



Senior Sentinel

A newsletter published by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners: Jim Norman, Brian Blair, Kathy Castor, Ken Hagan, Thomas Scott, Mark Sharpe, Ronda Storms



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Hillsborough County Plans for Future Needs of Seniors

“A new day is dawning.” Hillsborough County’s Aging Services Department is developing a comprehensive Master Plan. It will aim to create knowledge and a framework for elected officials, executive leaders and citizens to make long term decisions. The plan will propose potential solutions that will benefit Hillsborough County residents, especially the future delivery of services and programs related to older adults.



One goal of this project will examine relevant issues pertaining to older adults and create a blueprint for the public and professionals who provide services to senior citizens.

The Master Plan will be developed based on the results of four studies conducted by researchers at the

University of South Florida’s Center for Housing and Long-Term Care. Dr. Jennifer Salmon is the study’s director. The project runs through June 30, 2007.

The first phase of the project is underway with professionals being polled on the scope of services they provide, their clients’ needs, and their capacity to meet current and future needs of clients.

In subsequent phases, Hillsborough County citizens ages 40 and older will be asked to participate in surveys and focus groups where they will be given opportunities to share their concerns about current and future needs in the community.

(“Seniors Study” Continued on page 2)



Inside This Issue:

- Flu Shot Season
- “Caring for Those Who Care”
- Tax Savings Available for Seniors
- Historical Memorabilia Dedicated
- Senior Games

Pieces of History are Donated

The Aging Services Department thanks Mrs. Jesse Fuller for the donation of her husband’s historical memorabilia. The collection includes Mr. Fuller’s Hillsborough County Council on Aging plaque noting his outstanding service as Executive Director, three framed photos of Mr. Fuller with dignitaries signing proclamations, and two framed



proclamations. Tampa Mayor Dick Greco, Jr. issued a proclamation on April 30, 1968, establishing May as Senior Citizens’ Month. Florida Governor Reubin Askew issued a proclamation on January 11, 1971, designating February 8, 1972, as Senior Citizens Day. This collection chronicles the history of the State of Florida and Hillsborough County’s commitment to senior services.

You can view these items on the 25th Floor of County Center.

Hillsborough County’s Senior Discounts:

- Solid Waste Management Dept.
272-5680
- Property Appraiser’s Office
272-6100
- Dept. of Animal Services
744-5660
- Hunting & Fishing License (Tax Collector’s Office)
635-5200
- HARTline Bus Services
254-4278

County Works with Other Communities

As members of Communities for a Lifetime and Partners for Livable Communities initiatives, Hillsborough County is joining exciting efforts to promote cooperation within local communities. Communities for a Lifetime and Partners for Livable Communities are initiatives to enhance the lives of residents of all ages through smart planning. They provide impetus and consultation to municipalities for design and advocate for communities to implement change. These initiatives have enabled older adults to continue living in their homes and local communities by improving housing, health care, streetscape design, side walks, transportation, recreation, land use patterns, accessibility, community education, and volunteer and employment opportunities.

Communities across the state and the United States have committed to assuming a proactive role to identify areas that will help improve the quality of life for everyone. The initiatives suggest cutting edge approaches and designs for communities to prepare for the future challenges of a rapidly growing and aging population. Strategies include strengthening existing mechanisms to increase public

awareness of available social services and improving support of the aging population, as well as their caregivers.

Through this process of continuous aging services self-assessment, Hillsborough County will improve intergenerational support and enhance opportunities for its elderly citizens to “age in place” with dignity.

For More Information, visit www.communitiesforalifetime.org and Partners for Livable Communities’ website at www.livable.com.



Senior Study Continued from Page 1

Finally, the best practices of similar counties nationwide will be identified and integrated into the recommendations from the research studies and the Master Plan. Concepts for enhancements of cities and counties from Communities for a Life-time and Livable Communities will be incorporated in the plan.

The results of the study and recommendations will be presented at public meetings during spring 2007, where there will be opportunities for service providers and citizens to provide feedback on the significance of each recommendation.

All community members, young and old, will benefit from the formation of this comprehensive plan. For more information about Hillsborough County’s Master Plan and Housing and Long-Term Care, visit:

[www.fpeca.cas.usf.edu/
chlhc](http://www.fpeca.cas.usf.edu/chlhc)

100 Years-Old and Still Serving up the Competition

Active seniors from across the Bay Area competed in the 26th Annual Tampa Bay Senior Games, which took place October 3 through October 13. More than 600 seniors had fun, made new friends, and got some exercise while striving to be the best in each of this year’s events. One-hundred-year-old Table Tennis Champion John Donnelly took home more medals to add to his collection this year. The games were presented in part by Hillsborough County Aging Services, Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Department, the cities of Temple Terrace and Tampa.



Additional Property Tax Savings for Seniors



Seniors that are eligible for a Homestead Exemption may qualify for an additional \$25,000 exemption. Residents must be

65 years of age or older on January 1. This exemption applies only to property taxes levied by the taxing authorities granting the exemption.

The **annual household income**, or adjusted gross income (as defined in s. 62, United States Internal Revenue Code) states all members of the household cannot exceed the amount published each year by the Florida Department of Revenue. The adjusted gross household income limit for 2006 is \$23,463.

Applicants for an additional \$25,000 Seniors Homestead Exemption are required to submit **Form DR501SC, Sworn Statement of Household Income** and return to the Property Appraiser's Office by March 1 of each year.

For more information about this and other property tax exemptions, please contact your Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office at 813-272-6100, at our website at www.hcpafl.org or visit one of our five offices.

Downtown Office, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd, County Center, 16th Floor, Tampa, FL 33602

Plant City Office, 302 N. Michigan Avenue, Plant City, FL 33563

Brandon Office, Bay Plaza 1, Bldg 9225, #424, Ware Blvd. S. of Hwy 60, Tampa, FL 33619

South Shore Office, Sun Point Shopping Ctr, #2B, 3018 SR 674, Ruskin, FL 33570

Northwest Office, Westgate Plaza Shop. Ctr, 12086 Anderson Rd, Tampa, FL 33625

Customer Service
Phone 813-272-6100
Fax 813-272-5519

Caring For Those Who Care

Hillsborough County Aging Services, in partnership with the West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging, has a number of services which offers relief for caregivers who are struggling to cope with providing around the clock care to their frail and elderly loved ones who are unable to be left alone.



Caregivers Support Services: Ongoing support groups and Saturday workshops offer tips on coping skills and other available services. The goal of these services is to improve the quality of life for caregivers and their frail and elderly family members. Experts share

their knowledge on how best to deal with the challenges of being a 24-hour caregiver.

In-Home Respite Services: Trained respite staff will be scheduled up to 8 hours weekly to care for a frail and elderly family member. This program allows caregivers the time to take a break from providing around the clock care. Services are flexible and can be scheduled for weekdays, evenings, or weekends, depending on the caregiver's needs.

Facility-Based Respite Services: Multiple senior centers located throughout Hillsborough County will be open on Saturdays to help care for frail elders. Caregivers can bring their frail and elderly loved ones and go enjoy their day while trained staff provides them with stimulating activities, lunch or snacks, and the opportunity to socialize with other seniors.

Call 813-272-6261 for additional information & dates

Facility-Based Respite Services:

Requires registration prior to dropping off your family member at any of the senior centers. Service is available on Saturdays from 9:00am to 2:30pm.

November 2006

Brandon	Nov. 18
Westshore	Nov. 18
Plant City	Nov. 18

December 2006

Westshore	Dec. 2
Plant City	Dec. 2
Ruskin	Dec. 2
Brandon	Dec. 9
Westshore	Dec. 9
Brandon	Dec. 16
Lutz	Dec. 16



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 Fax: 813-276-6862
www.hillsboroughcounty.org/aging

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Senior Sentinel

Myra E. Price, Director

We welcome your comments and letters to the editor.

The Return of Flu Season

It's that time of year again! Since seniors are at higher risk of contracting the flu, they should plan on getting their flu shots early. Don't procrastinate. After getting vaccinated, it takes about 2 weeks for the vaccine to become effective.



Hillsborough County Health Clinics provide flu shots on a walk-in basis Monday through Friday. It is best to call the health clinic closest to you ahead of time to check availability. These shots are also covered by Medicare Part B, but will cost \$25 if you are not covered by Medicare.

Hillsborough County Health Clinic locations are listed below:

Crosstown Immunizations
 4591-B East Adamo Drive, Suite. 210
 Tampa, Florida 33605
 813-307-8077

Kelton
 4704 Montgomery Ave.
 Tampa, Florida 33616
 813-307-8055

North Hillsborough
 9827 N. Sheldon Road
 Tampa, Florida 33615
 813-307-8053

University Area Clinic
 13601 N. 22nd Street
 Tampa, Florida 33613
 813-307-8058

Plant City
 302 N. Michigan Ave.
 Plant City, Florida 33566
 813-307-8057

Sulphur Springs
 8605 N. Mitchell Avenue
 Tampa, Florida 33604
 813-307-8054

Joyce Ely
 205 14th Ave. S.E.
 Ruskin, Florida 33570
 813-307-8056