



A Dollar Buys More At Fleet Management

Would you pay \$1 for the chance to change places with your department director? When Valerie Williams at Fleet Management became the coordinator of the department's holiday baskets donations, she thought that might be a good way to raise money – sell tickets at \$1 each for the chance to change places with the department director for the day.

"It's more fun than just collecting money," said Williams, who got the idea from a company she used to work for. The person buying the ticket can put the name of any person in the department on the back.

"I thought it was such a good idea, I spent about \$20," said Chris Moreda, equipment mechanic and 10-year employee, who ended up holding the winning ticket.

Director Fred Claussen thinks it is such a good idea that he plans to include his managers in the drawing next year to allow them to experience other



Fleet Management Director Fred Claussen, right, briefs Chris Moreda, director for the day. Right: Mechanic Johnny Armwood shows Claussen where to attach the hose to drain the oil from the excavator.

jobs first hand.

On Dec. 12, Moreda, who looked every bit like a director with his fresh haircut and a new suit, started his day being briefed by Claussen, who put sticky notes with directions on a number of papers. Then he presided over the morning's staff meeting with his three managers, who left a mountain of reports on his desk.

Claussen put on coveralls his staff had his name sewn on and headed for his first task – steam cleaning a piece



of equipment. "This way I get to see exactly what they do. These guys are the experts. I leave the decisions to them, and I just oversee."

Claussen did more than oversee. Af-
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Engineers Without Borders

This delegation of engineers attended a seminar at the University of Veracruz in October. Pictured are: (front row) Mariana Llanso, Public Works Department; Maricela Medrano, Planning & Growth Management Department; and Laura Martinez, Public Works. In the back row are: Victor Hernandez, Water Department; Carlos Fernandes, Public Works; Jose Lopez, Public Works; Tito Guerrero, president of Steven Austin University, Texas; Carter White, Planning & Growth Management; Bernardo Garcia, Assistant County Administrator; Eduardo Tapia, Public Works; Roberto Moranchel, Arlington, Va.; Oscar Valdivieso, San Diego; and Genaro Perez-Rocha, Public Works. (See story, Page 5)



Left: Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive by fire truck. Above: Roy Wilcox from Friends of the County Parks, County Administrator Pat Bean, and Squiggy, mascot for the Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department, open the event.



Festival of Lights 2003

Santa and Mrs. Claus, dancers and a magician helped celebrate Hillsborough County's second annual tree lighting ceremony held in December at Joe Chillura Courthouse Square. The County Chorus, left, sang, along with several other choruses. The event was co-sponsored by the Friends of the County Parks.

County's 12th Annual Black Heritage Celebration Planned

The Hillsborough County Black Heritage Celebration Committee is preparing for its 12th annual event.

The theme this year is "*African Americans in the Military – Past, Present & Future.*" The celebration starts at noon on Friday, Feb. 6, at Joe Chillura Courthouse Square.

The guest speaker for the 2004 Black Heritage Celebration is Brig. Gen. Remo Butler, Chief of Staff and Director of the Center for Command Support, United States Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base. Butler is an example of the great strides the



Brig. Gen. Remo Butler
Guest Speaker

military has made over the years to be inclusive of African-American soldiers.

The Fourth Annual Legacy Award will be presented to a former Hillsborough County employee who has made a significant contribution to County government and the community.

There is entertainment planned and a sample of ethnic food dishes will be served immediately following the event.

All County employees are invited to attend the celebration.

For more information, contact Joyce Russell, Hillsborough County's African American Affairs Liaison, at 276-2637.

Good News

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Karen Matches, manager of Citizen Boards Support, was elected to serve as third vice president of the American Association of Code Enforcement during the 14th annual conference held in Texas in November. The national association is comprised of code professionals from 40 states and the District of Columbia.

LETTERS

When Egypt Lake residents Hector Vila and Cindy Rodriguez were struggling with working hours kept by the contractor installing TECO's large power poles in their neighborhood, they turned to **Dave Krug**, Public Works' traffic control supervisor, for help. Later they wrote, "Dear David: I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and let you know how appreciative we were to have you meet with us. Both Cindy and I felt our meeting was for mutual benefit and very productive. I appreciate your strong commitment in your work and your responsibility to your job. You are a man of your word. We appreciate your commitment to the citizens of Hillsborough County."

"I am writing to call your attention to the utmost professionalism exhibited by **Melissa Going** (paralegal in the County Attorney's office). Her actions exhibited the utmost honor and integrity that we rarely see today, and I want to make sure her good deeds do not go unrecognized," wrote J. Scott McMahon after Going returned the debit card he had left in an ATM. "I had the honor of meeting Melissa in person to pick up my card, and she was in fact equally as humble and nonchalant as when she called. I guess to her this was simply second nature, which is to her credit and to your office's credit for hiring such a high quality individual."

Hillsborough County resident Eugene Loibl wrote to **Bill Armstrong**, director of Animal Services, "Thank you for changing your procedure for viewing

pets for adoption. Your new system is very efficient by eliminating extra paperwork and valuable time of your staff. Again, thank you for making visits to your facility more pleasurable."

Richard Sullivan, environmental scientist with Parks, Recreation & Conservation, received a thank-you letter from Boy Scout Troop 203 after he let them use canoes for a trip to Cockroach Bay. "Please let us know if you have any special community projects we could perform at the Cockroach Bay Preserve. We would like to give a little something back to you and the bay for your kindness and coordination. We have up to 10 Scouts who can assist for a variety of projects," wrote Nicholas Romero, Sr. Patrol Leader.

Bill Armstrong, director of Animal Services, received this e-mail from Tony and Carolyn Shoemaker: "I just wanted to thank you for the quick response I received after calling you Friday about the injured bird. I especially wanted to commend **Darla (VanEerde)**, about how positive and cooperative she was in dealing with the situation. She handled herself in a very professional manner, obviously knowing what needed to be done with the bird, but showing that she cared in the way she handled the bird. You can be proud (I know I am), that we have such caring, positive and professional individuals responding to such difficult situations on behalf of the County. My wife and I talked about how positive we felt in a situation that could have been difficult, because of Darla. I hope the bird was able to be saved, but if not we felt that everything that could be done would be. On behalf of my wife and myself, extend our appreciation to Darla for the way she responded and how well she represented the County."

Pam Moore, from Rotary's Camp Florida, wrote to thank **Ron Steijlen**, an engineer with Public Works, for helping with a flooding problem. "Thank you for stopping by the camp and checking on our lake situation! I took a

We're A Team

To Mr. Foerster and all of his (Communications) staff: Congratulations are in order to the staff for a job well done with the Festival of Lights event. I was truly impressed with the quality of the entire production. It was a spectacular evening for those of us that were fortunate to attend. Your hard work is really appreciated!!

Carl S. Harness
Assistant County Administrator

lake reading this morning, and I can hear the pump working. The flooding has really affected the kids at camp, so thanks for your help and from everyone who has worked on this problem."

"On behalf of the University of South Florida, I would like to thank the County's Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department for their commendable participation in the October prescribed burn that was held at the University's ecological research area. The excellent professional help during the burn, that your personnel provided, as well as their prompt response, made the burn a complete success. Our great appreciation goes out to **Sheryl Bowman, Anna Lipham, Kia Dobbins, Paul Corbin** and **T. J. Weekes**," wrote Anne C. Schmidt from USF's Department of Biology.

When Katherine Griffin, vice president of the Vineyards of Westchase Homeowners' Association, needed a list of county roads in the Westchase area, she was contacted by **Amos Castillo** of Public Works. "This letter is to advise you that Mr. Castillo compiled this information for us and also keep us advised as he did the work of when it would be ready for us. Thank you Mr. Newton and Mr. Castillo for your prompt attention to our request," Griffin wrote in a letter to **John Newton**, manager at the West Service Unit.

**Think Before You Throw!
Littering Costs Everyone**



Water Department Honored

Commissioner Kathy Castor presents Celine Hyer of the Water Department the 2003 Outstanding Project of the Year award from the national WaterReuse Association. The award was given for the department's efforts to move forward with reclaimed water technology.



County Champion
Commissioner Ken Hagan presents the County Champions Award from the Florida Association of Counties to State Sen. Victor Crist. Crist received the award for his strong commitment to resolving critical issues affecting counties. Crist represents District 12, which covers parts of Hillsborough and Pasco counties.

**BOCC
Awards
Ceremony
December
2003**



Fire Training Facility Appreciation

County Commissioner Pat Frank presented a certificate of appreciation from the County Commission to Kyle Parks, communications director, left, and Bill Philbeck, director of risk management, center, of Walter Industries thanking them for allowing the County's Fire Rescue Department for using the company's former headquarters at Dale Marbry Highway and I-275 for into an eight-story training ground. Also pictured is Fire Chief Bill Nesmith.



Donna Olmstead, Steve McClure, and Michelle Van +Dyke pose with Commissioner Ronda Storms, second from right. They received a 1st Place award from the Florida Government Communicator's Association for the 2003 Employee Rally, a take-off on the Oscar ceremony. Van Dyke and Olmstead also received a 2nd Place award for last year's annual report calendar.

Communications Department Awards

Commissioner Ronda Storms presented a group of awards to members of the Communications Department. HTV22 producer Kevin Hoag received three awards from the Florida Government Communicators Association: a 1st Place for the "PAWS Club" series; a 3rd Place for "Timeline Temple Terrace"; and a 2nd Place for the series "Insights - Alzheimer's." Not pictured is Terri Cobb, who shared in that award. Scott Hunt received a 2nd Place award for his public service announcement "Library Card Sign-Up."



Kevin Hoag



Scott Hunt

Public Works Engineers Swap Ideas Across Borders

Five years ago, Bernardo Garcia – then Director of Public Works and now an assistant county administrator – formed the concept of an international exchange program of public works engineers when he met with several leaders of AMMAC, the Mexican counterpart of the American Public Works Association (APWA).

Because of Garcia's idea, Hillsborough County hosted the first International Seminar-Workshop in November 2002, an event so successful that the president of the University of Veracruz, Dr. Victor Arredondo, invited Garcia to lecture at the university.

Garcia assembled staff from Hillsborough County's Public Works, Planning & Growth Management, and Water departments, and invited Oscar

Valdivieso of San Diego Public Works Department; Dr. Tito Guerrero, president of Stephen Austin University, Texas, and Roberto Moranchel, principal planner for the City of Arlington, Va., to participate also.

The University of Veracruz also invited Mexican government officials, public works directors, professors, and the most outstanding students. All costs were paid by the University of Veracruz, Xalapam, including travel, hotel, and meals.

The first week of October 2003, Mexico hosted the seminar at the University of Veracruz, which Garcia and nine Hillsborough County staff members attended.

At all-day seminars on Monday and Tuesday, the large conference room at

the Xalapa campus was standing room only, with more than 300 participants.

The seminars also were televised to all five campuses of the university via videoconferencing. Wednesday through Friday, the participants broke into five different round tables to discuss specific issues in depth and at a higher level of expertise. Hillsborough County staff talked about subjects ranging from public sector administration to drainage, from public participation to historic districts and planning.

At the end of the week, the University of Veracruz inaugurated the Network for Investigation and Counseling to work closely with local governments to assess municipal needs and provide the skills necessary to best serve citizens.

BRIEFS

MLK Celebration

Mark your calendar for Monday, Jan. 19, at noon for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. The parade begins at Blake High School, 1701 N. Boulevard, and ends up at Pepin Rood Stadium at the University of Tampa.

Featuring the Buffalo Soldiers and the Pacesetters Band from Jamaica, the parade also will have bands from: Pierce Middle School and Blake High School (Tampa), Jones High School (Orlando), Burke High School (Charleston, N.C.), and East Side High School (Gainesville).

On Sunday, Jan. 11, at 3 p.m., there will be a stepshow to benefit the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. To be held at the University of Tampa gym, the show will feature steppers from Brandon, Robinson, Gaither, Hillsborough, and King high schools, as well as Tampa Bay Tech', and the Quality of Life Dancers from Ft. Myers.

Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5, or you may buy them in advance at: Books for Thought, 10910 56th St. N.; Martin Luther King Center, 2300 N. Oregon Ave.; College Hill Pharmacy, 3503 22nd St.; and Belmont Clothier,

2903 E. Hillsborough Ave.

For more information, call Gerri Freeman, 224-8641, or Stephanie Losurdo, 272-5737.

Local Athlete Honored

Tommy Chasanoff, a member of the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department's BlazeSports program, has been named as a Wrangler Five Star Athlete of the Year and featured in December's "Sports Illustrated" magazine. Chasanoff was one of five athletes honored nationwide for their accomplishments, sportsmanship, and passion for competition.

Chasanoff, 16, captured eight gold medals at the National Sports Festival for the Disabled. The cerebral palsy athlete won the 100, 400, 800, and 1,500 meters, the shot put, discus, javelin, and club throw. He is now training for the 2005 CP World Games. Chasanoff is the son of BlazeSports coordinator and coach Andy Chasanoff.

Contact 744-5307 for additional information on BlazeSports programs offered through the Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department.

FLEET

(From Page 1)

ter cleaning the walking excavator, used to clean out ditches and ponds, he swept out the bay and then learned about preventive maintenance from mechanic Johnny Armwood, a 27-year employee.

Fleet mechanic Don Savoie said it was good for morale to see Claussen working in the garage.

It was good for donations too, as the ticket sales raised \$180, and with the proceeds from a bake sale, the department contributed \$373 toward the annual employee holiday basket drive. In total, Hillsborough County employees donated \$18,000, which bought 1,000 baskets of food for families during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"I think it'll be better next year, because now people can see it really will happen," said Williams.

Fleet Management's 35 mechanics are responsible for taking care of approximately 5,000 pieces of equipment, ranging from lawn mowers to fire trucks.

Questions about County Government?

272-5900

Hillsborough Information Line

CLASSIFIED

MERCHANDISE

JACUZZI, 4 person. Needs cover, heater. \$225 OBO. Call (863) 869-8025.

TV, Rutherford floor 25inch color TV, \$100; lt wood futon w/ deluxe mattress, \$175. Call 610-6250.

PLAY STATION 2, 2 controllers, 1 memory card, 1 controller extension. 2 games: Gran Turismo III and Moto GP. \$200 firm. Call 758-9353.

BIKE, Mongoose boy's racer, 20 inch. \$45. Call 961-5244.

KARAOKE Machine, Stereo Music System Plus by Memorex: 2-speakers, 2 mics, dbl cassettes. \$25. Call 961-5244.

BUNK BED, twin on top, full on bottom. No mattresses. \$75. Call 677-5724.

QUEEN size bed, mattress, \$200; Kenmore washer & dryer, \$75; Chest freezer, \$75; Dorm refrigerator, \$100. Call Debbie, 633-7779 after 6 p.m.

COMPUTERS, less than 1 yr. old. 4 w/LCD displays, \$500 each. 6 at \$300 each. Call 230-0350.

BLACK entertainment center. Holds up to 27 inch TV; glass doors, side units. \$50. Also lawn mower, edger. Call 224-8736.

AUTOMOTIVE

SONY car CD player, Mex-1HD, 10 gig harddrive, motorized faceplate. 4 yr. transferable warranty. \$675. Call 368-2382.

'92 FORD Explorer, 2 dr, 5 spd. \$2,700 OBO. Call 980-1913 lv msg.

'88 BUICK Reatta. 101K miles. \$4,300 OBO. Call 625-1178.

'98 Oldsmobile Achieva. 108K miles. Non-smoker. \$4,500 OBO. Call 625-1178.

RIMS, Honda alloy 17-spoke rims, 4. From '91 Accord EX. Make offer. Call 930-0660.

'95 CHRYSLER LeBaron GTC convertible. 85,350 miles. \$3,500 OBO. Call 885-9662 after 6 p.m.

'00 TOYOTA Corolla. Auto. 69K miles. \$6,000. Call Kim, 986-2951.

'98 LEXUS ES300. Sunroof, leather, many extras. Warranty transferable. \$12,500 OBO. Call 651-5469.

'94 TOYOTA Celica. 118k MILES. 1.8l., auto, alarm, new tires. \$4,200 OBO. Call 885-1395.

'01 DODGE Durango SLT, V8. 37K w/warranty. Loaded. \$17,500. Call 973-1003.

FIBERGLASS bed lid for Ford 150. Fits shortbed, stepside '97. \$400. Call 653-0736 evenings, or lv msg.

'92 MITSUBISHI 3000GT. Pop-up sunroof, new CD player. 91K miles. \$6,400 OBO. Call 651-5767.

VW seats & trunk lid from '92 Jetta. Seats, \$80. Lid, \$50. Call 960-8868 evenings.

'02 SATURN, leather seats. Family outgrew. Call 239-4086.

'99 CHEVY S10 truck, long bed, AT, PB. 90K miles. \$5,500 OBO. Call Mildred, 748-8783.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

PASCO County, 2/2, 1,500 sf home. Tiled. Fireplace. \$110,000. Call 727-842-9147.

PLANTATION villa. 2/2 lakeview. New carpet, tile. \$103,900. Call Tony, 920-1007.

'92 MOBILE HOME, Fleetwood, 24X60. 3/2 w/deck, patio. Call Debbie, 633-7779 after 6 p.m.

'99 FLEETWOOD mobile home, 3/2, 1344 sf, 1 3/4 acres MOL. Quiet cul-de-sac, woodsy setting. \$96,000. Make offer. Call 758-7366.

PETS

LOVE BIRD, fancy yellow/peach w/large cage. \$60. Call Christine, 928-8610, after 6:30 p.m.

COCKATIELS w/cage. 2 females. All for \$50. Call 468-1277 (cell).

RAT TERRIER, white, 6 yrs. old, about 8 lbs., female, free to good home. Call 876-1995.

PUPPY, free to good home. Mixed breed, almost totally house trained. Call 620-4603.

MISCELLANEOUS

'00 COLEMAN Messa folding trailer. 2 king beds, 1 twin, 1 dbl. \$6500. Call Barbara or Tom, 839-5407 lv msg.

A/C unit, 3 ton central w/ compressor, evaporator, air handler, condensing unit. \$500. Call John, 645-2466.

BAYLINER, 19.5 ft. Volvo 4 cyl inbrd w/270 outdrive, trlr. Needs tlc. \$1,150 OBO. Call Dave, 486-2010.

'95 HARLEY Davidson Heritage Softail Classic. Cobra seat w/ backrest. Low miles. \$14,900. Photos: fotostuf@hotmail.com. Call 230-1180.

'56 MOWER, Snappin Turtle self-propelled. Runs & mows. Collector's item. Call 334-3571.

'98 BOAT, 16.6 Key Largo center console, V hull, w/90HP Evinrude, Magic Trail trlr. Approx. 300 hrs. Many extras. \$8,000. Call Ken, 792-1904.

JACUZZI, 4 person. Needs cover, heater. \$225 OBO. Call (863) 869-8025.

'92 MCKEE 14' boat w/50 HP Yamaha, bimini, galv. Trlr. Call 681-7100.

GO-CART, 2 seater. \$550 OBO. Call Jose, 239-4086.

WHEEL CHAIR LIFT for van. Bruno Curb-Sider, electric. Fits in many minivans/vehicles. Lifts up to 200 lbs. Cost \$2,000. Make an offer. Call Jason, 908-0843.

WANTED

CREATIVE HELP. Need to hire to do a 3-minute video/DVD transfer from color prints. Call 240-6864 (cell) or 727-822-9823.

LOW PRICE or barter services for: kayak, 1-man or tall back rest; queen bed, no waterbeds; ornamental trees, bushes. Call 909-8651, lv msg.

CAR, reliable & inexpensive. Needed ASAP. Please call 884-4907.

APPARTMENT, low rent, clean, for young working person just starting out. Maybe roommate, but prefer to live alone. Call 293-3086.



Hillsborough County

NEWSLINE

A monthly newsletter published by the Communications Department for Hillsborough County employees.

Communications Department
County Center, 1st floor
Call 272-5314 and tell us your news.

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners
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