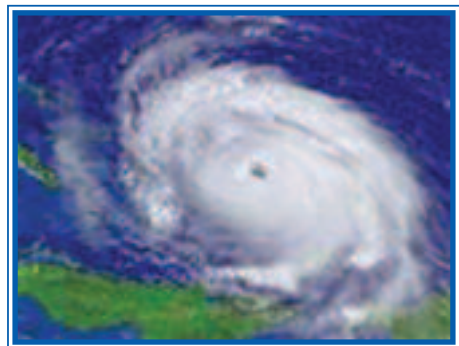


WATERLINE NEWS

May / June 2007



Are you ready for hurricane season?

June 1 marks the beginning of hurricane season in Florida. Although no amount of preparation can prevent a disaster, planning can limit its effects.

One important supply to have in the event of a disaster is safe drinking water. Remember to store one gallon of water per person per day. You should plan for at least three days. People with special needs such as nursing mothers, young children and family members with illnesses can require more water. You can fill clean bathtubs, sinks and containers with water to supplement the water you have stored.

As long as disinfected tap water is stored in a clean airtight container and in a cool location, the water should remain safe indefinitely. As a general rule, change your emergency water supply at least every six months to ensure freshness.

For more disaster preparation information, please go online to www.volusia.org/storm.

WATERING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT!

Call 736-5998 West Volusia,
423-3359 New Smyrna Beach
239-7890 Daytona Beach
or visit the following web site:

http://www.volusia.org/environmental/natural_resources/default.htm

Going on vacation?

Sign up for automatic withdrawal from your banking institution and be worry-free about paying late fees on your utility bill. Contact our billing section for information at (386) 736-5971. You also can make your monthly water/sewer payment online at www.volusia.org/payments.htm or by calling the toll-free number, (877) 729-9287.



Coming to your mailbox

The annual consumer confidence report should be arriving in your mailbox in July. This report is required by the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation and advises the consumer exactly what is in their water. As the report becomes available, it also will be available to view on the Volusia County web page at <http://Volusia.org/publicworks/water.htm>.

Stormwater project on Fleming Avenue

The Stormwater Utility recently completed a new stormwater project, at a major canal crossing on Fleming Avenue, near Ormond Beach. This is part of an ongoing stormwater infrastructure improvement program aimed at eliminating old, undersized drainage systems. This project replaces an aging, corrugated metal pipe with a larger capacity concrete "box," with an opening of 6.5 feet high by 10 feet wide. This reinforced concrete structure will provide larger capacity to pass stormwater flows, reduce flooding, and erosion in a canal which that drains hundreds of acres,

Installation of the concrete box sections required construction of a temporary bypass detour road. The concrete box sections weighed 18,000 pounds each, which required a special crane to place in the canal. The canal sides near the box end sections will be armored with large rocks called "rip-rap" to protect against erosion during high storm flows.



Money-saving offers available.



\$50 toilet rebates and \$30 vouchers for rain barrels are available. Contact Becky at 943-7027, ext. 2611, for details.

Computer fun on water web sites



Looking for some educational sites on the computer for your children during the summer? Listed below are a few that are sure to please a member of your household.

<http://www.epa.gov/kids>

<http://sjr.state.fl.us>

<http://www.earthsky.org/kids>

<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/mearth.html>

Improvements to Meadowlea-on-the-River

Volusia County Utilities is constructing a water main and force main to serve the 253 homes in the Meadowlea on the River residential community on the St. Johns River in DeBary.

Volusia County Utilities was appointed by the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court of Volusia County Court as receiver of the Meadowlea utility system in 2001. For years, water has been supplied to Meadowlea from two small wells along the opposite side of the St. Johns River in Seminole County. Last fall, one of the wells failed, leaving one well to supply the entire community with water. One well serving a community does not meet State reliability requirements. The failed well cannot be replaced due to current wellhead protection setback requirements. The groundwater in the vicinity of Meadowlea on the north side of the river does not meet state drinking water standards. As a result, the most cost-effective option of providing reliable water service to Meadowlea is to run approximately 6,800 feet of water line from the County's central water system on U.S. Hwy. 17/92.

Additionally, Meadowlea receives wastewater service from an on-site wastewater package plant that disposes of the treated water via irrigation of a grassed field that is leased from an adjacent landowner. In October 2005, the landowner advised the County he was terminating the lease, forcing the County to find an alternate site for disposal. As a result of the inability to lease or purchase a new site for disposal, the County must construct a wastewater force main and wastewater pumping station to allow pumping of wastewater to a wastewater collection system on U.S. Hwy. 17/92.

The water main and wastewater force main will be completed this summer. Upon completion of the wastewater force main and wastewater pumping station, the wastewater package plant will be demolished and removed.

You may ask

Q. Which is more polluted, groundwater or surface water?

A. It depends on what you call pollution. Because surface water can be contaminated by municipal sewage, industrial discharges, transportation accidents and rainfall runoff, it contains many pollutants but not much of any one chemical. Groundwater, on the other hand, may contain pollutants such as arsenic, nitrates, radioactive materials, and high (compared with surface water) amounts of a few organic chemicals such as cleaning fluid or gasoline. Therefore, both may be polluted but in different ways. Another difference is that the degree of pollution may change rapidly in surface waters, while pollution levels change very slowly in groundwater. Your water supplier can tell you what contaminants it has found in its source water, but it tests the quality of its treated water more than its source water.

"Plain Talk about Drinking Water", by Dr. James Symons



Irrigation contractor visit being offered

If you use city or county water or metered reclaimed water for irrigation, take advantage of a visit by a trained irrigation auditor to help you reduce your water bill. Pay only \$25 for this one-hour visit, in which the auditor will do minor adjustments, assess your system, and work with you on timer settings. The Water Authority of Volusia pays the remaining cost through a grant from Volusia County Environmental Management. To be put on the list and for auditor referral, call Deborah Green with the Water Authority at (386) 226-0422, ext. 33. First-come, first-served!

Waterwise plant of the month

Shrimp plant

justicia brandegeana



The shrimp plant, a common ornamental shrub, thrives in the shade in tropical areas and can be propagated by stem cuttings. It does best in well-drained sandy or loamy soil, but is generally low maintenance and drought-tolerant. The flowers fade somewhat in the full sun. The plant can grow to a height of 3-5 feet on very twiggy stems that are rather scratchy to the feel.

The plant can be found in different colors, including yellow and dark brick-red. It adds plenty of color to your gardens. It also can be a house plant. The flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

Check your June bill

We have recently rerouted our service area to better serve you. You may be one of the over 7,000 customers who's monthly due date will change. For example, if your water bill usually came the first week of the month, it may now have changed to the end of the month. Review your bill for due date to avoid any late fees.