

Hurricane Season... Are You Prepared?

Hurricane season is upon us, running from June 1 - November 30. Though last year was less than active for us in Hillsborough County, it's not time to relax.

Be sure you "Have a Plan and Know Your Plan." Know your evacuation zone. Plan on where you will go if you have to evacuate. Should you not have to evacuate, start buying necessary non-perishable food and personal hygiene items now to spread the costs out over time.

For a wealth of hurricane safety information, go to www.hillsboroughcounty.org/emergency/, where you can also sign up to receive emails through the County's Emergency E-News Service.

Making Life Easier For People With Disabilities

The County's annual Disability Awareness Day will be held on Saturday, July 21, at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. This year's theme is "Access Hillsborough," and will highlight the latest ways to help people with disabilities participate fully in daily activities.

Exhibits and demonstrations will include HART buses with kneeling accessibility, home improvement stores demonstrating how to make accessibility improvements to your home, and a touchable rotating art exhibit provided by VSA Arts. You'll also see sports and leisure exhibits with the latest technologies for people with disabilities, and a host of other interesting presentations.

Door prizes will be handed out and refreshments will be available. This event is free and open to the public. Please join us for this fun event! For more information, call Sandra Sroka, the County ADA Liaison, at 276-2742.

Updating Gate Codes

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longer it takes to respond to a problem - whether that's a pump station failure, a line break, a sewage backup or even a water quality issue - the worse it gets. Emergency agencies have universal gate keys, but public works crews don't qualify for these even though the situation may be a matter of health and public safety.

If you're a neighborhood leader or a property manager for a gated community, you can help by making sure Hillsborough County has your current gate code. Contact the Office of Neighborhood Relations at (813) 272-5860.



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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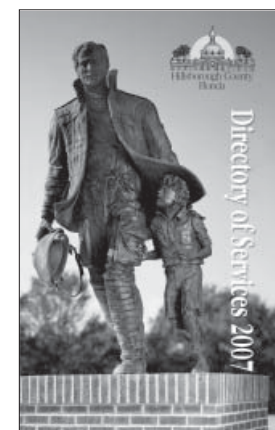
COMMUNICATOR

Keeping You Informed About County Government

June 2007

County's FREE Directory of Services Available

Pick up your "Everything Guide to the County" today! The directory contains a comprehensive listing of Hillsborough County programs and services from A to Z - agriculture to zoning. The handy booklet includes addresses; telephone and fax numbers; Web site addresses; and descriptions of offices, agencies and programs.



Want to find out which commissioner represents your neighborhood? See pages 11-12. Where do you get an automobile tag? Look up page 23. Need a building inspection? All the information you need is on page 53. At the front of the booklet are locations of major county facilities and customer service offices and the "At

Your Service" section at the end is a telephone quick guide to government services.

The directories are free. Single copies may be picked up at the following locations: local libraries; the George E. Edgecomb Courthouse (lobby) in downtown Tampa; and in County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., downtown

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- Florida-Friendly Landscaping
- County Wins Environmental Award

Don't Lock Us Out!

Picture this scenario: the alarm on a sewage lift station in a gated community begins ringing, indicating a pump has failed. After a time, sewage begins bubbling out of a nearby manhole. A Water Resource Services crew responds immediately. They pull up to the gate, punch in the code - and nothing happens.

With dozens of gated communities in unincorporated Hillsborough County and rapid growth adding even more, it's a scenario that happens all too often.

"Our goal is to be there within the hour, day or night," said Richard Cummings, who oversees line maintenance for Water Resource Services. "You end up having to wait around."

Losing precious time isn't just an inconvenience. The



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Watering Schedule

It's easy to remember your watering day. Just follow the guide below:

- Monday - addresses ending in 0 or 1
- Tuesday - addresses ending in 2 or 3
- Wednesday - addresses ending in 4 or 5
- Thursday - addresses ending in 6 or 7
- Friday - addresses ending in 8 or 9, locations with no address (common areas, entry areas), and locations with mixed addresses (office complexes, shopping centers).

Water before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

9 Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping

If your list of things to do includes working on your lawn and landscaping, this is the perfect time to consider a Florida-friendly yard.

Irrigation of lawns and landscaping in Florida represents the single largest use of water from public water supplies. In addition, runoff from fertilizers and pesticides can pollute lakes, rivers and bays.

Whether you are an expert gardener or just getting started, you can help conserve water and protect the environment by implementing the nine principles of Florida-friendly landscaping:

1) Right Plant, Right Place: Plants selected to suit a specific site will require minimal amounts of water, fertilizers and pesticides.

2) Water Efficiently: Irrigate only when your lawn needs water. Efficient watering is the key to a healthy yard and conservation of limited resources.

3) Fertilize Appropriately: Less is often best. Too much fertilizer can aggravate pest problems and plant disease, force excessive growth, and pollute the environment and drinking water sources.

4) Maximize Mulch: Maintain two to three inches of organic mulch over the roots of trees, shrubs and in plant beds to help retain soil moisture, prevent erosion and suppress weeds.

5) Attract Wildlife: Plants in your yard that provide food, water and shelter can help Florida's diverse wildlife thrive.

6) Manage Yard Pests Responsibly: It's unrealistic and unwise to strive for an insect-free yard. Misuse of pesticides can harm people, pets, beneficial insects and organisms, and the environment.

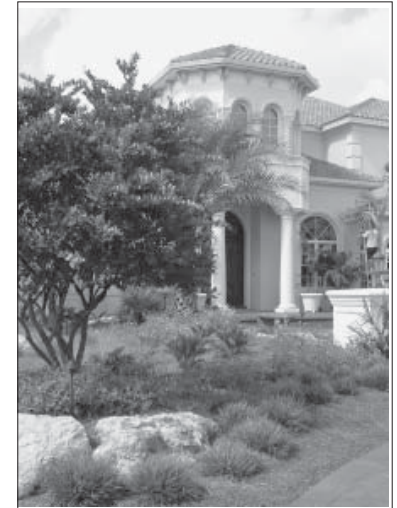
7) Recycle: Compost and recycle grass clippings, leaves and yard trimmings to provide nutrients to the soil and reduce waste disposal.

8) Reduce Stormwater Runoff: Water running off your yard can carry pollutants, such as fertilizer, pesticides, soil and debris, that can harm water quality. Direct downspouts onto lawns or landscaped beds, make a rain barrel, and use materials like gravel and mulch for pathways.

9) Protect the Waterfront: Waterfront property, whether on a river, stream, pond, bay or beach, is very fragile and should be carefully protected to maintain our freshwater and marine ecosystems.

Remove invasive exotic plants, plant native vegetation, and create a buffer zone at the shoreline where no chemicals are used.

For more information on Florida-friendly landscaping and to find out about upcoming workshops, call the Hillsborough County Extension Service at (813) 744-5519, or visit http://hillsborough_fyn.ifas.ufl.edu.



Directory of Services

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Tampa (Communications Department, 1st Floor).

Homeowner associations, social service agencies and other groups that would like bulk quantities of the directories can pick up the booklets from the Communications Department. Please call (813) 272-5314 to make arrangements. The office is open weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

An electronic version of the directory can also be found at www.hillsboroughcounty.org.

A Spanish language version of the Directory also will be available this summer. Call the Communications Department for more information.