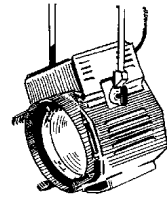


## Pass-Through Charge Increase On Your Next Water Bill



On your billing statement, you may have noticed a message that informs customers that the “Purchased-Water Pass-Through Charge” will be increased effective October 1. What does that mean?

Hillsborough County does not own any drinking water sources, such as wellfields or reservoirs. Nearly all of the drinking water we provide to our customers is purchased from Tampa Bay Water, the regional wholesale water supplier that serves six member governments. Depending on where you live, you may



also be drinking water we buy from the cities of Tampa, Temple Terrace or Plant City.

The cost of this purchased water is paid by our customers through the “pass-through” charge, which is averaged and

calculated annually. Every customer pays the same rate. As of October 1, the rate increased 11 cents to a monthly charge of \$2.21 per thousand gallons. The increase will be reflected in bills beginning with your November statement.

For a typical household with 6,000 gallons of water use a month, the increase amounts to less than a dollar - with change to spare - per billing period. If you water your lawn, figure about an extra dime each time you turn on the sprinklers.

**Make A Difference**  
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## NEWS BRIEFS...

### County Pollution Reduction Project Receives National Attention

Hillsborough County government was recently recognized as a “Crown Community” for its innovative Taliaferro Stormwater Research Project in a recent edition of the governmental affairs publication *American City & County*. This winning research project has been testing innovative ways to filter nitrogen from stormwater, with the goal of reducing the amount of pollutants that flow into our rivers, lakes and Tampa Bay.

The research project has been taking place at the Taliaferro Stormwater Research facility in northwest Hillsborough County, where the Public Works Department built five interconnected stormwater ponds and man-made wetlands.

Nitrogen is a nutrient that in excess can degrade water quality by causing algae blooms and depleting dissolved oxygen, and it is a primary pollutant for Tampa Bay. The project was co-funded by the Hillsborough County Public Works Department and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The Crown Communities Awards recognize local governments with outstanding projects that benefit their residents. About three dozen counties from around the nation entered projects into the competition and four were selected, including Hillsborough County.

### 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)

#### Board of County Commissioners

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Patricia G. Bean  
County Administrator



## COMMUNICATOR

Keeping You Informed About County Government

November 2006

### A Festival to Light up Your Holidays

Come share the holiday spirit at Hillsborough County's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual *Holiday Tree Lighting Festival*. It's a holiday gift to you from the Board of County Commissioners and The Friends of the County Parks.

All the FREE fun takes place Thursday, November 30, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Joe Chillura Courthouse Square at the corner of Kennedy Boulevard and Pierce Street in downtown Tampa.

This year, the festival centers around a 34-foot tall, fully-decorated Christmas Tree glowing with more than 30,000 colored lights, the tallest tree in the history of the event.



The festival will feature a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus and a real snowfall over the entire park. But the highlight is a live, 30-minute musical extravaganza, with local dancers, youth and school choruses, the Gaither High School Marching Cowboys and other

**(CONTINUED INSIDE)**

#### In This Issue...

- Tax Breaks For Local Veterans
- Water Bill Increase
- Hurricane Victims Helped

## You Can Change a Young Person's Life

Each day in Hillsborough County, Head Start/ Early Head Start reaches 3,250 children by providing education, health, nutritional and social services to low-income infants, toddlers and children and their families via the operation of more than 60 sites.

A large part of the program's success is the involvement of Hillsborough County citizens, businesses and organizations who want to be a part of changing the lives of young children.



Those who wish to donate their time can assist in the classroom or office, help renovate centers or help with parent education activities. Those who wish to as-

sist financially can donate educational materials, playground equipment or a percentage of a day's business proceeds towards the purchase of school supplies.

Holiday assistance is also welcome. Adopting a center for the holidays, hosting a holiday gift tree, or even assisting in wrapping gifts are all great ways to show holiday spirit! There is a particular need for donated classroom or office space as well as pro-bono services from medical/dental/vision/mental health professionals.

**For more information on how you can help some of the county's youngest and neediest citizens, please call Laura Rice at 272-5140 X3106**

## Check Presented to Adopted County

With many residents still experiencing the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Hillsborough County Administrator Pat Bean returned to Hancock County, Mississippi to make good on a promise made earlier this year.

Accompanied by a few Hillsborough County staff members who have assisted Hancock County over the past year, Bean presented a \$100,000 check to the Hancock County Board of Supervisors in exchange

for a report providing information on valuable lessons learned. Hillsborough County officially adopted Hancock County after Hurricane Katrina hit in August 2005.

As part of this adoption, Bean, Hillsborough County Emergency Management Director Larry Gispert and other staff members have visited Hancock County on several occasions to assist with everything from infrastructure to stocking supplies.

## Festival of Lights (Continued From Front)

musical performances you won't want to miss.

Fun activities include a snow slope, a rock climbing wall, Moonwalk, an inflatable obstacle course, and arts and crafts for all ages. You might even win a prize.

Festival visitors can enjoy a bevy of free yummy Yuletide treats including sodas, hot dogs, chips, cotton candy and popcorn. It's all free, including parking. So mark the day, and come light up your holiday season with a Hillsborough County tradition.

For more information, call 272-5275 or email [santa@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:santa@hillsboroughcounty.org). Volunteers are also needed. Call Lois Kessler at 903-2253 to sign up.



## Hillsborough County Continues its Support for Local Military

This year, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners will again support Hillsborough County residents serving in combat by offering a tax grant. This *Active Military Combat Duty Grant* gives them as much as \$1,500 if they owned a Homestead Exempt home in Hillsborough County and paid their property taxes. Because of all the positive feedback received, Commissioners recently expanded the program to include annual grants for up to five years for former military members who qualify for disability benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as well as for certain survivors of military personnel killed in combat.

To qualify for this program, military members must have served a minimum of 45 days in combat (or less for a combat disability or death) during 2005 or 2006, along with other specific requirements. The disability grant program will be effective in late November 2006 to coincide with the annual property tax payment program.

The program will be available to uniformed active duty military members or former active duty military members who reside in unincorporated Hillsborough County.

County Commissioners also want to honor veterans of all conflicts and wars, both past and present, who lost their lives protecting their families while serving their country. A countywide committee made up of local veterans groups has been organized to make recommendations for long-term improvements to the Veterans Memorial Park and Museum.



**For more information, call the Veterans Affairs Office at 975-2181, or visit our website at [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/veteransaffairs](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/veteransaffairs)**