

County Fleet Management Best In Nation Two Years In A Row

Hillsborough County Fleet Management has once again been named the number one public sector fleet department in North America by *Government Fleet Magazine* for 2009, becoming the only public fleet to win the honor two years in a row. The magazine also chose Hillsborough County last year as the top fleet in the country.

The County's Fleet Management Department improved from number 91 out of the top 100 Best Fleets in the country in 2007 to number one in 2008. Fleet has attained an overall customer satisfaction rating of over 97 percent for the past three fiscal years.



The 100 Best Fleets is an awards program recognizing peak performing operations. Among criteria for winning the recognition is accountability, technology implementation,

high trust culture, doing it right the first time, quick efficient turnaround, staff development, and competitive pricing.

"I believe, that as an organization, Hillsborough County Fleet Management has continued to demonstrate leadership," Fleet Management Director Sharon Subadan said. "The economic and fiscal challenges that are facing our local municipalities have presented fleets with new and unique opportunities to be creative and effective. We have once again made strides in meeting this challenge and will continue to do so. We are humbled yet pleased to be recognized for the second consecutive year."

Fleet Management has also received the *Blue Seal of Excellence* from the National Institute for Automot-

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tive Service Excellence (ASE) at all four locations. To receive the ASE honor, fleet garages must have at least 75 percent of their technicians who perform diagnosis and repairs be ASE-certified, and at least one technician must be ASE-certified in each area of service offered. Fleet Management has met and exceeded the requirement with 30 Fleet technicians (88%) holding 239 individual ASE and Emergency Vehicle Technician certifications.

Hillsborough County's Department of Fleet Management maintains more than 3,800 vehicles or motor equipment. These include hybrid vehicles and vehicles that can run on Ethanol-85, as well as bio-diesel.

Landscaping Law (Continued from Front)

environment. The principles emphasize a low-maintenance approach to landscaping that conserves water and gives homeowners more time to enjoy their yards.

"Because homeowners can no longer be prohibited from following Florida-friendly landscaping practices, they will have more freedom to choose the type of plants and turf that are right for their property," said Sylvia Durrell, SWFWMD's Florida-friendly landscaping project manager. "This is a great opportunity for homeowners to get to know their yard's sun, soil and moisture conditions and put the right plant in the right place."

The Hillsborough County Extension Service offers tips and workshops on Florida-friendly landscaping. Visit the website: hillsborough_fyn.ifas.ufl.edu, or call (813) 744-5519. For more advice, visit www.WaterMatters.org/yards/, or www.FloridaYards.org.



Pet License Tags Are A Free Phone Call Home

Due to noisy (and scary!) thunderstorms, many pets run away and go missing this time of year. Please keep pets indoors during summer storms, and don't forget to put current tags on your pet or get them micro-chipped so they are easily identifiable.

If your pet does go missing, don't delay! Come to the shelter early, often, and in person, for your search.

Also, if you've found someone else's pet with a County rabies license tag, you can now locate its owner online any time of day or night! Just log onto the website: www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animalservices/ and view the links to search the kennels, post notices for lost pets, and more. Enter the pet's Hillsborough County tag to find the owner's phone number. If you don't have Internet access, you can still report tag numbers by contacting the shelter by phone or e-mail.

Remember, it's not only the law to keep your pet's County rabies shot and license up to date -- the tag is a free phone call home! For more information, contact Hillsborough County Animal Services at (813) 744-5660.

Hurricane Information Online

Hillsborough County maintains a special section of its website to relay important hurricane information for local residents. You can find which, if any, evacuation zone you live in, your nearest public shelters, special needs registration forms and much more. On the site, you can also register for E-News, an e-mail service from Hillsborough County government where you will get official Hillsborough County emergency information as it is distributed.

To access this info online, go to the County's website at: www.hillsboroughcounty.org and click on the red "Emergency Information" link.

Get Rid of Pesky Mosquitoes!

Here are the County's top ten mosquito prevention tips from the Mosquito and Aquatic Weed Control Unit:

- Get rid of mosquito-breeding containers.** Destroy or dispose of tin cans, old tires, buckets, unused plastic swimming pools or other containers that collect water.
- Prevent your swimming pool from becoming a breeding ground.** If you aren't using your swimming pool, put a cover over it. Make sure the cover doesn't sag and hold pools of rainwater, which can also provide a breeding ground.
- If you have bromeliad plants in your yard, regularly rinse them out with a garden hose.** Mosquito larvae need water to grow and evolve, and bromeliads are an excellent host. The water in an average bromeliad can produce around a hundred mosquitoes per year.
- Protect your children from mosquitoes, especially at night.** Protect your children from irritating bites and the possibility of mosquito-borne illnesses by ensuring they cover exposed skin, and wear an insect repellent containing DEET.
- Keep your rain gutters cleaned out.** Rain gutters can get clogged with debris, which impede the flow of water, creating an ideal habitat for mosquito larvae.
- Take special precautions at dusk.** Dusk is a mosquito's favorite time to fly and bite. An onshore breeze will keep the mosquitoes at bay, but if there isn't one, a portable fan will do the trick. Remember also to wear long sleeves and repellent with DEET.
- Take special precautions in certain areas.** Use head nets, long sleeves and long pants if you venture into areas with high mosquito populations, such as salt marshes. Also use repellent containing DEET.
- Be extra careful when a warning is in effect.** If there is a mosquito-borne disease warning in effect, stay inside during dawn and dusk.
- Make sure window and door screens are "bug tight."** Check your screens periodically to make sure there are no holes and replace worn-out screens.
- Watch out for puddles in your yard.** Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent water from standing for several days.

The Right Time and Place

A Hillsborough County Sheriff's deputy is recovering well after quick-thinking Water Resource Services employees and a well-placed defibrillator unit helped save his life.

The detention deputy, who works with the Sheriff's Transportation Bureau, is expected to make a complete recovery, said his commanding officer, Capt. Robert Stein.

The deputy suffered a heart attack on June 19 while on a morning training run with the Tactical Action Control team, according to Stein. Employees from Water Resource Services' line locate crew and pump repair and electrical shops saw him collapse in front of their operations in the County's warehouse facilities next to the jail on Falkenburg Road.

With the man's colleagues initially thinking he had suffered heat exhaustion, WRS employees Michael Collins, Lisa Cotea-Jackson, Steve Loveall and Byron Bruch quickly responded to their calls for ice, water and damp rags. When Bruch noticed the deputy wasn't breathing, he grabbed a defibrillator unit while the Sheriff's officials performed CPR.

"Had (the WRS employees) not been there with the towels and water and ice, and especially the defibrillator, he would not have made it," Stein said. "The employees were right there, willing to help out."

WRS has the defibrillator units installed in 21 of its facilities. "Thank goodness it was here," Bruch said.

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New Law on Installation of Florida-Friendly Landscaping

From the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) comes word that a new state law promotes the installation of Florida-friendly landscaping and sides with residents caught between a drought and their homeowners association rules.

The law, which went into effect July 1, states that homeowners associations may not prohibit a homeowner from applying Florida-friendly landscaping to their property or create any requirement or limitation in conflict with state law.

The law also states that associations may not fine homeowners for brown lawns when the homeowner is abiding by water shortage rules such as those imposed by SWFWMD during the ongoing drought.

Florida-friendly landscaping includes nine easy-to-accomplish principles that, when practiced, can have a significant positive impact on yards and the



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