

Hillsborough County Government
Touching Your Life Every Day

**Animal
Services'
Early Age
Foster
Home
Program**



In the past year, more than 300 very young puppies and kittens have spent their early months in foster homes through Animal Services' Early Age Foster Home Program.

Fostering is extremely complex and demanding, but the joy of helping these very young animals thrive is incredible.

If you are a Hillsborough County resident and have an interest in finding out about the Early Age Foster Home Program, call 744-5660, ext. 255.

County government is as close as your ...

- **Telephone:**
Hillsborough Information Line: 272-5900
- **Computer:**
www.hillsboroughcounty.org
- **Television:**
HTV22, cable channel 22

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners



Good Stuff To Know

County Offers Employment Help

Can't find a job? Or looking for a better job? Hillsborough County's Department of Health & Social Services has a program just for you. Through the Employment Opportunity Program, you can have your job history, skills and training assessed to help you find employment that fits you. You also will get help removing barriers to employment and follow-up help for up to a year.

For more information about the Employment Opportunity Program, please call 272-5074 ext.222.

Make a Difference in a Child's Life

The Guardian ad Litem program needs volunteers to represent abused and neglected children who have been thrust into the courts and child welfare system. Guardians visit "their kids" at least once a month to make sure they're safe and receiving proper care. Guardians investigate the child's history and interview the child's doctors, teachers, and neighbors to determine what's best for the child, sharing objective information with the courts. The child's well-being, safety and future are the Guardian's primary concerns.

Guardians must complete 30 hours of training, and sessions are held in the evening every other month. **For more information, please call the Guardian ad Litem Program of Hillsborough County at 272-5110 or visit www.tampabayga.org**

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

Patricia G. Bean
County Administrator

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners

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Keeping You Informed About County Government



August 2004

Good Government Award

County Commissioner Jim Norman, far right, stands with the family of the late H.L. Culbreath after presenting them with Hillsborough County's Good Government Award. County Commissioners created the Ellsworth G. Simmons Good Government Award in 1996 to honor an individual or group who has played a significant role in improving government through leadership and vision. Culbreath was presented the award posthumously for his work in saving Tampa General Hospital when it was failing several years ago as a public hospital. Pictured are Culbreath's grandson Hugh, left, his daughter Kay Culbreath-Keller, son Lee, and wife Betty.



Enter the 2004 Community Water-Wise Awards Contest

The sixth annual Community Water-Wise Awards will be given based on the following categories for the creation of attractive, water-efficient landscapes:

- Resident/Homeowners
- Builders
- Multi-family Properties
- Schools
- Government Properties
- Other
- Commercial Properties

Applications are online at www.TampaBayWater.org or http://hillsborough_fyn.ifas.ufl.edu.

Applications must be submitted by Aug. 31.

For more information on the awards program, or for help in creating a water-wise landscape, call the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program at 744-5519, ext. 144.

Live With Raccoons At A Safe Distance

Raccoons are survivors. As civilization closes in around them, they adapt admirably, choosing areas that have two essential elements – water and brush or woods. They are adaptable and will eat just about anything, including that great American fast food – garbage.

Because people regard them as “cute,” they like having them around and, unfortunately, will set food out to attract them. Feeding raccoons increases the chance that either the raccoons or the people around them will suffer harm. It lessens their natural distrust of people, and setting up feeding stations also may attract more raccoons than would live in the area otherwise.

It is not unusual for raccoons to wander around neighborhoods, looking for food and shelter, day or night. According to the Wildlife Rescue League, it's a myth that raccoons seen out in the daytime must be rabid. Although raccoons are mostly nocturnal, it is quite common, especially in urban areas, for a healthy animal to venture out during the day if it is hungry or its den has been destroyed. Frequently, mother raccoons that are nursing kits will be forced to search for food night and day.

Wild animals in close proximity to homes are more likely to spread disease to both people and pets through bites and scratches.

Rabies is a very real concern. Ninety percent of the rabies in Florida is carried by wild animals, and 50 percent of that is carried by raccoons.

There are a number of steps you can take to protect your family and your pets:

- Do not feed your cats or dogs outside. Raccoons, possums and other wildlife are drawn to the food.
- Never feed wildlife. Feeding wildlife encourages overbreeding and causes them to interact with humans and pets. Disease and injuries can occur when wildlife and domestic pets/humans come into contact with one another.
- Do not feed, touch or adopt wild animals, and be cautious of stray dogs and cats. Rabid animals do not always appear ill or aggressive.
- Teach children to leave wildlife alone. Be sure your children know to tell you if an animal bites or scratches them.
- Have your veterinarian vaccinate your dogs, cats, or ferrets against rabies. Keep pet vaccinations up-to-date.
- Tightly close garbage cans. Open trash attracts wild or stray animals to your home or yard.
- Call your doctor and your local health department for advice if an animal bites or claws you. Report the incident immediately.

New Law Against Feeding Wildlife

Effective May 13, it is against the law to intentionally feed bears, raccoons, foxes and sandhill cranes in Florida. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) passed the new rule in April to help reduce problems that occur when wild animals become too comfortable around humans. The offense is a second degree misdemeanor, and enforcement will be based on complaints the

FWC receives about people whose behavior is causing these animals to become health, safety and property damage risks. If you know of someone who is intentionally feeding raccoons, bears, foxes, sandhill cranes or alligators, please report them

to the 24-hour Wildlife Alert Hotline at 1-888-404-FWCC. The call is free and you could be eligible for a reward if your information leads to an arrest.

