

Good Stuff to Know

Home Construction, Remodeling

Learn about home construction and remodeling from experts through classes at Hillsborough County Extension offices, 5339 County Road 579.

Anatomy of a Home: Buy Green and Save focuses on features that will make a home more energy and water efficient. The classes are scheduled for March 13, May 15, and Oct. 16.

Secrets of Successful Remodeling helps homeowners learn how to start a remodeling project. The classes are scheduled for April 17, June 5, and Sept. 18.

Each household in attendance will receive a free book.

All classes are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Seating and materials are limited, so pre-registration is required. **The number for phone registration is 744-5519 ext. 137 or register online at <http://hillsboroughfcs.ifas.ufl.edu/>.**

Lost Pet?

Look In Your Computer

Realizing how stressful it is to lose a pet, Animal Services is offering a new service – an online kennel accessible through the “Lost Animals” link on the shelter’s home page.

As well as a photo, the link contains information on when the animal was brought in, the sex, approximate age, and breed as entered at the shelter. Every hour, the information goes to Pet Harbor, a not-for-profit website.

To broaden the search, there is a link to a page listing 14 other shelters in Florida.

Pets for adoption also are available through the County’s website. On Animal Services’ home page, there is an “Online Adoption Kennel” link. That link will take you to animals currently up for adoption. That link also is updated hourly as animals find new homes or are placed in adoption.

To access these websites, go to: www.hillsboroughcounty.org. Click on “A” on the A-Z index in the upper left hand corner, then click on Animal Services. The new links are at the bottom of the page.



Water Wise Workshops

Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension has scheduled a number of workshops to help residents find out how efficient water use can result in a healthier, more beautiful landscape.

Micro irrigation kits will be available for \$10 for participants.

Workshops will be held on: April 17, May 15, June 19, and June 26.

For more information, call Dawn Barton, 744-5519, ext. 110.

Atlas Available Online

Take Hillsborough County, divide it into 34 equal sections, plug in color-coded locations of public facilities such as fire stations, draw in all of the separate parcels, and you have the County’s Township Atlas.

Everyone can access the maps at: ftp://ftp.hillsboroughcounty.org/gis/pub/REAL_ESTATE/Atlas/. Click on the index at the top to find out how the sections are numbered.

The maps are on an FTP site so that the public can access them despite their large size – up to 6 megabytes each. The files are in PDF format and created to print at 18 inches by 22 inches so that all of the detail is discernable.

The entire set will be updated annually, with the new maps available online each January.

Besides being online, hard copies of the maps are available for \$5 each in the Print Room on the 21st floor of County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., in downtown Tampa.

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

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County Administrator

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners

ommunicator

Keeping You Informed About County Government



March 2004



Favorite Sons & Daughters

County Commissioner Ken Hagan, second row, holds the Favorite Sons & Daughters award presented by County Commissioners to the Armwood High School football team, coaches and athletic director for winning the 2003 Class 4A State Championship. Pictured are the football team members, cheerleaders, County Commissioners and school officials. Established in 1995, the award is given annually to residents who have distinguished themselves and made the county proud. This year's award was made Jan. 21 at Joe Chillura Courthouse Square.

Help Spruce Up Your Community, Join The Great American Cleanup

Thousands of volunteers in the Bay Area are expected to join forces this spring as part of a nationwide community improvement effort during the Great American Cleanup.

Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful (KHCB) is coordinating the event locally and expects about 1,500 volunteers to participate during the countywide cleanup on April 17.

KHCB is recruiting volunteers and local sponsors for the cleanup, which will take place at several locations throughout the county. Check-in will be at 8:30 a.m., and the cleanup will take place from 9 a.m. to noon.



APRIL 17

Every year, thousands of animals are entangled in or ingest debris, which often results in their death. Your efforts can help save many animals from this fate – one that is caused by our carelessness. Crime, property values, and health and safety hazards also are directly related to litter.

Last year, almost 1,000 volunteers picked up more than 81,515 pounds, which is the equivalent of about 30 adult male African elephants. We hope to have an even greater turnout this year and make a bigger impact.

For more information on how to get involved with the Great American Cleanup, call (813) 960-5121 or visit our Web site at khconline.org.

Down The Sewer, Headed To Pretreatment

Ever wonder what happens to water when it's flushed down the toilet or goes down the drain?

In Hillsborough County, that water ends up at one of several wastewater treatment plants where it is cleaned for reuse or prepared for discharge back into the environment. Regardless of its final destination, water leaving the County's wastewater treatment plants must meet rigid federal guidelines for disinfection.

To help ensure that water coming out of Hillsborough County's plants is safe, the County must monitor what goes in. That's where the Industrial Pretreatment Program comes into play. This program is designed to make sure that wastewater coming into county plants primarily carries with it typical "domestic-type" contaminants by providing guidelines to sewer users (residential, commercial and industrial customers) of what can or can not be discharged to the sewer system. For example, toilet waste, shower water, kitchen materials and so on, are fine. Motor oil is not.

Industrial pretreatment began as part of the Federal Clean Water Act in the mid-1970s as a way to help protect domestic wastewater facilities from the discharge of toxic pollutants from industries, maintain the quality of residuals for economic disposal and to protect worker and public health and safety.

In Hillsborough County, industrial pretreatment is regulated through County Ordinance 99-12. This law applies to all customers connected to the county's sewer system and allows for only the disposal of domestic-strength wastewater.

Customers who need to dispose of wastes other than domestic are required to contact the pretreatment program to verify that disposing of a product to the sewer system is acceptable. This is done not only to help make sure the sewer system stays in good working order, but also to protect the health of people and the environment.

For more information on safe sewer practices, call Pretreatment Program staff at 272-5977.