



Coming To A Bus Stop Near You

Bus posters promoting water conservation are covering Hillsborough County. This poster refers to the fact that showering accounts for about 20 percent of the water used in the home. Taking a shorter shower can save 3 to 6 gallons a minute. Therefore, reducing shower time by 5 minutes could mean 15 to 30 gallons of water saved each time. If you install a newer, low-flow showerhead, you can reduce the flow to 2.4 gallons a minute and still provide an enjoyable shower. You can also add a shutoff device at the showerhead, so that you can turn off the shower while lathering up. Both the low-flow showerheads and the shutoffs are available for FREE from the Water Department by calling 272-6680.

Free Water Class Gives Seniors Insight

Seniors who would like to know more about Hillsborough County water issues and would like to spend two afternoons a week in Sun City Center should find out about the Senior Water Resource Training program.

Participants are treated to guest speakers and field trips to local areas of interest including a water treatment plant, Myakka River State Park and a Xeriscape demonstration area. The classes include a free notebook of water information and box lunches on the field trips.

The free program is funded by the Hillsborough County Water Department with the goal of helping to expand the public's understanding of water conservation issues. Much of the Tampa Bay area continues to experience the

aftermath of the drought that began in 1998.

For more information on the program, please call Christine Denny or Fay Baird toll free at 1-888-372-4774, or e-mail cdenny@pandionsystems.com



**You Can Help
The Rain!**

Compassionate Drivers Needed

Hillsborough County's Senior Citizens Nutrition & Activity Program provides midday meals to persons ages 66 and older at 29 locations through Hillsborough County. Home-delivered meals are provided to seniors and disabled adults who are homebound and unable to prepare meals. Drivers receive \$6.37 an hour and 29 cents for each mile they drive. The hours are 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. They need a valid license and insurance, and they need to pass a background check and a drug test.

For more information, call Jerry Gonzalez or Pat Whalen at 272-5160.

Hillsborough County Communicator

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For more information, call Public Information at 272-5314 or the Hillsborough Information Line at 272-5900.

Web site: www.Hillsboroughcounty.org

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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners

Communicator

Keeping You Informed About County Government



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HURRICANE PLANS

FOR PEOPLE:

Although the Tampa Bay area has not suffered a direct hit from a hurricane in nearly 20 years, everyone is urged to make preparations for their families each hurricane season -- June 1 through Nov. 30 -- just in case.

Hillsborough County's website has a wealth of information on preparing for a hurricane. Go to: www.hillsboroughcounty.org, click on the A-Z Index on the upper left, and go to H, Hurricane Information.

A special feature of this site is a guide to dealing with hurricanes, both before and after the event.

Even if you're a veteran of several hurricanes and think you know everything about preparing, this site gives you an easy place to check on information that may change from time to time, such as shelters and evacuation bus routes. If you're a newcomer to the entire concept of hurricanes, this site will guide you through most of the basics you need to know.

For those who aren't able to go online, the County's hurricane guides are available at County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., post offices, libraries and Kash n' Karry supermarkets. To bring home the reality of how much havoc a hurricane can cause, the County's Hazard Mitigation Section has created posters for six areas showing how far damage would spread, estimated water depth and wave height, and the amount of debris that would be generated. The posters are being distributed in post offices, some Kash n' Karry stores, and parks in Town 'N Country, Clair-Mel, Gibsonton, Apollo Beach, Ruskin, and in County Center.

Hillsborough County's Fire Rescue offers a special course that prepares neighbors to help others. The course builds community emergency response teams through a 7-week series of classes aimed at teaching survival techniques to use until emergency personnel arrive. The participants learn a variety of subjects such as general fire safety, light search and rescue, how to shut off gas valves, and basic triage. **For more information on the class, call Nancy Couch, 272-6600.**

FOR PETS:

Pet owners should review their hurricane preparedness plans to ensure the safety of their pets and make special preparations ahead of time. Know where you are going to leave your pets, and pack a survival kit.

Take Your Pets With You

If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!** Even if your pets do survive the storm alone, they could escape through broken doors or windows and become lost.

Make Arrangements That Include Your Pets

Public shelters **DO NOT** accept pets. If you need to evacuate, find out which motels or hotels close to home are pet-friendly and arrange to stay there; contact friends or relatives who might be willing to share their homes.

Provide Identification For Your Pets

Your dog or cat should have a current rabies vaccination, a county rabies tag and a micro-chip. Securely fasten the rabies tag and other identification tags to your pet's collar. If possible, also attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site.

Pack A Pet Survival Kit

Keep a copy of any documents that prove you own the animal — current rabies certificate and a picture of you with your pet to help prove this is your pet should the two of you become separated.

Your pet's survival kit should include:

- Pet Food
- Bottled Water
- Strong Leash
- Medications
- Rabies Certificates
- Cat Litter/Pan and Pet Waste Disposal Aides
- Mechanical Can Opener
- Food Dishes
- First Aid Kit
- Favorite Toy or Blanket
- Veterinary Records

Reduce Your Pet's Anxiety

Make sure you transport your pet in a secure pet carrier, so that, if he panics, he cannot escape.



Larry Cook, store manager at Ruskin Kash n' Karry, left, prepares to place a hurricane scenario poster brought to him from Gene Henry, Hazard Mitigation.



County, Agencies Prepare

James Dickey, left, and Bill Armstrong of Animal Services joined representatives of approximately 60 agencies that participated in a hurricane exercise recently. The scenario placed a Category 4 hurricane with winds of 145 mph heading toward Hillsborough County from the Gulf of Mexico. Representatives from County departments such as Parks & Recreation, Water, and Real Estate, met with a variety of companies and agencies ranging from Verizon to Busch Gardens. The exercise gave each agency the opportunity to talk about their plans and responsibilities.