

Move Over Or Slow Down?

If you don't know about Florida's "move over" law that went into effect July 1, 2002, read on.

Designed to protect law enforcement and other emergency workers, the law requires drivers to "move over" or "slow down" when approaching an authorized emergency vehicle that is stopped on a highway in Florida. Violations carry a \$60 fine and three points.

- **Interstates or highways with multiple lanes:**

On interstate highways or other highways with two or more lanes traveling in the direction of the emergency vehicle, and except when otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer, drivers approaching a law enforcement or other authorized emergency vehicle parked on a roadway with their emergency lights activated, are required to vacate the lane closest to the emergency vehicle, as soon as it is safe to do so.

- **Two-lane roads:**

When approaching a law enforcement or other authorized emergency vehicle parked on a two-lane roadway with their emergency lights activated, and except when otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer, drivers are required to slow to a speed that is 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit when the posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour or greater; or travel at 5 miles per hour when the posted speed limit is 20 miles per hour or less.

Come Jam at Keystone

Keystone Park is now hosting Keystone Music Jam Nights, a free music program that focuses on instructing young adults, ages 12 and over, on the bass and electric guitars, and drums. The Parks, Recreation, & Conservation Department has sponsored the program and invested more than \$2,500 in new equipment.

The program still needs donations of instruments and volunteers to instruct the students.

Jam Nights will be held the first and second Fridays of the month. Keystone Park is located at 17928 Gunn Hwy.

For more information, contact Mike Eden at 264-3819.



Rabies Bait Drop Planned



Beginning on Feb. 23 and continuing for approximately two weeks, rabies vaccine bait will be distributed in Hillsborough County and several adjoining counties. The intent is to form a rabies-free barrier along the I-4 corridor.

Approximately 50,000 sachets will be distributed at bait stations (on the ground at identified locations where there is a high density of raccoons), and 600,000 block baits will be distributed by air (airplane and helicopter) and from ground vehicles.

When an animal bites into the bait and punctures the container, the vaccine is released.

Although the bait has not proven harmful to people or pets, everyone is being asked to leave it alone for raccoons to find.

This is the second year that the bait has been distributed through a U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services program to control wildlife rabies across Florida and up the east coast of the United States.

For more information, call the Hillsborough Information Line, 272-5900, or the Rabies Hotline, 1-866-487-3297.



Block bait to be distributed from the air.



Sachet to be distributed by hand.

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

Communicator

Keeping You Informed About County Government



February 2004

Fawn Ridge Rain Deer Promotes Conservation

Creator wins reclaimed water award

Residents of Northwest Hillsborough County's Fawn Ridge subdivision don't have to play a guessing game when it comes to watering their lawns.

Thanks to the "Fawn Ridge Rain Deer," residents of the 700-plus home community know exactly when Mother Nature has done enough watering for them, or when they have to turn on their sprinklers to quench their lawns' thirst.

The "rain deer" is a newly erected sign at the community's entrance. Designed by resident Helena Martensen, the sign boasts a changeable "rain gauge" and a message telling residents when they need to water and when they don't.

Lawns require only about one inch of rain, or irrigation, each week from April to October. From November until March, only about a half-inch is needed. The sign helps residents know when to water by gauging rainfall for them.

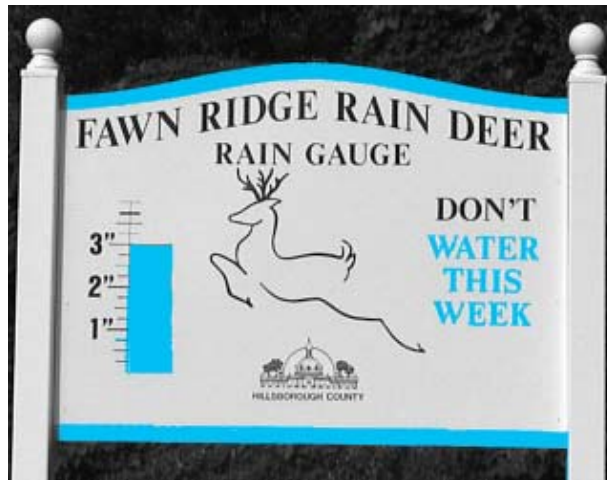
The sign was partially funded by a Hillsborough County mini-grant awarded to the Fawn Ridge subdivision. Martensen's design also won the county's Respect Reclaimed Water Contest. A drawing of the sign garnered the most votes in an online poll, earning Martensen a voucher for a two-person kayak. The contest was created by the Hillsborough County Water Department to encourage residents to conserve reclaimed water and to remember it, too, is a precious resource.

Martensen came up with the idea for the sign while attending a Fawn Ridge Homeowners Association meeting. A fellow resident voiced concern about residents in the community overusing reclaimed water to irrigate their yards. Martensen, a marketing professional, decided the community's mascot would be ideal for use in a campaign to help residents know when they needed to water. "And, it kind of blossomed from there," she said.

The sign has been in place since September.



County Commissioner Kathy Castor presents Helena Martensen with a certificate for a two-man kayak, her reward for winning the County's Respect Reclaimed Water contest.



The Fawn Ridge Rain Deer sign won Hillsborough County's Respect Reclaimed Water Contest. Designer Helena Martensen came up with the idea after hearing a neighbor lament misuse of the resource within the neighborhood.

For information on reclaimed water, go to:

<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/reclaimedwater/home.cfm>

For information on water restrictions, go to:

<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/waterdept/restrictions.html>

Good Neighbors Ward Off Pit Bull Attack, Receive Award

Mark & Cathi Towns were chosen to receive the Lonnie Lea Napier Good Neighbor Award this year from County Commissioners for their quick actions in coming to the aid of a neighbor in extreme danger.

On May 11, while the couple was completing their morning walk, they came upon a neighbor and her two small dogs as they were being attacked by pit bulldogs. The pit bulls were viciously biting the neighbor's legs and pulling her to the sidewalk. Towns responded quickly and was able to beat off the dogs. Afterwards, he and his wife, Cathi, provided care to their neighbor. The neighbor received numerous scratches and bruises but ultimately was released from the hospital, and one of the neighbor's dogs survived. Because of the Towns' quick actions, without a doubt, lives were saved.

This award program was established by County Commissioners in 2000 to honor of county resident, Lonnie Lea Napier. Lonnie was killed while trying to rescue a neighbor's cat from a high tree. This was not the only instance of compassion and helpfulness shown by Lonnie. His former neighbors tell stories of how he put up Christmas lights for a recently widowed woman and how he once fought a brush fire until firefighters arrived.

Nominations have been accepted from individuals, neighborhood associations and community groups throughout the year and several quarterly awards have been given out. But, once a year, one citizen is selected to be the annual recipient of the award by the seven-member committee appointed by the County Commission.

This annual award comes with a \$2,000 prize to be awarded to the neighborhood association in which the recipient belongs or to help found a neighborhood association, if there is not one in the recipient's area.

If you have a neighbor you would like to honor, nomination forms are available at the county's website: <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr/home.html> or by calling the Office of Neighborhood Relations at 272-5860.