

Removal of the above-the-ground backflow valves in SCC has started.

The contractor for the Hillsborough County Public Utilities Department has started work here in Sun City Center to replace the eighty above-the-ground residential backflow devices on private property with below-the-ground valves attached to the County's water meter after which the County will be responsible for the maintenance of the valve! The project will take about three weeks to complete. The workmen will lay the homeowner's old valve up beside the house. Buster Herline, (813) 272-5977 x43421, is the County's Project Manager for the Upgrade Program. The County's Official FAQ for the valve replacement program and the letter sent to the eighty homeowners in mid-May is below.

The old valves have salvage value because of their metal content. Our neighboring community, Valencia Lakes (behind Walmart), gave their old valves to the Lennard High School Robotics Club who took them to a salvage dealer and is using the resulting \$8000 to further the school's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) curriculum. We can do the same! If the old valves are dropped off at Dave Brown's driveway, he will get them to the Robotics Club to exchange for money to enhance their STEM programs. Dave is the Citizen Rep on the County's Backflow Board and has long advocated for a change to the State law and County ordinance allowing for the removal of the above-the-ground valves. He lives at **1805 Burlington Circle** which is off of West Del Webb about ¼-mile north of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church & Danbury Drive - third house on the left with the metal roof. Look for the pile of old valves that have already been donated.

Dave feels strongly about helping the science students at the local high school and hopes that SCC residents will take the time to bring their old valve, and that of any neighboring vacant homes or snow-bird's homes (with their permission) to his driveway so that they can be passed on to the Robotics Club. And if a resident feels inclined to make an additional monetary contribution to the Robotics Club, please contact Jim Reve (the Club's very enthusiastic & capable sponsor) at (813)781-2792. He and his students will be most grateful.

C31995 Residential Backflow Upgrade Program

Hillsborough County

Public Utilities Department

Questions and Answers

What is the Residential Backflow Upgrade Program?

The Residential Backflow Upgrade Program was approved by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners as part of its Capital Improvement Program.

Hillsborough County Public Utilities will replace customer-owned backflow devices with County-owned devices. This means that homeowners will no longer own, service, or be required to provide their backflow device. The County will own, maintain and provide service on the device. This project is in accordance with Hillsborough County Ordinance Chapter 121.

What do homeowners have to do?

Nothing, the contractor will be working in the immediate vicinity of your water meter. They will notify you that the water will be off for the next hour or so. When the work is complete, they will notify you with a door hanger, which explains how to flush your lines to clear any trapped air.

When did the project start?

The Upgrade Program began in the summer of 2017 with Valencia Lakes as the first neighborhood. Sun City Center's upgrade is scheduled to begin in late May or June of 2019.

What will it cost me?

For residential customers who already have a backflow preventer at their point of connection, there is no cost for the retrofit.

How long will the job take?

The job should take a little over an hour. An inspection port may remain, until the inspection is complete. Because the homeowner owns the old reduced pressure valve, it will be left at the property owner's home.

How long will my water be off?

Your water is expected to be off a little over an hour.

What if I'm not home, or away for a long period of time when the work needs to be done?

If no one is home when the County comes through that section of the development, the County will replace the backflow preventer, and leave a door hanger explaining how to flush your lines to clear any trapped air. The County will be happy to answer any questions upon the homeowner's return.

What do I do when the job is done?

Hillsborough County Public Utilities recommends flushing your pipe lines to remove any air that might be in your system. Since your water service was interrupted to replace your backflow device, you will need to flush the cold water side of your faucets, beginning at the bath tub and working your way through the house, flushing until clear. The replacement of a dual-check backflow device on a service connection creates a closed plumbing system on your side of the backflow device.

Why do I have dirty looking water at my sink, bathtub, and faucet?

Although all steps will be taken to prevent this, sometimes during a repair a small amount of dirt may get into your pipe. Follow the directions on the your door hanger, which explains how you will need to flush the cold water side of your faucets beginning at the bath tub working your way through the house, flushing until clear.

What if I discover a leak days after the job is done? The new device will be field-tested for leaks, before the contractor leaves the area.

If the resident is not happy with condition of site after work is completed what recourse is there?

Please contact the County's Project Manager, Cecil Herline directly at (813) 272-5977 x43421

Will Public Utilities re-plant any landscaping moved to accommodate replacing device?

Hillsborough County Public Utilities is committed to restore any disturbed landscaping to its original, or better, condition. Pictures will be taken both before, and after the installation to help address any concerns that might arise.

What's my responsibility as a homeowner?

The replacement of a dual check backflow device on a service connection creates a closed plumbing system on your side of the backflow device. According to the Florida Plumbing Code, you are responsible for assessing, providing, and maintaining thermal expansion control on your side of the backflow preventer – which you probably already have.

What is thermal expansion?

Thermal expansion occurs when your hot water heater heats the water, causing it to expand.

Who's responsible for the new backflow device after changeover?

Hillsborough County Public Utilities Department will own and maintain the new backflow preventer, a dual-check device.

Will Public Utilities install a new valve but leave the old valve in place?

No. There is no need for two backflow preventers to be in place.

The upcoming removal of the above-the-ground backflow prevention valve from your front yard.

Because of changes in the State law and County ordinance, the Hillsborough County Public Utilities Department has embarked on an Upgrade Program to replace all above-the-ground residential backflow devices in the County with a below-the-ground valve attached to the County's water meter in their easement. The County will then be responsible for the maintenance of the new device, not you!

Buster Herline, (813) 272-5977 x43421, is the County's Project Manager for the Upgrade Program.

The County has identified the valve at the front of your yard as one that is to be replaced. The replacement will be done at no cost to you! The County's contractor will begin his work here in Sun City Center within a few weeks.

The old valve belongs to you and the upgrade contractor will leave it at your door. The Upgrade Program recently replaced about 1,400 valves in our neighboring community of Valencia Lakes (behind Walmart). The residents/developer there collected the old valves, took them to a salvage dealer (Edge Metals Recycling of Tampa) and received over \$8,000, which was then presented to the Lennard High School Robotics Club, which is enthusiastically sponsored by Jim Reve, (813)781-2792, of their Science Department. I am an advocate of the STEM (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering & **M**ath) curriculum in our schools. It would be great if Sun City Center could do the same sort of thing that Valencia Lakes did - although we only have about 80 valves that will be replaced and available. Because our governance is different from Valencia Lakes, the plan is for SCC residents to drop off the old valves on the left side of my driveway and the Robotics Club will pick them up, take them to the salvage dealer and keep the money. Jim Reve has blessed this plan. My home is at 1805 Burlington Circle which is off of West Del Webb about ¼-mile north of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church - third house on the left with the metal roof. See the map on the next page.

I hope you feel strongly enough about helping the science students at the local High School that you will take the time to bring your valve to my home so that it can be passed on to the Robotics Club. And if you feel inclined to make an additional monetary contribution to the Robotics Club, please contact Jim Reve at (813)781-2792. I'm sure that he and his students will be most grateful.

Thank you in advance!

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