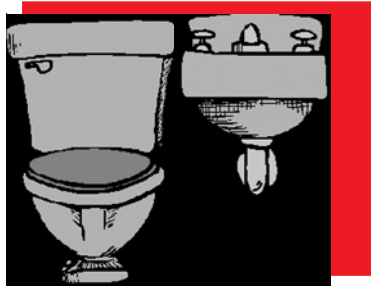


## Is Your Toilet's Flapper Flapping?

It starts with a small “swoosh” every now and then. Eventually, the noise the toilet makes becomes more frequent. Annoying? Yes - but it also indicates a problem: a warped or poorly-fitting flapper, which 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 the 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 because of use, cleaning chemicals and the disinfectants used to treat potable water.



Not every leaking flapper lets you know with a “swoosh” that it’s time to be replaced. To check, put a few drops to 1 teaspoon of food coloring, or a dye tablet, into the 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 or 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 saving 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)

## Celebrate National Energy Awareness Month

It’s October again, remember what that means? Columbus Day, National Boss Day, Daylight Savings Time *AND* Energy Awareness Month. The Federal Energy Management Program has designated October as a time to work a little harder to conserve our natural resources. Hillsborough County has also adopted this month to promote Energy Awareness.

Last January, Tampa Electric Company implemented a 15.9 percent increase in their rate section called “Fuel Cost Adjustment.” How much is this? To put it into perspective, it means an increase of one million dollars a year countywide.

To date, we have identified more than two million dollars in energy saving measures and have imple-

mented more than 50% of those, including lighting retrofits, the use of occupancy sensors, replace traffic signal lights with LED’s, upgrading ball field lighting and the central chilled water plants for the downtown County building.

For a variety of energy conservation tips you can use at home, visit the County’s website at: [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org)

Click on “A-Z index”

Click on “Energy Conservation Tips”



## Shower Savings From Free Showerheads

Visit any home improvement store and you’ll find an array of fancy showerheads suited to every taste and décor.

Trouble is, not all of them are the most water-efficient. Although federal law mandates 2.5-gallon-per-minute showerheads in new homes, many homeowners can’t resist the temptation of those designer, water-gushing models. Many older homes still have 5-gallon-a-minute showerheads.

A 5-gallon-a-minute showerhead will deliver 25 gallons of water during a 5-minute shower. Install a 2-gallon-a-minute showerhead - available from Water Resource Services - and you’ll save 15 gallons a day. That adds up to 450 gallons a month, and 5,475 gallons in a year!

Here’s the best part: our showerheads are FREE to you, our valued customer.

Pick up your water-saving showerhead at any customer service center weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



### South-Central

Brandon Crossings Shopping Center  
Southwest corner of State Road 60 and  
Falkenburg Road

### Northwest

15610 Premiere Drive in Northdale  
Off Northdale Drive, west of Dale Mabry Highway

### SouthShore

Hillsborough County SouthShore Regional Service  
Center  
410 30<sup>th</sup> Street S.E., Ruskin

## October is Adopt-A-Dog Month



Help Celebrate Adopt-A-Dog Month by visiting Hillsborough County Animal Services at 440 Falkenburg Road.

Shelter lobby hours:  
Monday-Friday 9am-6pm  
Saturday 8am-3pm  
Sundays/Holidays  
Closed

Phone: 813-774-5660

Adoptions promptly  
close 30 minutes prior  
to shelter's daily  
closing.

## Verizon & HTV22

If you have Verizon's FIOStv, we are pleased to announce that HTV22, Hillsborough County's government television station, is now available.

Watch gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Board of County Commissioners meetings, as well as award-winning programming on county services and events.

HTV22 is also your official source for hurricane preparedness programming and Hillsborough County election coverage. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on cable channel 22.

For more information, log onto [htv22.org](http://htv22.org).



## General Election November 7, 2006



### Voting is as Easy as 1-2-3!

#1 Request-A-Ballot and vote in the comfort of your own home. You can request a ballot by Phone, Mail, Fax or through the Supervisor of Elections Web site (see below).

#2 Vote early at any of the 20 convenient Early Voting locations near you two weeks prior to the election.

#3 Vote at your precinct on Election Day.

Voting has never been easier. For more information about voting locations or to Request-A-Ballot, call the Supervisor of Elections Office at **(813) 272-5850** or visit their website at [www.votehillsborough.org](http://www.votehillsborough.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 Info Line at 272-5900, or visit the county's website at: [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://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



## COMMUNICATOR

Keeping You Informed About County Government  
October 2006

### Residents Can Serve their Communities During a Disaster

When a disaster strikes, residents are needed to step up to help with recovery. If you have a special skill or simply want to lead your community when it needs you most, consider contacting Hillsborough County about the many opportunities available.

The Community Emergency Response Team, is a FEMA-sponsored training program that teaches citizens life-saving skills for major emergencies, including hurricanes. Realizing that people will likely be on their own during the early stages of a disaster, this training allows them to serve their neighbors until professional assistance arrives. Training is provided by Hillsborough County Fire Rescue.

Residents can count on the Hillsborough Infoline at 272-5900 every day of the year - including disaster days. Volunteers are needed to assist residents during these times as they call in with questions about evacuations, sandbags, comfort stations and more. Bilingual volunteers are especially needed.

Volunteers with special skills, such as sign language interpretation, are also needed to assist those at shelters who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

For information on volunteering, call the Hillsborough Infoline at 813-272-5900.

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