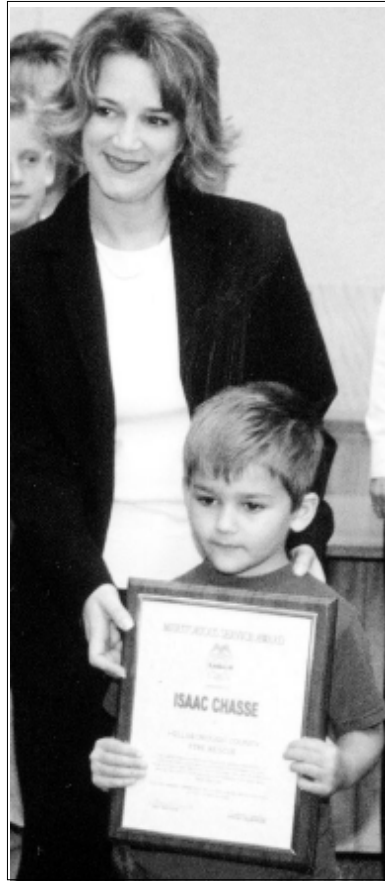




Young Heroes

Above: Chase Caldwell, 11, shakes hands with County Commissioner Kathy Castor after receiving a meritorious service award at a recent Board Of County Commissioners' awards ceremony. Chase won the award for saving his stepbrother by having him "stop, drop and roll" when his pants caught on fire after a bottle of fuel exploded. Right: Isaac Chasse, 5, pictured with his mother, received his meritorious service award for carrying his infant sister outside when a fire started in the kitchen of his home.



Did You Know?

In fiscal year 2002, Hillsborough County's health care plan served 28,468 individuals; maintained cost of care per member per month at \$275; provided for 66,000 primary care visits; and paid for 523,685 prescriptions.

Hillsborough HealthCare is a comprehensive managed health care program funded by a special sales tax and administered by the County's Department of Health and Social Services. The plan provides primary care at 12 clinics strategically located in the County, and has hundreds of participating referral specialists in the networks.

Hillsborough HealthCare is designed especially for County residents whose income is at or below the federal poverty level and who have no other medical coverage.

For more information, call 272-5555.

GOT QUESTIONS?

GET ANSWERS!

272-5900

HILLSBOROUGH INFORMATION LINE

Hillsborough County Communicator

Published every month by the Communications Department to inform residents about the programs, services and activities of their County government.

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

Web site: www.Hillsboroughcounty.org

Daniel A. Kleman
County Administrator

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners

ommunicator

Keeping You Informed About County Government



May 2003



Sheriff's Deputy Matt Hall reassures Peanut, an Alaskan malamute, during the kickoff of the Pets of Patriots. Hall is the first person to foster an animal in the program.

County Joins In Program To Foster Military Pets

A coalition comprised of Hillsborough County Animal Services' Puppy Huggers foster care program, Humane Society of Tampa Bay, St. Francis Society Animal Rescue, and Hillsborough County Veterinary Medical Society was brought together by County Commissioner Ken Hagan to provide homes for the pets of deployed military personnel.

More than 500 people have volunteered to become foster families, leaving the agencies involved to ask them to be patient while they work through the call list. All foster homes will be screened.

Besides fostering, the program offers a unique opportunity for the community to help by donating money or pet supplies.

Monetary donations may be made to: Puppy Huggers; 3927 Versailles; Tampa, FL 33634.

Pet supplies may be delivered to: Humane Society of Tampa Bay; 3607 N. Armenia Ave.; Tampa, FL 33607.

Applications and complete information are available on a special website:

www.hillsboroughcounty.org/petsofpatriots.

For people without access to the Internet, information is available by calling 744-5660.

Restructuring Effort Will Help Locate Utility Lines More Quickly

Project will benefit customers

A streamlining effort within the Hillsborough County Water Department will reduce the time necessary for employees to locate utility lines within rights of way or easements when customers request the information. Additionally, callbacks will always be received regardless of whether utilities are found or not.

This is good news for residents, contractors, other utilities, County departments and engineering firms who need fast access to this information to proceed with construction projects.

Line Maintenance Section Manager Richard Cummings, and Engineering Section Manager Celine Hyer worked together for several months to procure and configure the new system and reorganize the process.

The reorganization involves the shifting of positions from the Line Maintenance Section to the Engineering and Environmental Management Section.

Employees involved in the transition will undergo training to operate state-of-the-art wireless laptops to receive, collect and store data and lessen the current paperwork involved in the line location process.

In addition to providing quicker turnaround time for information, the new system is expected to help the department update its As-Built records and provide data for a future asset management system

Remember to always check for utility lines before you dig!

For information on locating water utility lines, call Sunshine One Call at 1-800-432-4770.

Good Stuff To Know

Rain Barrel Video Available

Using rainwater for indoor and outdoor plants—and for cleaning garden tools—is a great way to help conserve our drinking water supply. A rain barrel connected to a downspout can easily collect 55 gallons or more of water during a summer storm.

“Rain Barrels: A Homeowner’s Guide,” demonstrates the easy step-by-step process of assembling and installing a rain barrel -- and of connecting multiple barrels together.

To receive a copy of the video and its companion booklet, call **Gerard Watson, Senior Water Conservation Inspector, at 272-5977.**

For information about “Rain Barrel” Workshops, or to request an application for the Water-Wise Awards, contact **Marina D’Abreau-Pryce, the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Coordinator of the Hillsborough County Extension Service, at 744-5519 ext.144.**

MBE/SBE Directory On Web

The Minority Business Enterprise/Small Business Enterprise On-line Searchable Directory is now available on the county website.

The directory is located at: www.hillsboroughcounty.org/econdev/enterprise/home.html. If you have any questions, please contact **Spencer Albert, manager of the DWMBE & DWSBE program, at 276-2735.**

Prepare For Hurricanes

With hurricane season officially beginning on June 1, now is a good time to check out Hillsborough County’s website featuring 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. 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.

Look at: hillsboroughcounty.org/emer_mgt/home.html.