April is "Water Conservation Month" in the City of Melbourne

The City of Melbourne is joining with other municipalities and the <u>St. Johns River Water Management District</u> in recognizing April as "Water Conservation Month." Mayor Kathy Meehan issued a proclamation during the March 12 City Council meeting asking all citizens to think about the importance of water conservation and the everyday changes they can make to use less water and extend our water resources into the future.

"The City of Melbourne has always encouraged and supported water conservation through various educational programs and special events," Mayor Meehan said. "We are calling upon each citizen and business to help protect our precious resource by practicing water saving measures and becoming more aware of the need to save water."

During the month of April, the City of Melbourne will be publishing water conservation tips on its Facebook and Twitter pages as a way to remind everyone of the simple steps they can take every day to conserve water. For example:

- Turn off the water as you brush your teeth, wash your face or shave.
- Do not use running water to thaw frozen food.
- Irrigate grass and outdoor plants only when they need it, properly maintain your irrigation system, and choose plants that require minimal water. Follow seasonal watering restrictions.
- Find and fix leaks. A leaky faucet or toilet can waste thousands of gallons of water each month.

Other measures to increase water savings include:

- Installing low-flow toilets and showerheads. Rebates are available from the City of Melbourne for installing low-flow toilets.
- Installing a rain barrel to capture and store rain water that flows off your rooftop. Harvested
 rainwater can be used to water your lawn and landscaped areas, fill ponds or fountains, and
 wash cars. The City of Melbourne offers \$50 rebates to Melbourne residents who install rain
 barrels.
- Finding out if you can connect your irrigation system to the City's reclaimed water distribution system. Using reclaimed water helps extends our traditional water supply by safely recycling an average of 2.4 million gallons of water every day.

For more information or advice on how to save water, please contact the City of Melbourne's ECO Division: (321) 608-5080.

PHOTO: Mayor Kathy Meehan (left) presents the Water Conservation Month proclamation to St. Johns River Water Management District Intergovernmental Coordinator Abby Johnson at the March 12, 2019, Melbourne City Council meeting.



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