

## Food (Coloring) for Thought

Did you know that you may be able to save water by using food coloring?

Adding food coloring to your water won't plug leaks, but it may help you find them. Remove the lid from your toilet tank and take out any colored cleaning agents. Flush to clear water in the bowl.



Now add a few drops of food coloring to the tank. If the tank is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 30 minutes. To avoid staining the bowl, flush as soon as the test is complete.

A leaky tank can waste 200 gallons a day. If allowed to run a month, that would amount to 6,000 gallons.

The usual culprit of a leaking toilet is a worn or damaged flapper valve which regulates the flow from the tank to the bowl. When you buy a replacement, make sure you get one that is designed for your toilet model.

Toilet bowl cleaners that are put in toilet tanks can accelerate deterioration of toilet flappers.

## Veterans, Tune In To HTV22

Hillsborough County's cable channel HTV22 has a special television series especially for the more than 100,000 veterans who live here.

Produced by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the 30-minute talk show is about health issues important to veterans and their families.

"Although these programs focus primarily on issues relating to veterans' health care, much of the material is useful to anyone interested in maintaining a healthy life-style," said Tom Fletcher, manager of Hillsborough County's Veterans Affairs Office.

The show is recorded in an interactive environment, addressing questions from the audience.

Watch Veterans' Overview any Sunday afternoon at 6 p.m., or Wednesday morning at 7 a.m. For a complete schedule of HTV22 programming, refer to the TribTV section of The Tampa Tribune or check the web site: [htv22.org](http://htv22.org).



**Yoda sleeps, safe and sound, in her owner's arms.**

### June is Adopt-A-Cat Month

Yoda is one lucky cat. Found behind a bush as a very young, frightened kitten, she now has a safe, happy home with two little girls who adore her.

Not all stories end as happily as Yoda's. If they did, Hillsborough County Animals Services would not be overflowing with both grown cats and kittens.

Celebrate Adopt-A-Cat Month by visiting Animal Services' cat adoption area. Adoption fees are \$50, and include spaying or neutering, rabies vaccination, and license tag.

Although you cannot adopt an animal without visiting the shelter, located at 440 Falkenburg Road, north of S.R. 60, you can view animals currently in adoption by clicking on the Animal Services' "online adoption kennel" at [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animsvcs/home](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animsvcs/home).

## 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](http://www.Hillsboroughcounty.org)

Patricia G. Bean  
County Administrator

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY**

*Board of County Commissioners*

# ommunicator

Keeping You Informed About County Government



June 2004

## New Office Creates One Point Of Contact For Right-Of-Way Matters

Need to connect a driveway to the county's right of way? Put in a cable line? Hold a parade? Close down a lane to work on a curb? Move a house down the road?

As of May 3, the place to go for permission to do those things is the Right-of-Way Management Office, located at NetPark, 5701 E. Hillsborough Ave.

More than 2,000 permits involving right of way and temporary traffic control come through Hillsborough County each year.

Now there is an office with the sole aim of managing, protecting and helping to coordinate the use of

Hillsborough County's roads, rights of way and associated infrastructure to increase public safety and maintain the quality of rights of way.

The Right of Way Management Office has responsibility for issuing permits for right-of-way uses, ensuring that the right of way is restored after construction, protecting County infrastructure (such as utility lines) within the right of way, and acting as a liaison with other utility companies.

**The telephone number is 274-6500, and the fax number is 274-6565.**

## Fight The Bite! Make Your Yard Mosquito-Free

It's getting to be that time of the year again, what we affectionately call "Mosquito Season."

This is the time when mosquitoes start becoming a real nuisance, and the number of calls to the Department of Mosquito Control for service requests jump from an average of 25 per week to 250 a week.

Mosquito Control staff investigates the areas where complaints originate and try to find the breeding site. If it's an isolated area where they find larvae, they treat it right then and there. If they find mostly adults flying around, then the night drivers to handle it with the spray trucks.

More often than not, the people calling in for the service, are breeding their own mosquitoes.

There are some simple rules to follow to help control the breeding of mosquitoes in our own backyards. So, to refresh everyone's memory, let's review them once again.....

By following these simple rules, you become members of our "Mosquito Patrol".

### MOSQUITO RULES

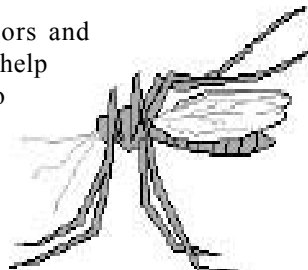
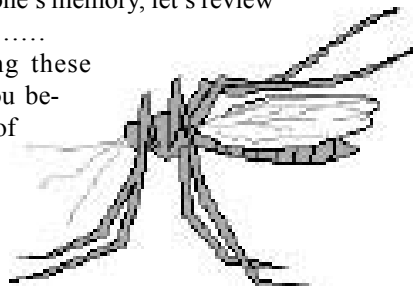
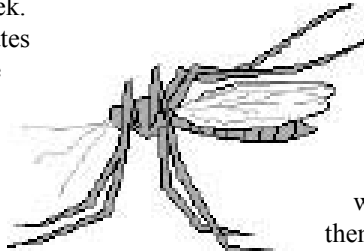
- Keep all containers that can hold water in your yards empty. Mosquitoes love to lay their eggs in stagnant water!

- Dump and refill all pets' water bowls and bird baths every two to three days – that way the water doesn't become stagnant and evolve into a "breeding site."

- If you have bromeliads, or other trumpet-type, water-holding plants, sprinkle some Sevin Dust on them to keep them from becoming a "breeding site." It won't harm the plants and is readily available.

- Try to stay indoors at dawn and dusk. If you must go outside during these times, wear long sleeved shirts and pants and spray yourself with a mosquito repellent, preferably one that contains DEET. The label will list the chemicals.

- Educate your neighbors and friends on how they can help "control" mosquitoes, so you are not eliminating a breeding site on your property, only to have them come over to visit from next door.



## Time To Apply For Mini Grant\$

Hillsborough County's neighborhood associations can apply for mini-grants for fiscal year 2005. From a pool of \$94,000, the maximum award to any association is \$1,500.

The purpose of the program is to strengthen neighborhood associations and the communities they serve, through assisting them with small improvement projects and events.

Neighborhood mini-grant orientation classes are available to help people become familiar with the mini-grant process. The class will review the application, grant criteria, projects that qualify for the mini-grant and answer any questions.

Meetings are scheduled at locations across the county. Following are the times and places:

- Thursday, May 20, 6:30 p.m., Jimmie Keel Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave.
- Tuesday, May 25, 6:30 p.m., City of Temple Terrace City Hall, 11250 N. 56th St.
- Tuesday, June 1, 6:30 p.m., City of Plant City City Hall, 302 W. Reynolds St.
- Tuesday, June 8, 10 a.m., Sun City Center Community Association Office, 1009 N. Pebble Beach Blvd., Florida Room
- Tuesday, June 15, 6:30 p.m., Brandon Recreation Center, 502 E. Sadie St., Brandon
- Thursday, June 17, 6:30 p.m., County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 26th Floor

Neighborhood Mini-Grant Applications are available on the Office of Neighborhood Relations webpage at: [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr/home.html](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr/home.html). Completed applications will be due on July 23.

The applications will be forwarded to a grant review committee. The committee's evaluation and recommendations are expected to be completed by early September, and forwarded to the County Commission in early October.

The program is cosponsored by the Hillsborough County Children's Board and the Frank E. Duckwall Foundation within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay.

**For more information, contact: Nancy Rubin, Office of Neighborhood Relations, 272-5860.**