

## Fun Facts About Water

- ◆ Ninety-seven percent of the earth's water is saltwater in oceans and seas. Of the 3 percent that is freshwater, only 1 percent is available for drinking - the remaining 2 percent is frozen in the polar ice caps.
- ◆ There is the same amount of water on Earth as there was when our planet was formed.
- ◆ The largest use of potable water in the United States goes for irrigation.
- ◆ A typical garden hose can deliver 50 gallons of water in just 5 minutes.
- ◆ Water makes up 90 percent of a tomato, 80 percent of pineapples and corn, and 70 percent of a tree.
- ◆ About 4,000 gallons of water are needed to grow one bushel of corn, 11,000 gallons to grow one bushel of wheat, and about 135,000 gallons to grow one ton of alfalfa.
- ◆ It takes about 1,000 gallons of water to grow the wheat to make a two-pound loaf of bread, and about 120 gallons to produce one egg.
- ◆ About 1,400 gallons of water are used to produce a meal of a quarter-pound hamburger, an order of fries and a soft drink.
- ◆ About 48,000 gallons are needed to produce the typical American Thanksgiving dinner for eight people.
- ◆ About 1,800 gallons of water are needed to produce the cotton in a pair of jeans, and 400 gallons to produce the cotton in a shirt.
- ◆ It takes 39,000 gallons of water to produce the average domestic auto, including tires.
- ◆ Producing an average-size Sunday newspaper requires about 150 gallons of water.
- ◆ It can take up to 45 minutes for a water supplier to produce one glass of drinking water.
- ◆ You can refill an 8-ounce glass of water approximately 15,000 times for the same cost as a six-pack of soda pop. And, water has no sugar or caffeine.

## Community Job Fair Open To Residents

Residents looking for a job should come ready to interview at Hillsborough County's Career Connections Job Fair scheduled Thursday, May 24, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the University Area Community Center Complex, 14013 N. 22nd St., Tampa.

More than 50 employers--including Fifth Third Bank, the FBI and Office Depot--and more than 300 participants are expected to attend. The first 300 job-seekers will receive a gift bag. In addition, donated professional clothing will give women a chance to "dress for success."

Career Connections--sponsored by Hillsborough County's Employment Opportunity Program (EOP)--assists low-income residents in becoming self-sufficient by obtaining or enhancing employment opportunities. Its goal is to place residents in part-time or full-time positions in an effort to reduce the percentage of residents living below the federal poverty level. EOP has assisted with more than 2,300 job placements since it started in 2003.

EOP also offers workshops throughout the year to improve other skills, such as interviewing and budgeting. To sign up for a workshop, call 272-5074 x 216.

## 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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## COMMUNICATOR

Keeping You Informed About County Government  
May 2007

## Hillsborough's Tap Water Judged Best In Area

On the hunt for the best drinking water? Bag the bottled stuff. Put away the Perrier.

Hillsborough County snagged top honors recently



Lithia Water Treatment Plant Manager Mark Lehig displays trophy.

for the best tap water in a regional contest sponsored by the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA).

With samples of high-quality water produced by the Lithia Water Treatment Plant, Hillsborough County Water Resource Services emerged tops over seven other competitors - including

Pasco County, which won the statewide taste-testing contest last year.

The regional contest was held in New Port Richey. Judges included representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Environmental Protection and the University of South Florida chapter of the AWWA, who reviewed

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## Celebrate Older American's Month

Since Older American's Month was established by President John F. Kennedy in 1963, the month of May has been designated as a time to officially acknowledge the contributions of older persons to the strength and vitality of our county. Locally, the Hillsborough County Department of Aging Services has partnered with municipalities and organizations to host various events to celebrate with the seniors in our community. Please join us at the festivities!

**Seniors' Prom**-Hey, daddy-o, the Seniors' Prom will be held on Friday, May 11, at the Brandon Recreation Center, 502 E. Sadie St., Brandon, FL 33510. Flash back to the 1950s and compete in the Twist, Hula-Hoop, and Costume Contests. There will be live music and hamburgers. This year's prom will be a bash! Please call the Hillsborough County Aging Services Department at (813) 272-6261 to register and for more information.

**Seniors' Painting Festival**- Aging Services and The Senior Connection are hosting the 30th Annual Seniors' Painting Festival at the Lowry Park Zoo on Tuesday, May 24, starting at 9:00 a.m. The first 500 seniors in attendance will receive free admission to the zoo, and an additional 200 tickets will be available at a discounted rate. Artists 60 years of age and older can submit up to five original paintings, at

## Water Taste Test Award (Continued from Front)

each entry for taste, smell, color and clarity.

"I'm pretty excited," said Mark Lehigh, manager of the Lithia Water Treatment Plant. "Happy and proud."

The Lithia plant, located at 5402 Lithia-Pinecrest Road, provides an average of more than 29 million gallons of water a day to approximately 248,000 people in south and central Hillsborough County.

\$4 per entry. Entries will be judged and cash prizes up to \$100 will be awarded. There will be live entertainment. Please call the Hillsborough County Aging Ser-



vices Department at (813) 272-5160 for more information or for Painting Registration Forms.

**National Senior Health and Fitness Day**-Aging Services will be hosting various fun exercise and nutrition education activities at each of our seven Senior Centers on May 30. Please call Aging Services at (813) 272-6261 for more information.

## Watering Schedule

It's easy to remember your watering day. Just follow the guide below:

- Monday - addresses ending in 0 or 1
- Tuesday - addresses ending in 2 or 3
- Wednesday - addresses ending in 4 or 5
- Thursday - addresses ending in 6 or 7
- Friday - addresses ending in 8 or 9, locations with no address (common areas, entry areas), and locations with mixed addresses (office complexes, shopping centers).

Water before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

## Warm Weather Watering and Landscaping Tips

The month of May typically brings warmer weather, meaning there can be a greater need to water your plants. You can't change Mother Nature, but you can give her some help with Florida-friendly landscaping. Selecting drought-tolerant plants saves water. Grouping plants by water needs will help with more efficient irrigation.

Florida-friendly landscaping emphasizes several principles aimed not only at conserving water, but also protecting the environment. These include putting the right plants in the right place; watering only when plants need it; maintaining 2-3 inches of mulch; recycling grass clippings and leaves; fertilizing only as needed; providing for wildlife; managing yard pests responsibly; and reducing stormwater runoff.

And if saving water and helping the environment isn't enough incentive, consider this: Florida-friendly lawns and landscaping almost always requires less maintenance.

While you're putting in new plants, it's a good time to install a low-volume drip irrigation system in your landscaping beds. Kits, sold in most home



improvement stores, consist of flexible polyethylene hoses with emitters of varying sizes. The hose can be connected directly to an outdoor faucet. You can water flowers and other plants with these systems without having to follow water restrictions, so long as the use is not wasteful.

And don't forget to consider using a rain barrel to collect water for your plants. You can make your own, or buy one ready-made from a garden store.