

Backflow Prevention

(Continued from Front)

Since 1993, Hillsborough County has had an ordinance which regulates and enforces cross-connection control and backflow prevention. The Building Services Division, under the Planning & Growth Management Department, carries out the provisions of the ordinance, which are based on state and federal law.

Among other things, the ordinance requires the installation of backflow prevention devices or assemblies on these alternate water supply sources, as well as new and upgraded commercial and residential irrigation systems, even those that use potable water. That's because even this treated water can pool and stagnate in sprinkler system piping.

For residential reclaimed water customers, one-piece, "dual check" devices are automatically installed at the meter. These devices are maintained and checked by Water Resource Services.

On other systems, the assemblies must be installed by a private contractor who is required to obtain a building permit. The assemblies also must be checked annually by a certified tester who is registered with Development Services. Even the tester's equipment is registered to be sure it's calibrated properly.

If you've received a notice that you are required to install a backflow prevention device, or that it's time to have your system's backflow prevention assembly tested, you're encouraged to shop around, according to Bob DiCecco, who manages the backflow prevention program for Building Services. For example, the tests typically cost \$25 to \$75. However, homeowners often can negotiate a discount rate by grouping together.

The cross-connection control and backflow ordinance is administered and enforced by the Building Services Division. There also is an eight-member citizen board appointed by the County Commission that assists with enforcement. This group hears complaints and appeals brought by citizens, and makes recommendations to the County Commission, when necessary.

For more information about backflow prevention, including a list of companies which offer tests or assemblies, call Bob DiCecco at 635-7370.

Updates 'N Notes

Watering Restrictions

When this issue of *The Communicator* went to the printer, the current once-a-week watering restrictions were due to end on September 30th, but depending on the water supply in the area, may be extended.

To find out what the current watering restrictions are, you may:

- Call 275-7094 for a recorded message;
- Visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/ water and click on the "Restrictions & Conservation" button;
- Call the Water Conservation Team at 274-6800 during regular business hours.

Gardening Workshops Correction

In last month's issue, we publicized gardening workshops being held in the North Tampa area by the Cooperative Extension. Due to staff changes, the planned October 15 workshop has been cancelled and the October 27 event will start at 9:30 a.m., instead of 9 a.m. Call 744-5519, ext. 105 for more information.

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

Board of County Commissioners

Brian Blair
Rose V. Ferlita
Ken Hagan
Al Higginbotham

Jim Norman
Mark Sharpe
Kevin White

Patricia G. Bean
County Administrator



COMMUNICATOR

Keeping You Informed About County Government
October 2007

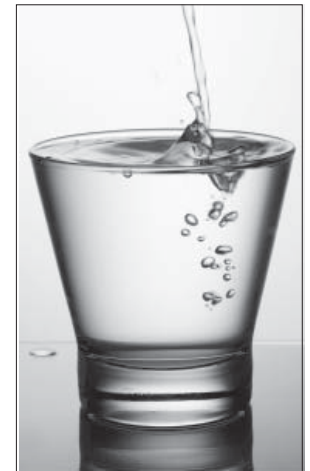
Keeping Our Water Supply Safe

When it comes to finding ways to conserve drinking water or save money, some homeowners look to alternate sources for irrigation, such as a secondary well or a retention pond.

Most have no idea they might be endangering the public water supply.

When there's a significant decrease in water pressure in an area - as can happen when there's a line break, heavy use, or a fire hydrant opened - the water from these alternate sources can be pulled back into the home's indoor plumbing and the public water supply lines. That opens the door to potential contamination.

Just as serious, the homeowner or a sloppy contractor may have accidentally created a cross connection between the potable water supply system and the alternate source. The result? The home's occupants could unintentionally be drinking untreated, unsafe water.



(Continued on Back)

In This Issue...

- New Customer Service Center Hours
- Flood Map Update
- Animal Spay and Neuter Program

County's New Flood Maps Delayed Until 2008

Due to the large number of potential changes to Hillsborough County's updated new flood maps, the maps are now planned to take effect in Fall 2008, rather than this fall as originally expected. The County's extensive outreach on the new maps resulted in more than 2,000 protests and appeals by individuals and companies, which the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has now started reviewing.

County staff also made an effort to review additional properties in areas where they had received protests and submit to FEMA corrections to the maps themselves. They additionally submitted corrections to floodways (or areas where there would be moving water such as around a river) on the maps, which will require re-drawing of the maps in those areas.

This delay means that the current flood maps are still

in effect and the flood insurance requirements remain the same. Therefore, residents who are currently required to carry flood insurance but are going to be mapped out of the high-risk

flood area still have to carry the insurance until the new maps takes effect. Additionally, if the new maps show a property is going to be mapped into the high-risk flood zone, these owners should not be required to start carrying high-risk flood insurance until next year, but should strongly consider carrying a lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy now since they know their risk is increased.

The County released the preliminary new flood maps in November 2006, and held a series of nine public meetings and 18 open houses throughout the County to inform residents about the update and let them



review the maps. Property owners were able to protest the changes to the maps from December 2006 through February 2007 if they had evidence the maps were incorrect.

2,100 protests were submitted to the County and 2,000 of those were recommended to FEMA for approval. Residents who submitted protests are able to check online to see whether or not their protest was recommended for approval on the County's website at: www.hillsboroughcounty.org. To see this page, click on the red "Mapping the Risk: Flood Map Update" link and select the "Protest/Appeal Status" link.

A more detailed fact sheet on this delay and what it means also is available on the Flood Map Update homepage. The new proposed maps also are available for review on this website and are searchable by address or folio number.

Low-Cost Animal Spay/ Neuter Program

For County residents who meet income requirements or receive public assistance, Hillsborough County has a special program that allows them to get their animals spayed or neutered for only \$10 each! To participate in the program, residents need to contact Animal Services to apply and then take an approved voucher to a local veterinarian for the surgery.

For more information, call Animal Services at 744-5660 or visit: www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animalservices and click on the "Spay / Neuter Program Information" link.

Five Great Reasons to Spay & Neuter Your Pet:

- 1) reduces pet overpopulation and euthanasia
- 2) reduces bites, aggression, roaming and lost pets
- 3) reduces the price of your County license tag
- 4) reduces mammary cancers and improves health
- 5) only \$10 for pets of low-income residents!

Water Resource Services Customer Service Centers

NEW HOURS
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Centers are located in:

South-Central: Brandon Crossings Shopping Center, 10061 E. Adamo Drive, Suite 203. (southwest corner of Adamo Drive and Falkenburg Road)

Northwest: 15610 Premiere Drive (off Northdale Boulevard, one block west of Dale Mabry Highway)

SouthShore: SouthShore Regional Service Center, 410 30th St. S.E., Ruskin (just north of State Road 674, west of Interstate 75)

For more information on Water Resource Services, call 272-6680.

