



## ***Blockbuster swale project helps to reduce pollution***

The Stormwater Utility is nearing completion of the largest swale project ever constructed in Volusia County! More than 33 streets in the unincorporated area of North Peninsula area have had swales constructed. Swales are shallow, grassed channels along the road right of way. Swales collect stormwater runoff from the street and allow it to soak into the ground. This reduces pollution and helps to prevent flooding on the roads. All swales are sodded to match the lawn for each lot, so they blend right into the landscaping. Also, swales are designed to prevent mosquitoes by allowing water to soak into the ground before larvae can develop.



### **Spread the word**

Promote water conservation education through science projects at school, scouting, church, 4-H or by example. If you are interested in obtaining water conservation brochures, contact Becky Adkins at (386) 943-7027.

## **Water Conservation**



### ***Why install a rain sensor device?***

Florida law (statute 362.73) requires that a rain sensor be installed on all automatic irrigation systems installed after May 1991. The rain sensor can be connected easily on most existing irrigation systems and can be purchased where irrigation supplies are sold. Benefits include reducing your water and/or your electrical bill, reducing wear on the irrigation system, and reducing disease damage to the lawn caused by over-watering.

- A rain sensor will shut off your lawn sprinkler system when rainfall is detected to help conserve water and save money.
- For maximum benefit, rain sensors must be mounted where normal rainfall occurs.

### ***Billing information***

The due date for your utility bill is 20 days after the postmark date on the bill and must be paid in full by that date or it is deemed delinquent. Further, any account over 30 days past due is subject to immediate disconnection. Disconnection for non-payment requires payment in full of all past-due charges including a \$40 reconnection fee to restore service. For same day restoration, payment must be made before noon. Restoration of service for payments made after noon will be scheduled for the next working day. It is always a good idea to call the billing office at (866) 221-4550 to ensure your payment has been received and you are scheduled to have your service restored.

### ***Avoid those late fees***

Avoid those late fees and sign up for automatic withdrawal from your savings or checking account. Late fees are \$5 or 10 percent of the balance due, whichever is greater. Join our hundreds of customers who find this gives them one less thing to worry about. Contact our office by calling (386) 736-5971 to get your application. You can also make your monthly water/sewer payment online at [www.volusia.org/payments.htm](http://www.volusia.org/payments.htm) or by calling the toll-free number, (877) 729-9287.



## Waterwise plant of the month

### *Bougainvillea*

*Bougainvillea glabra*

Bougainvillea are thorny woody vines that demand full sunlight if you want them to flower well. They are very drought tolerant and grow well in sandy soils. They must be pruned as their dense growth cuts off the air to central shoots. They come in a variety of colors and are relatively pest free. **Bloom cycle is typically 4-6 weeks. They will not bloom if they are over watered. Beware of the thorns.**



### *Your toilet and drains are not trash cans*

#### **DO NOT THROW:**

- NEEDLES / SYRINGES
- LATEX GLOVES
- GREASE
- PLASTIC BAGS
- CANDY WRAPPERS
- CIGARETTES
- SYNTHETIC FIBER BASED TOWELS SUCH AS SHOP RAGS
- DIAPERS



Throwing any of these items down your toilet or drains will cause blockages in the sewer system, costing time and money to correct. **If in doubt, throw it in the trash.**

Dripping faucets and shower heads can waste up to hundreds of gallons of water monthly depending on the severity of the drip. Worn-out washers are the main cause of these leaks. They can be replaced inexpensively. Knowing the brand name of the faucet when you go to replace the washer will help insure a proper fit. Washers are simple to install but when in doubt, call a plumber. If a shower head is leaking, make sure it is screwed on tightly. If that doesn't work, unscrew and clean the threads on the shower arm and shower head. If you have some Teflon tape, wrap a little around the shower arm. Now screw on the shower head and make sure it is tight. Also remember to check the washer for wear. If you need a new washer, you can purchase one at a local hardware store.

#### *Toilet rebates*

Volusia County Water Resources and Utilities continues to offer rebates to customers who replace toilets installed prior to 1995. You must replace your existing toilet with a new 1.6-gallon-per-flush toilet. After installation of the new toilet, a \$50 credit will be applied to your water bill as long as your account is in good standing. If you are interested in participating in this program, contact Becky Adkins at (386)-943-7027, ext. 2611, for details and forms.

### **Glen Abbey improvements**

Volusia County Utilities will make upgrades soon to the Glen Abbey Water Treatment Plant, which provides water service to approximately 7,100 customers in the Orange City/DeBary area. Upgrades include two 125-horsepower, 2,000-gallon-per-minute high-service distribution pumps that will enable us to meet peak water demands better which typically occur during early morning hours. Upgrades also include a 600-kilowatt, diesel-powered backup electric generator and electrical improvements that will enable us to maintain operation of the water treatment plant and all wells during power outages. The cost to make these upgrades is \$897,006.

