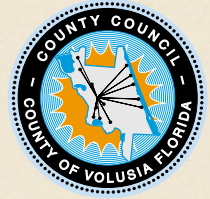




Waterline News

Presented by Volusia County Water Resources and Utilities



July / August 2004

Tatum Blvd Box Culvert

The stormwater utility is nearing completion on another stormwater improvement project. This project involves the construction of a reinforced concrete "box culvert". The selection of reinforced concrete (steel reinforcing rods encased in concrete) means the service life of the structure will be 50 years or more. The structure consists of two, five by seven foot openings designed to allow the efficient flow of stormwater at the intersection of Tatum Boulevard and Edgewater Canal Road. The structure is in a drainage canal known as "Gabordy Canal". The Gabordy Canal receives stormwater runoff from New Smyrna Beach, Edgewater, and unincorporated Volusia County. This stormwater project will increase flow efficiency, and reduce the possibility of flooding during strong storm events.



WATERWISE Plant of the Month

Spiderwort

Tradescantia ohiensis

Spiderwort is a clumping plant that spreads by rhizomes (root-like stems growing underground) and is native to Florida and is an easy plant to grow. It requires little water, and is not particular on soil conditions. Spiderwort prefers full sun to partial shade. The leaves are narrow, grass-like and succulent, up to 15 inches, creased along the center rib and clasping the stem. The flowers are approximately one inch, three-petaled, blue to lavender in color, tightly clustered at the tips of smooth, leafy stems and blooming most of the year. The plant grows to a height of up to two feet and can be used as ground cover or low border.



You May Ask...

- Q.** Why do we still have a water shortage when it's been raining at my house?
- A.** Rain in your area doesn't always help the water shortage, but it usually lowers the demand for water because people stop watering lawns and gardens and stop washing their cars.

Have you signed up for automatic debit?

Applications are in the mail!! Sign up and avoid late fees, vacation concerns, or just plain forgetfulness. Your payment will be deducted automatically from your checking account each month. Watch for your application and sign up soon.

KIDS KORNER

Pick-A-Word

Here are some sentences with missing water words. Look at the three words below each sentence. Choose the best word and write it in the blank.

1. Turn off the _____ when brushing your teeth.
hose faucet wave
2. People use _____ to water their plants.
sprinklers ice cubes boats
3. Take a shorter _____ to save water.
umbrella well shower
4. You waste water when you flush bugs down the _____.
snow toilet lake.

Math Code

Follow these directions and you will solve the secret words.

1. Read the number in the first blue box (22).
2. Find the same number (22) in the green code key, and look at the letter above it.(5)
3. Write the letter in the first blue box.
4. Now read the number in the next blue box, find the letter in the code key, and write it in the blue box.
5. Do the same thing for each blue box until you solve the secret words.

22	12	9	23	24	1	8	13	7
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CODE KEY	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
	12	19	1	13	23	2	14	3	20	4	15	25	5
	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	16	21	6	17	7	22	8	18	9	24	10	24	11

Conservation Trivia

If everyone in the united States flushed the toilet just one less time per day, we could save a lakeful of water about a mile long, a mile wide, and 4 feet deep every day.

Drip your way to big water savings.

Whether you xeriscape or not, the best way to maximize outdoor water efficiency while minimizing the hassle of keeping plants healthy is through drip irrigation. Drip irrigation is a carefully planned network of hidden pipes and hoses that provide a slow trickle of water to a landscape's root system.

Although drip irrigation has gained popularity only recently, especially in drought areas, farmers in the Middle East (where a little water must go a long way to grow crops) have used the technique successfully for decades. Drip irrigation lets a plant sip instead of guzzle. While traditional landscape sprinkler systems crank out water at a rate of several gallons per minute, drip irrigation eases out the flow in gallons per hour.

The drip irrigation system has several advantages. Because water is applied only where plants need it, there is little waste and weed growth is minimized. Odd-shaped areas can be watered easily without spraying the sidewalk, driveway or side of the house. Fungus problems, caused by over-watering are reduced dramatically. Erosion rarely occurs on steep slopes, because water is applied at a much lower pressure.

Drip irrigation is ideal for vegetable gardens, shrubs, trees and perennials but is not suitable for lawns or other landscapes where uniform moisture is needed.

Although a drip system probably won't cost any less to install than a standard sprinkler system, it will save you big bucks through dramatically reduced water consumption and less fuss. For many homeowners, it makes sense to keep a sprinkler system to water grass and a drip system to water everything else.

Proper planning is critical to a successful drip irrigation system. Plants with similar water needs should be grouped and served by a single pipe run. A natural area for drip irrigation is a vegetable or flower garden or where bushes border a house.

