area hit hard by flooding during Hurricane Frances.

Upgrades include new pipes, pumps, control systems and detention areas for holding water temporarily before it's released. The entire project is expected to be complete by 2010.

### Needy Residents Get Help on Energy Bills

Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program Funds are available to needy households that are 150% of the federal poverty guideline or below, to pay immediate home energy bills. Priority will be given to households with residents who are 60 years of age or older, disabled, homebound, and parents/guardians with children. To apply, check with the Neighborhood Service Center nearest you or visit Hillsborough County's web site at [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org).

### 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](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org)

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Hillsborough County

## COMMUNICATOR

Keeping You Informed About County Government

JUNE 2005



## When Your Flapper Flops

A son screeches as a cheerful voice informs the family they have a maintenance problem. You'd probably run in the other direction, too – if the voice came from a talking head in your toilet.

The video public service announcement is funny, but the message is serious: a warped or poorly-fitting flapper can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day, and may cost hundreds of dollars a year in wasted water.

A flapper is a rubber mechanism in your toilet tank that is the moving part of the flush valve, sealing water into the tank and allowing water to exit the tank when you flush. Flappers deteriorate over time

*(See "Flapper," inside)*

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