

Senior Sentinel



A newsletter published by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners: Thomas Scott (Chair), Kathy Castor, Pat Frank, Ken Hagan, Jim Norman, Jan K. Platt, Ronda Storms

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
AGING SERVICES

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Grant awards support pamphlet and conference for Alzheimer's and nutrition services.
- Quality Improvement means value added for seniors.
- Activities commemorating Older Americans Month
- Three year snapshot of the Medicare plan.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Aging Services awarded grants	1
Value Drivers	1
Older Americans Month Celebration	2
Annual Recognition Luncheon	2
Seniors Painting Festival	2
Medicare, what you can expect	3
In Touch... Director's Corner	4

Aging Services awarded grants...

Florida has one of the fastest growing aging population in the nation. And with this growth comes the growing concerns associated with caring for the elderly. The charge is to attract quality service providers, provide quality services and partner with research institutes that assist in the development of treatments common to aging. Alzheimer's disease—a form of dementia, is a subtle yet debilitating disease that effects millions of seniors every year. Reports indicate people suffer up to 5½ years before ever being diagnosed. The Hillsborough County Department of Aging Services was awarded three grants to educate service providers and caregivers about this

disease. Aging Services will share a \$400,000 grant with 16 other recipients from the Johnnie B. Byrd Sr. Alzheimer's Center & Research Institute founded by House Speaker Johnnie Byrd named in honor of his father. Aging Services was awarded two grants totaling \$25,000 for a conference and Alzheimer's information pamphlet. In addition, Aging Services received the You Can! Steps to Healthier Aging Program grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; a 12 week program focusing on nutrition and exercise.



The Value Driver!

“How can we better serve you” is the question ever present on the minds of the staff of the Hillsborough County Aging Services Department. How we exceed your expectations in all of the services that we provide is our goal. How are we doing this? We are reviewing the tasks and functions that make up our services. By enhancing communications,

updating technology, eliminating steps that waste time and precious funds, we are identifying opportunities in which resources can be focused to improve upon the services you deserve. It sounds like a tough recipe, but the most important ingredient is already in place: a staff of wonderful and caring men and women committed to serving you.

Aging Well — Living Well



Upcoming Events:

September 17, 2004

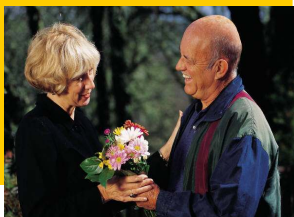
**Leadership Conference
Radisson Hotel
Tampa, FL**

September 24, 2004

**14th Annual Alzheimer's Community Workshop
"A Voyage of Hope — Exploring The Gamut of Alzheimer's disease and its effects"**

**Holiday Inn
2701 E Fowler Ave
Tampa, FL
To register, contact the Department of Aging Services at (813) 272-6263**

**November 5, 2004
Fall Festival
Lowry Park
1101 W Sligh Ave
Tampa, FL**



The Department of Aging Services in partnership with the Tampa Housing Authority hosted its Annual Elderly Affairs Day Celebration on Thursday, May 20, at the J.L. Young Gardens Apartments on Florida Ave. More than 300 seniors from the community and Public Housing residents shared in this momentous occasion. The day began with proclamations being read by county administrator

Patricia G. Bean and Edward Johnson on behalf of the City of Tampa. Ron Taylor, the director of Community Based Services for the Department of Elder Affairs was the keynote speaker. After the presentations, participants were escorted to an area with more than 40 vendors who provided direct health/wellness information and conducted screening.

Seniors in the Park ...

MacFarlane Park was the host site to more than 300 seniors from the community. Seniors Day in the Park was sponsored by the Department of Aging Services and the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department. Seniors meet with health providers and enjoyed meeting other seniors from around the Bay.

Seniors Painting Festival

This year's festival registered 41 artists and 125 paintings from older citizens. Artwork was on display in the lobby of the Channelside IMAX theatre. Awards were given for Honorable Mention, Excellence and Best of Show, all of which included a cash prize. On hand for this event was the Arts Council of Hillsborough County, the Hillsborough County Department of Aging Services along with an abundance of health providers to give important information to attendees.



30th Annual Recognition Luncheon



Business leaders and government officials meet at the DoubleTree Tampa Westshore Hotel to honor the more than 450 seniors volunteering

in Hillsborough County. The highlight of the afternoon was Commissioner Thomas Scott's presentation to 100 year old volunteer Flo Leban, with a plaque and \$100. Other awards were given for Volunteer of the Year and Business of the Year. Stacie Schaible was the Master of Ceremonies for the

Senior Prom...

Participants from Senior Centers gathered at the Brandon recreation Center May 28th for its annual Senior Prom. This year's theme "An Enchanted Evening" hosted seniors, two of which were crowned Prom King and Queen.

event. Volunteers contributed some 123,747 in volunteer hours. To learn more about volunteer and employment opportunities, call (813) 272-5031.

Medicare and You! What you can expect



Drug Discount Cards for 2004 ...

The new discount card will save Medicare recipients 10-25% on prescription drugs. Medicare will contract with private companies until the prescription drugs benefit starts in 2006. This is how it works. If you are single and your income is no more than \$12,569 or you are married and your income is no more

than \$16,862, you could qualify for a \$600 credit on your discount card to assist in paying for your prescriptions. You can not qualify for this program if you currently have drug coverage from Medicaid, TRICARE for life or an employer group health plan. Enrollment of this program began in May 2004 and will continue through December 31, 2005.

For the latest information about Medicare, visit the web at www.medicare.gov or call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY user call **1-877-486-2048****

!! Senior's Discounts in Hillsborough County !!

- * Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI)
- * HARTline Bus Services
- * Animal Adoptions
- * Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department
- * Hunting and Fishing License (Tax Collector's Office)

For more information regarding these and other discounts, contact us at (813) 272-6630 or visit our website:

www.hillsboroughcounty.gov

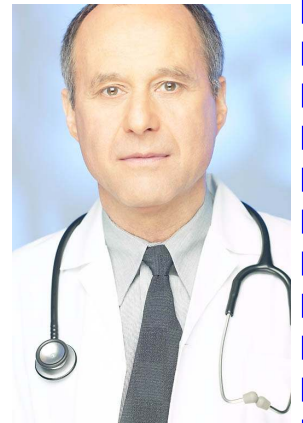


Preventive Care Benefits for 2005 ...

Beginning in 2005, Medicare will introduce a new Preventive Care Benefits that will cover:

- 1) A one-time initial wellness physical exam within 6 months of the first day you enroll in Medicare Part B.
- 2) Screening for early detection of Cardiovascular (heart) disease.
- 3) Diabetes screening for Medicare recipients of high risk groups.

These benefits will be added to the list of preventative services currently offered under the Medicare plan.



Prescription Drug Plan for 2006 ...

Medicare recipients will be able to enroll in a new prescription drug plan. Enrollees who choose this plan, will have to pay a monthly premium of \$35. You will be responsible for paying the first \$250 of your prescription. This is your deductible. Once the \$250 deductible is met, Medicare will pay 75% of your prescription drug cost between \$250 and \$2,250. You are responsible to pay the remaining 25%. If your medical exceeds \$2,250, Medicare will pay 100% of your prescription drug cost up to \$3,600. Any cost exceeding \$3,600, Medicare will pay 95% of the bill. There are additional options to assist in paying the out-of-pocket cost for prescription drugs.



PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TAMPA, FL
PERMIT No. 2411

Hillsborough County Department of Aging Services

601 E. Kennedy Blvd. 25th Floor
P.O. Box 1110
Tampa, FL 33601
Phone: 813-272-6630
Fax: 813-276-6862

Myra E. Price, Director

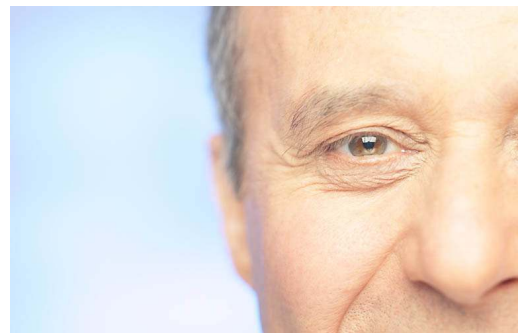
Shunae E. Thomas, Project Coordinator and Editor

We welcome your comments and letters to the editor.

***In Touch... a message from the Director ,
Myra E. Price***

On September 24, 2004, the Aging Services Department will host its 14th Annual Alzheimer's Community Workshop, "A Voyage of Hope - Exploring the Gamut of Alzheimer's Disease and its Effects." Our speakers on this wonderful day of awareness and education include experts in the field of Alzheimer's disease. Among our speakers are William E. Haley, Ph.D., who will present, Alzheimer's, A Non-Discriminating Disease; and Sean W. Scott, Esq., who will speak about Elder Law and Medicare Planning. I encourage you to join us whether or not you have someone close to you afflicted with the disease. Awareness and education is everybody's business because the potential of interacting with persons at varying stages of Alzheimer's is a very real possibility, especially in Florida. This workshop will provide tools that will help us deal with sensitive Alzheimer's related issues. The workshop will be held at the

**Hillsborough County
Department of Aging Services**



Holiday Inn located on 2701 East Fowler Avenue, Tampa. For more information or to register for the event, please contact Ms. Mary Jo McKay, Manager, Hillsborough County Aging Services Department at (813) 272-6263. I look forward to seeing you there.