

Jan / Feb
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**EXTRA EXTRA, READ
ALL ABOUT IT.**

*Volusia County Utilities will pay \$30
toward the purchase of a rain barrel*

Residential irrigation can account for 50 percent or more of residential water use. Rain barrels store water and they help to decrease demand during the summer. Collection of water from rooftop runoff can provide an ample supply of free "soft water" containing no chlorine, lime or calcium. Collecting this water will reduce your demand for treated tap water and save you money. Rainwater diversion also will help decrease the burden on water treatment facilities and limited groundwater supplies. The storage of rainwater is also recommended for general emergency preparedness or for areas prone to drought. A good formula to remember: 1 inch of rain on a 1,000 square foot roof yields 623 gallons of water. Calculate the yield of your roof by multiplying the square-footage of your roof by 623 and divide by 1,000.

Volusia County in cooperation with "Recycle the Rain" (www.recycletherain.com) in Lake Helen is making available rain barrels for \$65 plus tax. Volusia County will pay \$30 toward that cost. Contact Becky Adkins at (386) 943-7027, ext. 2611 to receive the paperwork needed to qualify for the \$30 credit.



Here's who's working for you



2007

**Resolution #1
Be environmentally
conscious**

Hopefully you have a new year resolution when it comes to water conservation. To assist you, Volusia County Utilities is offering again a \$50 rebate toward the purchase of a 1.6 gallons-per-flush toilet. There is one rebate per household. The toilet that needs to be replaced must be one that was installed before 1995.

**Resolution #2
Get organized**

Avoid late fees, which are \$5 or 10 percent of your balance. Contact our billing office at (386) -736-5971 to receive your checking account withdrawal application. This will allow your utility bill to be deducted automatically from your bank account. 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. There is a small service fee charged by Link2gov for the processing.

Keeping your water safe

Our highest priority is protecting our customers' drinking water by keeping it free of contaminants. But the dangers of contamination do not end once the water reaches your home or business. How many times have you put a garden hose in a bucket of soapy water to wash the car? Or sprayed insecticide with a garden hose sprayer? Cross-connections occur at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioners, fire sprinklers, and irrigation systems) or water sources of questionable quality. These temporary cross-connections can contaminate your drinking water if there is a sudden pressure drop in the water supply line.

Without proper protection devices, negative pressure in the lines can reverse normal flow of water, creating a backflow condition that can contaminate your drinking water and possibly the entire distribution system.

To keep your water safe, businesses are checked for compliance with cross connection/backflow requirements and are required to be tested at least yearly. At home you can install hose-bibb vacuum breakers (which can be purchased in plumbing or hardware stores) on each of the spigots in your home.

If you have questions about cross connections or backflow prevention devices, you can reach us at (386) 822-6465. You also can visit the following websites: <http://backflow.com/>, <http://abpa.org/>.

Do install inexpensive backflow prevention devices on all threaded hose bibbs.



Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs or sinks.



Do not use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device.

Stormwater project fixes flooding problem

The hurricane season of 2004 brought many flooding problems to Volusia County. One of the areas affected was Ponderosa Drive, near DeLand, just off

S. R. 11. The heavy rainfall caused water to overwhelm the existing stormwater system and flow onto the road and into yards. Several homes were flooded as a result of these severe storms.

The recently completed project uses a series of perforated pipes surrounded by a gravel trench, known as an “ex-filtration system.” This allows water to be stored in the pipe and the surrounding gravel trench, functioning as an “underground” retention system in the road right of way. In addition, a swale was constructed along both sides of the road to capture storm flows off the road. The result is a substantial improvement to the level of flood protection to the road and adjacent property.



Deltona North water plant tour

On Dec. 28, 39 students from the Learning Bridge Academy of Enterprise took a tour of Deltona Water Treatment Plant. Everyone learned about the water treatment process. Deltona North extracts water from the Floridan aquifer. Aeration is used for hydrogen sulfide removal and chlorine is added to keep the distribution system safe from pathogenic bacteria. At the conclusion of the tour, questions were asked and the first two participants who answered the questions correctly were given a Water Wise Activity Kit, which contained a high efficiency showerhead, kitchen aerator, bathroom aerator, mini tape measure, water temperature check card and a drip/rain gauge. A variety of handouts were given out containing information about water conservation. The Volusia County Water Resources and Utilities Division encourages and welcomes tours from school children, whether it is through school or scouting functions. Tours can be set up by calling (386) 822-6465.



Waterwise plant of the month



Coral bean or Cherokee bean
Erythrina Herbacea

The leaves are grouped in three and are semi-heart shaped. The flowers are scarlet and oblong, and bloom in May. The coral bean is useful for bringing bright highlights to woodland plantings in low-maintenance landscapes. It makes a nice addition to perennial gardens and attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. The coral bean is a deciduous plant, freezing in the winter. The stems of the flowers arise from a woody base that is typically about three feet in height. In summer and late fall, the plant produces bean pods that split and reveal red seeds.

Warning: The shiny bright red seeds are very tempting and very toxic. Keep away from children.

Water restrictions

Water restrictions are in effect. Residents with even addresses can water only on Thursdays and Sundays from 4-8 a.m. Odd addresses are allowed to water only on Wednesdays and Saturdays, same hours. There is No watering Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. More detailed watering restrictions are available at

http://volusia.org/environmental/pollution_abatement/Water%20Resources/default.htm. You can also call (386)-736-5928, (386)-254-4612 or (386)-423-3303 ext. 2845.

You might ask

- Q.** Why are there aerators on home water faucets?
- A.** When mixed with water, tiny air bubbles from the aerator prevent the water from splashing too much. This occurs because the water flow is less, often half the regular flow. Aerators also help to conserve water.