

Switch *(From front page)*

demand of this rapidly-growing area.

This is the first step of a multi-year plan being undertaken by the county and the regional water supplier that includes new water treatment capacity, storage, booster facilities, pipelines and interconnection points in the Brandon area and south Hillsborough County, one of the fastest growing regions in the Tampa Bay area. An added benefit is that the chloramines disinfection also meets higher quality and safety standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This proven, safe treatment has been used for decades by utilities across the country and in Florida, including the cities of

Tampa and Miami. Chloramines have been used in our northwest service area since November 2001.

What does the switch mean to you? Although chloramines are perfectly safe for humans and our four-legged friends, fish owners and kidney dialysis patients will want to take special precautions.

Like chlorine, chloramines must be removed from water used in the kidney dialysis process, and from water that is used in fish tanks or ponds.

If you have questions about chloramines, please contact Luke Mulford or Norman Vik at the Hillsborough County Water Department, 272-5977, during normal business hours.

“...Chloramines disinfection also meets higher quality and safety standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.”

“Look Up” Water Restrictions

Do you know whether you have to follow twice-a-week watering restrictions? Or whether you can only water once weekly? And whose watering restrictions do you follow if you live in the county but your water is provided by the City of Tampa?

Breaking the rules could mean a fine. But now, you can get a watering schedule customized by your address – simply by hitting a few keystrokes on your computer the next time you’re on-line.

Watering restrictions by address are now available by logging onto Hillsborough County’s website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org, by clicking on the A to Z index, and going to “Water Restrictions.”

Once there, you’ll find the “look up” feature on the left hand side of the page.



Follow the instructions to obtain – and print - a schedule of watering days. If the search feature determines the address isn’t in unincorporated Hillsborough County, it offers links to the websites and restriction information for the cities of Tampa, Temple Terrace and Plant City.

Don’t have access to a computer? Of course, you can still use your telephone to call for information about the restrictions. A recorded message can be reached at 275-7094, or call Customer Service at 272-6680.

Chloramines Q & A

Q. Will chloraminated water interact with my medications?

A. There are no known interactions between chloraminated water and any kind of medication.

Q. I have a fish aquarium in my home. Am I going to have to do anything different to the water?

A. Yes. Chloramines, like chlorine, are toxic for fish, both freshwater and saltwater, and other aquatic life, including lobster, shrimp, frogs, turtles, snails, clams and live coral. Water conditioners and filters specifically designed for removing both chlorine and chloramines are available. Pet stores or pet suppliers should be able to provide information on products and instructions.

Q. Will the use of chloramines affect kidney dialysis centers and patients?

A. Yes. Kidney dialysis patients must remove chloramines from the water they use in dialysis machines. Patients should check with their dialysis center which can recommend the proper type of water treatment. Dialysis centers will be notified to prepare for the change.

Q. Will my plants be affected?

A. Plants, vegetables, fruit and nut trees are not affected by chloramines in any way.

Q. Will this change cause my water bill to increase?

A. No.

Chloramines Q & A

Q. What are chloramines?

A. Chloramines are a disinfectant produced by combining chlorine and ammonia. Using chloramines to treat drinking water is a safe, common practice that has been used since the 1930s by drinking water utilities across the country.

Q. Why make the switch?

A. The communities in the South-Central service area are growing rapidly. More people means more demand for water. To meet this demand, regional water supplies must be used. Switching to chloramines will make Hillsborough County's southern service area compatible with that of its wholesale water supplier, Tampa Bay Water.

Q. Will I notice a difference in the water?

A. Most people report an improvement in the way their drinking water tastes, because they can no longer detect the chlorine. Some temporary impacts may be noticed as the chloraminated water is introduced into the distribution system, such as a variation in water color or possible sediment.

Q. What should I do if I notice sediment in my water?

A. The sediment may occur as the pipelines are flushed to purge the chlorinated water and make way for the new chloraminated water. If this happens, try running cold water in your sink or bathtub for three to five minutes. If that doesn't clear up the problem, contact the Hillsborough County Water Quality line at 744-5544.

NEWS BRIEFS...

Help Make Hillsborough Clean

Last year, more than 1,319 volunteers collected 107,794 pounds of trash throughout Hillsborough County. You can help keep Hillsborough County beautiful by getting involved with this year's Great American Cleanup on April 16. The countywide event is part of a national effort to spruce up communities all over the country. For more about how you can be a part of this effort, simply log on to www.khcbonline.org or contact the Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful office at 960-5121.

Visit Your Local Library

The Friends of the Library will host its third annual One Community, One Book project this month. This year's book selection is the debut novel of Susan Carol McCarthy, author of "Lay That Trumpet in Our Hands," a fictionalized account of events surrounding the 1951 murders of NAACP leader Harry T. Moore and his wife Henriette. The unsolved murder has gained new attention since Florida Attorney General Charlie Crist recently reopened a review of the case.

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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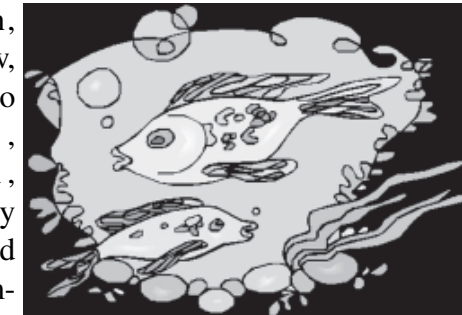
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The Switch Is On

Springtime brings change to our lives – we change our clocks to Daylight Savings Time, swap our winter clothes for warm weather wardrobes, move things around our homes as we clean, and even change plants and landscaping in our yards.

This spring also will bring a change in the way Hillsborough County treats drinking water for customers in Brandon, Riverview, Apollo Beach, Ruskin, Sun City Center and other communities in our South-Central service area.

Beginning in mid-April, 75,000 homes and businesses in this area will receive drinking water that is treated with chloramines, rather than chlorine. The switch will allow us to receive regional water supplies from Tampa Bay Water to meet the



(See "Switch," inside)

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