

Employee of the Quarter

Lynda Vatter, Budget Administrator

Congratulations to Lynda Vatter for winning Employee of the Quarter. Lynda was nominated by her peers and selected by the Employee Recognition Committee.

Lynda shows a superior commitment to quality in her thorough and accurate analysis of budget work products, both in development and in monitoring.

She frequently goes beyond her assigned job tasks by always taking initiative. Lynda led the effort to complete negotiations with Pasco County on Lake Bridge Cost Reimbursement. These efforts will save the agency approximately \$35,000 per year in chemical costs that will be paid by Pasco starting in FY 2014. The Agreement was Board-approved in April 2013.

Lynda's passionate dedication to Tampa Bay Water helps her successfully complete the budget each year. Her work is recognized each year by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. Tampa Bay Water has been awarded the Budget Presentation Award for four consecutive years.

Lynda is an outstanding example of how knowledge of agency history results in a measurable benefit.

Tampa Bay Water thanks you for your dedication and hard work.

Employee Announcements

Congratulations to Whitney Kiehn for recently completing her Ph.D. in Oceanography and Coastal Sciences from Louisiana State University. In August, Whitney will celebrate her one-year anniversary at Tampa Bay Water. She somehow managed to work full-time, spend time with her family, and also finish writing her dissertation! Her research was titled "Oligohaline Wetland Response and Recovery Following Storm-driven Saltwater Intrusion in Coastal Louisiana." If you don't know what this means, don't worry; the rest of us don't know either. You can ask Whitney to explain it the next time you see her and don't forget to congratulate the new Dr. Kiehn!

In June, Christine Owen became chair of the journal AWWA Editorial Advisory Board. This board is made up of representatives from water utilities, academics, manufacturers, consultants and regulatory agencies. It provides guidance to the editorial staff and AWWA on the industry role and position of the Journal, its content and the peer review process. Christine has served on this board since 2009.

Maribel Medina passed the examination and obtained her PMP certification. Her certification as a project management professional is being put to immediate use by Maribel to manage her individual

projects, and also to optimize her management of Tampa Bay Water's Capital Improvement Program through improvements to the programs' processes and procedures.

David Grizzle passed the examination and obtained his Certified Surveying Technician I for land surveying, the first of four levels offered by the National Society of Professional Surveyors (N.S.P.S.) to promote a growth path for survey technicians based on knowledge and experience in land surveying. The program is recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor as part of the National Apprenticeship Program. David's next step includes a focus on the field track which requires 18 months of applicable experience before he will sit for the next examination.

Tampa Bay Water Systems Section team published an article in the ASCE Journal. They were presented with a challenge during the Alafia Water Use Permit renewal process. When the agency applied for a 19 percent withdrawal rate permit, the Southwest Florida Water Management District asked Tampa Bay Water to provide an assessment of the reliability of Tampa Bay Water's existing regional water supply system. This novel approach on quantifying the value of incremental surface water use permit in an integrated water resources system is demonstrated in this paper.

Read More: <http://ascelibrary.org/doi/abs/10.1061/%28ASCE%29WR.1943-5452.0000388>

Back to School Survival Tips



Florida's tax-free weekend will take place on August 2-4, 2013.

How to Save Money on Back-to-School Shopping:

1. **Hold off buying trendier gear** like lunch boxes and pencil cases. Kids may love a version they find in July, but once they start school and see that their friends are all using another kind, they'll beg you to upgrade them -- and that only results in wasted cash.
2. **Shop end-of-summer sales.** You know as well as we do that kids wear short sleeve polo shirts all year long, so hit the big summer sales and snap up discounted duds that can be worn well into fall.
3. **Stick to the List.** The teacher's supply list at the start of a new school year is daunting enough so don't waste time and money on unlisted items. Extra supplies, while they may be cute, will probably never get used and just leave your pockets empty.

4. **Head to the supermarket for basic supplies.** Check weekly circulars for great deals on pens and loose-leaf paper, and get your weekly grocery shopping done at the same time. Bonus: buying everything in one place will save time and gas money!
5. **Let your kids raid the home-office supplies,** then personalize them in unique ways. For example, decorate inexpensive plain, white binders with digital photos by creating a collage and inserting the page into the plastic outer cover.
6. **Host a back-to-school swap.** Round up a couple of other moms with kids the same gender as yours but different ages, and host an annual clothes swap. Trade toys and books, too! You'll save a bundle.
7. **Plan lunch.** When you're in charge of what your child eats, you'll save yourself money. Check the weekly circulars at your local supermarkets for sales. If turkey isn't on sale one week and ham is, go for the ham!
8. **Buy bright.** Lost school supplies may be a given, but gear that's hard to miss can stave off the inevitable. Pack all their pencils, erasers, and other goodies into a bright backpack or pencil pouch to keep them from disappearing.
9. **Shop the big three.** Old Navy, Gap Kids, and The Children's Place rotate merchandise often -- ask when they do their markdowns so you can grab the deals. Also, if you see an item you bought in the past 14 days on sale, you can get the difference refunded, and you don't need the clothing, just the receipt.
10. **Browse craigslist.org.** Yes, you can find top-quality stuff on the cheap, but you can be a seller, too. Why not get some cash for that barely worn, now outgrown brand-name outfit? Just enter your location and click on "Baby and Kids."

Tips for a Smooth Back-to-School Transition

1. Be sure your child is in good physical health. Take advantage of extra time this summer to get doctor and dental check-ups. If your child is playing a sport, get the physical as early as possible during the summer.
2. Read the school information. Review the materials sent by the school soon after it arrives. The packets may have pertinent information about your child's teacher, room number, school supply requirements, sign-ups for after-school sports and activities, school calendar dates, bus transportation, and health and emergency forms.

3. The week before school, re-establish the bedtime and mealtime routines. It's better to ease children into the change than have a painful withdrawal!
4. Prepare a place to do homework. Older children should have the option of studying in their room or a quiet area of the house. Younger children usually need an area set aside in the family room or kitchen to facilitate adult monitoring, supervision, and encouragement.
5. Set up a school morning routine. If it's helpful, make a morning checklist of things your child must do before school each day. At the very least, set a time for breakfast so you can be sure your child leaves with a full tummy.
6. At the end of your child's first day, save some time to sit down and hear how it went. Talk about what your child will be learning during the school year and share your enthusiasm about the year ahead.

A parent can easily be overwhelmed by the inundation of sudden flash sales for the back to school season, so here are a few key retailers to look out for:

- Walmart will be selling school uniforms starting at \$4.50.
- Some of Office Depot's deals include school supplies starting at \$2.00, notebooks for 25 percent off and 20 percent off of select calculators.
- Staples has competitive sales as well, which include Acer 11.6" Chromebook for \$229.00, pencils and other writing utensils for \$1.00 or less.
- The tween-girl focused Justice is also mailing catalogs with 40 percent off sales on things like black-and-white zebra print binders, polka dot backpacks and briefcases, and hot pink lunchboxes and thermoses.
- The Children's Place is holding sales on uniforms and backpacks for up to 25 percent off, and Kohl's sales include 30-40 percent off of school uniforms.

Sources:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/school/back-to-school-tips.cfm>

<http://www.parenting.com/article/10-back-to-school-shopping-tips-that-save-money>

<http://tbo.com/news/business/earlier-back-to-school-sales-help-parents-retailers-20130623/>

Long-Term Master Water Plan Update

Tampa Bay Water is currently updating its Long-Term Master Water Plan, which is scheduled to be presented to the board in December. We've kicked off our outreach campaign for the Plan and we're asking the Tampa Bay community for their input. All the information regarding the planning process, future water supply project concepts and the survey can be found at our website is www.tampabaywater.org/FutureWater. We encourage everyone in the Tampa Bay region to provide input by completing the online survey.

The survey is also available on Tampa Bay Water's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TampaBayWater. Please share this with your friends!

Employee Anniversaries

Mike Kent, 30 years

Randy Reid, 25 years

Richard Maclauchlan, 23 years

Joe Rizzo, 13 years

Christina Sackett, 6 years

Cynthia Odonnell, 4 years

James Crouthers, 3 years

Charles May, 3 years

Martha (Diane) Catlin, 1 year

Calendar

August

19 Board Meeting

September

2 Labor Day – Offices Closed