

Residents Find Work Through County Program

We all need a little help sometimes. Organizers of a recent job fair aimed at helping needy residents regain economic self-sufficiency through employment know that all too well.

The Employment Opportunity Program, which was implemented in April 2004 by the Health & Social Services Department, is aimed at helping Hillsborough County residents regain economic self-sufficiency through employment.

Since the program's inception, 1,220 clients have been placed. Services provided include an in-depth interview to assess employment needs, an evaluation of their work history, removal of potential employment barriers, matching applicants to available jobs and providing follow-up with employers and clients to ensure job retention.

"The people who come in needing our services are typically in some kind of crisis, whether it be medical, financial or otherwise," said Audrey Eonda,

supervisor, Health & Social Services Department's Employment Opportunity Program. Eligibility to participate is as easy as meeting with an employment counselor.

The department, along with the Centre for Women and Community Action Agency, hosted the Career Connections 4 Job Fair recently to help residents find work. The event, held at the University Area Community Center, attracted 50 employers and more than 400 job seekers.

The main goal of the employment program is self-sufficiency, Eonda said. "Once someone gets that job, it doesn't mean we're through with them. In fact, if a client is in need after finding employment, the agency may be able to assist with living expenses for one month while the client awaits their first paycheck. An incentive program was also established to provide cash awards to clients who need to purchase work-related items.

"Sign Off Day in Tampa Bay" Rids County of Unwanted Signs

Did you know that illegal signs on the rights of way are actually dangerous to the public? Winds blow them onto the roads, creating hazardous obstacles. Metal supports from signs can damage public property and equipment. They can also visually distract motorists and degrade the image of communities throughout Hillsborough County.

These snipe signs are a chronic problem in Hillsborough County and its municipalities. That's why Hillsborough County, along with the Cities of Tampa,



Temple Terrace and Plant City, are co-sponsoring "Sign Off Day in Tampa Bay," an effort to rid all of our communities from illegal signage in the rights of way. The effort is also meant to educate the public about the importance of keeping these areas clean.

Both the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and the Tampa Police Department are partners in the "Sign Off" effort.

For more details, call Hillsborough County Housing & Community Code Enforcement, at 813-274-6613.

Don't Be a Victim!

Don't become a victim of unscrupulous thieves posing as utility workers to gain entrance to your home.

Hillsborough County Water Department employees working in the field wear official uniforms, and carry county identification.

Don't be afraid or embarrassed to ask for that ID! You can also check further by calling the Water Department to verify the information.

If the worker says he is there in connection with a water quality issue, call our hotline at 264-3835 to check.

For other issues, you can verify the information on their identification by calling the Water Department's administrative number at 272-5977 on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After hours and on weekends, call 744-5600.

Connected *(From front page)*

At a public meeting this summer, Water Department representatives told original Carrollwood residents that they should notice an improvement in their water quality, especially since the well water they had been using contained a considerable amount of iron. Water pressure also should be more consistent once a series of procedures to flush the neighborhood's distribution system is completed later this month.

In addition, in September, these customers will begin receiving water that is treated with chloramines, rather than chlorine. The county has used chloramines to disinfect the drinking water in the Northwest Service Area since November 2001.

What will become of the three wells that served the subdivision for decades? Construction is under way on a Tampa Bay Water project to connect these wells to their regional water supply system. The Carrollwood Collection Main consists of approximately four new miles of 10-inch and 12-inch pipeline, a portion of which will cross beneath Dale Mabry Highway.

Chilled Water Nets Cool Savings

Hillsborough County will save nearly \$1.2 million in annual energy and operational costs thanks in part to an agreement with Hillsborough County Schools to buy chilled water to cool two of its downtown buildings.

The news came during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Central Energy Chiller Plant in downtown Tampa, which was built to supply chilled water for air conditioning in six county buildings, including the School Board Administration building and the Rampello Downtown Partnership K-8 School.



School Board Superintendent MaryEllen Elia (left) looks on as County Administrator Pat Bean “chills out” with 5-year-old Giovanni DeCola.

Need help? Call InfoLine

Infoline is a service of the Citizen Action Center, which has been helping citizens for 30 years.

Open daily from 7 a.m.

until 11 p.m., services for Spanish speakers and the hearing impaired are available. Call today for details.



NEWS BRIEFS...

Spanish Services Directory Now Available

Spanish-speaking residents now have their own version of Hillsborough County’s popular Directory of Services. Copies of this inaugural edition are now available

in the Communications Department on the First Floor of County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. or residents can call (813)

272-5314 to have one mailed.

The Spanish Directory mirrors the English version, including brief descriptions of County departments and services and the helpful telephone directory/index. Spanish-speaking County employees can use it to further assist residents. All departments may use them to distribute to their customers.



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

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Hillsborough County
COMMUNICATOR
Keeping You Informed About County Government
SEPTEMBER 2005

CARROLLWOOD GETS CONNECTED

Hillsborough County’s Water Department welcomed 1,200 homes and businesses to its Northwest Service Area in August.

Another new development? Nope – this one’s an original.

County Commissioners realized a longstanding goal last year by acquiring the private water utility which served the original

Carrollwood subdivision, located north of Busch Boulevard and east of Dale Mabry Highway. In August, valves were turned in the final step of a \$210,000 project to connect the area to the county’s water distribution network.

(See “Connected” inside)



Commission Chair Jim Norman was instrumental in helping acquire the private water utility that formerly served the Carrollwood area.

In This Issue ...

- Carrollwood Gets Connected
- Program Helps Residents Find Work
- Spanish Services Directory Available