



Volusia County Water Resources & Utilities wishes you and your family a joyous holiday season and a New Year filled with peace, health and happiness.

Water elves checking who's naughty or nice

The Volusia County Utility installs a water meter prior to construction of a new home or business, or when a customer requests new water service to an existing home. Each meter that Volusia County furnishes its customers has an account number with a meter serial number. These meters are read monthly. Breaking or altering a county meter is prohibited. Using water that is not registered through a county meter is prohibited.

Water meters may be turned off or locked for delinquent payment or for a service disconnection request. If a water meter is tampered with (e.g., cut lock, damaged curb stop or meter, or replaced with an unauthorized meter), a tampering fee will be applied. This is in accordance with Volusia County Ordinance 122. Further, any person knowingly tampering with fire hydrants, water backflow devices, water valves, etc., may be jeopardizing the integrity of the water system and can be subject to civil or criminal penalties.

These same fines or penalties can be applied to individuals that tamper with sewer systems. An example of tampering would be someone knowingly using a sewer clean-out to drain standing water on their property. Excess water inflow can upset operations and sometimes overwhelm a wastewater plant.

The county's Utilities staff appreciates your awareness.



Stormwater Utility responds to flooding calls

This season is proving to be another above average year of rainfall, resulting in flooding in many areas of Volusia County. The west side of the county in particular was affected. In the Deland area rainfall was more than the annual average. Low-lying, closed basin lakes characterize this area. "Closed basin" means that water does not have a point of overflow or gravity outlet. Most of these lakes are at or near historic levels.

The stormwater utility has been taking protective steps such as the provision of sand bags, construction of earthen berms, and pumping. At the peak of the flooding, more than 30 pumps were in operation. In addition, vacuum trucks and a tanker truck have been used to move water out of some affected areas. Unfortunately, not all situations allow for the pumping of water because there may not be an outlet for such an operation. In addition to field response, the county's Stormwater Utility has set up a database of information from callers to efficiently track and assist residents efficiently in responding to flooding.





Merry mulch

Volusia County Solid Waste offers "Merry Mulch" each year. Merry Mulch is Christmas trees ground up. Check your newspapers in early January for availability. Volusia County Solid Waste offers regular mulch year around. This is a great way to retain moisture around your plants, helping to avoid unnecessary watering.

Waterwise plant of the month

Dwarf yaupon holly *Ilex vomitoria nana*



The plant usually is grown as a shrub but occasionally may be found as a tree. Its foliage consists of dark green evergreen oval to egg-shaped leaves. Female varieties of this holly bear fruit in the fall that is red and are only about 1/4" in diameter. Native to Florida it can tolerate full sun to full shade and some freezing.

Fun ice facts

- The polar ice cap contains about two thirds of the world's fresh water. At its thickest point the ice cap is more than 14,000 feet thick.
- Glaciers store about 75 percent of the world's fresh water and cover 15,000,000 square miles. If all land ice melted, the sea level would rise approximately 230 feet.
- Each year, some 430 cubic miles of ice become icebergs, which is enough water to meet the annual water needs of five billion people for a year. Icebergs are made of fresh water ice and form from the edge of glaciers that break off into the sea.

Be prepared

We like to think that we live in sunny Florida where temperatures remain hot to mild. But the truth is that over the last few years we have experienced days of freezing temperatures. Take precautions when freeze advisories are posted. Make sure your irrigation pipes are protected. Even a small crack caused by water expanding when frozen, can cause a significant loss of water and ultimately a large water bill.

Proposed wastewater plant expansion

This fall, Volusia County Utilities will begin construction of a new chlorination system and reclaimed water, storage tank at the Southwest Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, west of DeBary Golf and Country Club.

The new chlorination system will use a liquid chlorine solution to disinfect the reclaimed water similar to the liquid chlorine used in pools. The new liquid chlorination system will replace the existing gas chlorination system. The purpose of the chlorine conversion is to improve safety for the wastewater plant workers and our DeBary Golf and Country Club neighbors.

The County also will construct a three million gallon reclaimed water storage tank to compliment the existing 1.5 - million gallon tank. The new reclaimed water storage tank is to provide a more reliable supply of reclaimed water.

The project will cost approximately \$1,998,000.

A new look

If you haven't seen the new feature on your water bill, you will soon. The water bills will have a bar graph that depicts the customer's usage over the last 13 months or less depending on how long you have occupied the dwelling. Bar graphs can provide good visuals when it comes to understanding historical data.

