



### Ground Broken For County Service Center

County Commissioners joined with representatives from the SouthShore Roundtable and county staff to break ground on the new South County Regional Service Center behind the Sun Point Shopping Center in Ruskin. This center, which is scheduled to open in fall 2005, will house offices of the Citizen Action Center, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Code Enforcement, Planning and Growth Management, the Property Appraiser's Office, the SouthShore Justice Center and the Water Department.

### Letter to Residents:

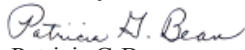
(Continued from front panel)

throughout these storms. I appreciate everyone who heeded our requests to make their hurricane preparations before each storm, and listened to reports from the county on what other actions they needed to take. Thank you also to local businesses that allowed their employees to take time off from work to tend to their personal property and concerns.

Our Citizen Action and Citizen Response Centers were there for you during these storms. Please remember if you ever have questions about county government services, you can contact your Citizen Action Center at 272-5900. They worked around the clock to answer your concerns and questions related to the hurricanes, and are still available to help you now, seven days a week from 7 a.m. – 11 p.m.

In closing, I wish to personally thank the many citizens who have gone out of their way to send me emails or cards or have come up to me in the grocery store and around the community to thank me for my efforts

during the storms. It was my honor to be able to serve you, the residents of this great county, and your response has been most humbling to me.

Sincerely,  
  
 Patricia G. Bean  
 County Administrator

### 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 the Hillsborough Information Line at 272-5900, or visit the county's website at: [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org)

### Board of County Commissioners

Thomas Scott, Chair	
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Patricia G. Bean  
 County Administrator

# Hillsborough County COMMUNICATOR

Keeping You Informed About County Government  
 NOVEMBER 2004

## Letter to Hillsborough County Residents:

For the first time since 1896, the State of Florida has experienced the fury and aftermath of four hurricanes in one year. For those of us who live in Florida, Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne have been major disruptions.



Patricia G. Bean  
 Hillsborough County  
 Administrator

Many have experienced damage to homes or properties or had family and friends who had damage. Most of us have had yard debris to clean up, last-minute child care issues when local schools closed, electrical outages and more. We have all dealt with disruptions to our life and increased worry from these storms. However, our community – Hillsborough County – has been fortunate as compared to many of our sister counties.

Throughout each event, Hillsborough County government was committed to consider the safety and needs of the residents when deciding whether or not to order evacuations, when to open shelters and what regular services to suspend. Many Hillsborough County employees worked around the clock before, during and after the storms to make the necessary preparations, assist in the evacuations, make roads passable, clean up debris and get county facilities open for business again.

I, along with everyone in county government, thank you for your patience, cooperation and understanding  
 (Continued on back cover)

### Also inside this issue:

- Irrigation tips for the fall season
- Talking Book Library
- County services moving closer to residents

## Talking Books Available to Disabled, Sight-Impaired Residents

The Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries has a Talking Book Library that is available to you. The Talking Books Library is a sub-regional library of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

It offers more than 45,000 fiction and non-fiction books, with access to more than 400,000 titles, plus more than 70 magazines available for the visually impaired. The library sends and loans these materials to eligible readers free of charge.

Eligible residents include those who are: legally blind; unable to see well enough or focus long enough to read standard print, although they wear glasses; unable to handle books or turn pages because of a physical disability, even if temporary; or certified by a medical doctor as having a reading disability.

For more information and an application, please call 272-6024, TDD 272-6305, go to [www.hcplc.org/hcplc/liblocales/tbl](http://www.hcplc.org/hcplc/liblocales/tbl), or visit the Jan K. Platt Regional Library at 3910 S. Manhattan Ave. in south Tampa.



Photo courtesy of the National Library Service.

## Dry Months Begin, Watering Needs Reduced

Florida winters bring cooler, more pleasant temperatures. Residents can turn off their air conditioners for a spell and putter around their homes without being drenched in sweat. It is a refreshing time of the year.

What Florida winters fail to bring, however, is abundant rainfall. Native vegetation can survive on the few inches of rain that falls between now and May or June. Other plants may need some supplemental watering.

But as the weather gets cooler, plants, just like our bodies, need less water. For example, lawns only need water once every two weeks instead of every week.

The cooler weather is also an opportunity to install a low-volume irrigation system. These systems, available at hardware stores and home centers, are efficient but also free of restrictions for plants other than grass.

That means, if you install a low volume system now, you will be able to use it throughout the year without fear of receiving a citation for improper watering.

Your lawn and landscaping can survive these dry spells with proper irrigation while staying within the restrictions. Here are some helpful hints:

- Irrigate during the early morning hours before the sun rises.
- Check your sprinkler heads for turf or shrub interfer-

ence which can block the spray pattern and lead to dry spots in your yard.

- Inspect your system once a month for broken or misaligned heads, leaks, and improper coverage.
- Check your irrigation timer regularly for proper scheduling and a fully-charged battery back-up if your timer is equipped with one. Also be sure you changed your timer for daylight savings time.

As a reminder, residents in the Water Department's south-central service area may water on Mondays if their address ends in 0 or 1; on Tuesdays if their address ends in 2 or 3; on Wednesdays if 4 or 5; Thursdays if 6 or 7; Fridays if 8 or 9 or having no address or a mixed address. To see a map of this area, visit the county's website at: [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org), click on the A-Z Index, then on "Water Restrictions" or call 274-7094.

Residents who live everywhere else in unincorporated Hillsborough County may irrigate twice a week. They may water on Tuesdays and/or Saturdays if their addresses end in an even number and Sundays and/or Wednesdays if their addresses end in odd numbers or have no addresses, such as common areas.

All watering must be done before 8:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m. Have a pleasant autumn!

## You Relied On Us During Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne



And You Can Keep Relying On Your Hillsborough County Information Line Every Day For Courteous and Professional Assistance Regarding County Services

**7 a.m. -- 11 p.m.  
7 Days A Week**

**TTY: 301-7173**

## Hillsborough County Online

When is the last time you took a few minutes to look at the county's website: [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org)? If it's been awhile or you have not ever viewed the site, you be amazed at what is there.

Did you know residents can print out the most commonly-used forms for rezonings and permits? Or that the County Commission's meeting agendas are available online? How about that interested companies can print how-to manuals and applications for doing business with the county from the Purchasing Department's webpage?

Or that the locations and driving directions to the county's parks are on the Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department's webpage? Why don't you visit the county today in cyberspace. We'll see you there!