

May 2005 • Vol. XX, No. 8

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BRIEFS

Stormwater Improvements Under Way in North Tampa

Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa are partners in a multi-million dollar project to eliminate chronic flooding around University Square Mall in the Duck Pond Watershed, an area hit hard by flooding during Hurricane Francis.

Extensive improvements will be made over the next several years, including new pipes, pumps, controls systems and detention areas, which hold water temporarily before it's released.

The County will construct a retention pond east of University Mall, including a 72" culvert connection from Duck Pond East to Duck Pond West, a 45,000 gallon-per-minute pump station at Duck Pond West and a 36" force main along 30th Street.

Commissioner Scott will host a press conference on May 12 at Sunrise Village assistant living facility to update residents who had to be evacuated during the floods.

(More Briefs, page 5)

County Honors Its Own

Hillsborough County showed its appreciation to thousands of employees who worked during hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne during a special picnic in Chillura Courthouse Square on April 14.

Free hot dogs, hamburgers, desserts, drinks and entertainment were provided courtesy of the Hillsborough County firefighters' Krewe of the Knights of St. John, Blue Bell Creameries and local schools. In addition, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue dedicated a ceremonial fire engine that will be used in parades, funerals and other events.



Members of Fire Rescue and County Administrator Pat Bean (above center) pose with the refurbished ceremonial fire engine and Gaither High School's Showcase performance group "wows" the crowd.

Staying On the Path

There's more to constructing and maintaining sidewalks in the County than meets the eye

Constructing, repairing and maintaining the more than 1,200 miles of sidewalks in unincorporated Hillsborough County is a complicated business. There are a number of funding and logistical questions to take into consideration long before actual work on the project begins. In fact, it might take the cooperation of more than five different divisions within the County just to get the project off the ground.

Then there's input from residents.

"Sidewalk construction and maintenance is a very visible program in the public, so we do get a lot of citizen feedback," said Scott Cottrell, director of Public Works' Engineering Division, which is responsible for determining

the feasibility and justification for new sidewalk construction, retrofitting roads with ADA-compliant curb cuts and sidewalk ramps and repairing the damaged sidewalk sections as identified by the department's Transportation Maintenance Division.

Putting a sidewalk construction or maintenance project in motion is no easy feat, said Cottrell. Choosing which program – sidewalk retrofits, gap construction, Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliance for curb cuts and ramps, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs to provide needed infrastructure for revitalization efforts in certain qualify-

(See Sidewalks, page 5)

County Wins Top Awards

Several Hillsborough County departments received top honors for their work recently. The Communications Department took home eight awards, including three 1st place finishes from the Tampa Bay chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA), a statewide organization of public relations professionals.

The annual 2005 Golden Image Awards competition recognizes outstanding public relations programs and encourages and promotes the development of public relations professionalism in Florida.

Communications received awards for:

- "The Books for Baghdad Campaign," responsible for shipping more than 5,000 paperbacks to military personnel serving overseas won 1st place, Image Award and Grand All Image Award.
- "2005 Directory of Services," the County's popular reference book of many government services won 1st place, Image Award and Grand All Image Award.
- "Employee Rally - Phantom of the County Center," the County's employee awards ceremony won 1st place, Image Award.
- "Festival of Lights," one of Hillsborough County's largest community events last year, won the Award of Distinction.
- "2004 Hurricane Coverage," chronicled the County's efforts during last year's hurricane season, and won an Award of Distinction.
- This publication, the "NewsLine," won an Award of Distinction.



Members of the County's Communications Department are congratulated by Commissioner Kathy Castor on their various awards. From left to right are LaQuinda Brewington, Steve McClure, Castor, Steve Valdez and Mike Foerster.

Hillsborough County also received top honors at the 23rd Annual Community Design Awards Program hosted by the Planning Commission. This program recognizes excellence in planning, landscape, architecture, environmental sensitivity and architectural design in building and development

projects throughout Hillsborough County.

Hillsborough County received the following awards:

- The West Tampa Library Historic Preservation/Restoration

won a 1st place Award of Excellence and was presented to the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System.

- Pierce Street Parking Garage received an Award of Merit for its resemblance to an office building and addition of much-needed parking in downtown Tampa.
- Upper Tampa Bay Trail Phase II received an Award of Merit for its design which includes four paved miles of trail, a visitor's center, picnic areas and much more.
- Master Planning & Urban Design - State Road 60/Brandon Boulevard Overlay District - won an Award of Merit and was presented to the Planning & Growth Management Department. The plan consists of regulations that implement the Brandon Community Vision and promotes a long range vision for new developments and redevelopments along this corridor that will reduce visual clutter.

Upcoming Storm Season Increases Call-Taker Demand

Hurricane season starts June 1 and the Citizens Response Center (CRC) is once again looking for call-takers, particularly those who speak Spanish.

CRC call-takers answer residents' calls and relay essential information and requests for services and assistance to emergency management personnel during emergency situations. Before volunteering, please make sure your manager or supervisor will excuse you from your duties.

Volunteers will be contacted with the dates and times of orientation and training sessions, which will be held at the Hillsborough County Emergency Operations Center, 2711 E. Hanna Ave.

To volunteer or for more information, call 744-5911 or e-mail lemonded@hillsboroughcounty.org.

Needy Residents Receive Assistance

Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program Funds (LIHEAP) are now available from the Hillsborough County government.

The funds help low-income households pay their immediate home energy bills. The program is intended for those residents who are 150% of the federal poverty guideline or below, especially those with the lowest incomes that pay a high portion of household income for home energy.

Priority will be given to households with residents who are 60 years of age or over, the disabled/handicapped, homebound, and parents/guardians with children. Those residents who have never received LIHEAP assistance in the past also will be given priority. This program is administered by the County's Health & Social Services Department.

To apply, residents need to call 272-5275 to find out which Neighborhood Service Center in their area offers the program.

Commission Presents Good Government Award

County Commissioners awarded their 2005 Ellsworth G. Simmons Good Government Award to former Florida Representative H. Lee Moffitt on April 20.

The Good Government Award was created in 1996 and every year honors an individual or group who has played a significant role in improving government through leadership and vision.

This year, Moffitt was recognized for his fight to establish the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, the

first freestanding, state-supported cancer center in Florida.

Past recipients of the Good Government Award include former Congressman Sam M. Gibbons; the late Nettie M. Draughton, Plant City's longtime city manager; Plant City attorney James L. Redman; State Senator Tom Lee; former State Senator Malcolm Beard; the environmental activist group Save Our Bays, Air and Canals (SOBAC); and others. The late H.L. Culbreath also was recognized in 2004.



Commissioner Jim Norman, right, presents H. Lee Moffitt with the 2005 Good Government Award, while County Attorney Renee Lee and Commissioners Mark Sharpe and Thomas Scott look on.

National Public Works Week to be Held This Month

The Hillsborough County Commission declared May 15-21 as National Public Works Week. The week was established as a way of recognizing the important role that the everyday work performed in the department plays in citizens' lives.

Countywide, Public Works has built and/or maintains 241 bridges, 205 park sites, 66,000 acres, 489 signalized intersections, 6,200 lane miles of roadway, more than 21,000 storm inlets and more than 100,000 traffic

signs, as well as numerous other intersections, sidewalks, trails, and stormwater elements.

Commissioners pointed to the health, safety and comfort of residents as a reason for recognizing the department. The efficiency of the staff responsible for maintaining the quality of various facilities and services, as well as their planning, design and construction were also cited.

County Tops National Grants Performance Index

Hillsborough County was recognized recently as one of the top grant seeking and receiving counties in its class by eCivis, the nation's largest provider of grants information to local governments.

Hillsborough County came in third, behind only King County, WA and Contra Costa County, CA, on the organization's Grants Performance Index (GPI), which measures counties with like populations – in this case, more than 1 million – on their ability to seek, apply for and obtain competitive grant dollars in four major areas including environment, public safety, health and community.

Counties receive an individual GPI score based on the total number of grant awards they receive, combined with per capita funding.

The GPI was developed in response to local government needs for measuring grant success within their organizations, and takes into account only those competitively funded programs that are typically won by local governments.

Deputies Needed

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office is currently recruiting for Reserve II deputies. This is a non-paid position requiring no prior law enforcement experience. It does require the desire to make a difference in our community.

The Sheriff's Office will pay for all training if selected. Please visit www.hcso.tampa.fl.us and click on "Reserve Deputy" under Employment for further information and how to apply or contact Deputy Wayne Daniels at 247-8614 or Detective Rick Lewis at 247-8072.

GOOD NEWS —

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Long-time Employees Say Goodbye

On May 19, the County's Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department will bid farewell to two longtime employees during an old-fashioned picnic in Lettuce Lake Park from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Phil Evans of Regional Parks and Joel Jackson, of Planning and Design will be honored for their distinguished years of service during a brief ceremony, beginning at 1 p.m.

All are invited to take this special opportunity to say goodbye

and enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, and soft drinks.



Joel Jackson

Veteran Director Retires

May 6 marks the final day in the office for Mike Foerster, who has served as Hillsborough County's Communications Director for nearly two decades. His staff recognized him during a luncheon on May 3 at the Valencia Garden Restaurant in Tampa.



Foerster (center) celebrates his retirement along with (r to l): Assistant County Administrator Carl Harness and the Communications Department's management team, including Steve Valdez, Gerri Freeman, Sandra Charbonier, Tammy Peralta and Karen Matches.

LETTERS

- ▶ In a letter of thanks for having a fallen tree removed, Plant City resident William T. Newman said, "I really appreciate the hard work it took to remove this large unsafe eyesore from my neighborhood. I know often times people make complaints and never give the deserved credit after a task is accomplished. Again, thank you for a job well done!"
- ▶ Robert and Lolita Gibson were so impressed with the repairs Public Works made to the Del Webb Blvd. intersection in Sun City Center, they said, "Today the street was fixed and did they not only fill in the strip but fixed the entire intersection. For the many Sun City Center residents that use Dell Webb West, thank you for the outstanding job."
- ▶ "You all are so terrific!" wrote Darce Zack to Dennis McCullough in Animal Services. "Thanks so much for taking care of my Shar-pei puppies and loving on them. I appreciate all your efforts and communication with me regarding them."
- ▶ Jack C. Kelley of Lutz wrote a note of appreciation to Lake Park employees. In it, he said, "The park is kept so clean and made enjoyable for all the people who use its recreational facilities. I ride my bike usually four or five times a week, so I know how helpful the employee are and how careful they are to keep the park safe."
- ▶ "Snowbird" Anna McDunnah had this to say to the Thonotosassa Branch Library staff before heading back up north for the summer, "I wish to extend my many thanks for the service and kindness extended to me during my time here. You were so kind and courteous each time I came in as well as being helpful."
- ▶ Joe Havian praised members of the Public Works staff for their proactive approach and responsiveness in maintaining our County's waterways. "Thanks to you, Don at Specialized Services, Mr. Tapia and everyone else who has a hand in the operations and management of the County's waterways for always being there when the work needs to be done. Your efforts to attain a balanced lake are not only good for us here at Valrico Lake, but affect those throughout the chain by limiting invasives from flowing to their areas. More of us living on the waterways should recognize that the burden of waterway maintenance is not the sole responsibility of the County."
- ▶ Commissioners Ronda Storms and Mark Sharpe received this letter from Teresa Cameron praising the Code Enforcement Department: "Mr. Ellington from Code Enforcement has been a blessing for all of us. He is currently working to resolve the violations that have plagued our neighborhood for two years. We are so very impressed with the open, informative and caring dialogue that Mr. Ellington has created with us. We feel certain that the work of Mr. Ellington and Mr. Senise will result in a positive outcome for our neighborhood."
- ▶ "I called 272-5275 this morning for information on a local trash dump. (Patrick Murray) was so kind, nice and polite. He wanted to make sure that I knew exactly where I was going. In other words, he went above and beyond giving directions and being kind. I wish I could deal with this man in all my dealings. He was awesome!" Lutz resident Robin Macaluso sent these praises via e-mail.
- ▶ Commissioner Ronda Storms received this note from Dr. and Mrs. James Grimshaw of Tampa: "What a wonderful treasure we have in Mary Keith, who is the nutritional

(See Letters, page 5)

LETTERS

(From Page 4)

and health expert at the Hillsborough Extension Service. I can tell you she's extremely knowledgeable and can either answer my questions or will find the answers for me."

- ▶ "It's nice to know that there is justice in the world and those who take an interest in achieving it. On a scale of things, \$750 is not a whole lot of money, however, it is a considerable amount (to me) and I am very happy to have it back," wrote Wendy Tam Kai to Robert

Robillard in the Consumer Protection Agency.

- ▶ "Dawn (Pelogitis) went above and beyond to provide me with the help I needed. She was able to obtain a permit for me while I waited. She then helped me at the cashier's office (I had a sleeping baby in my arms) and then also helped to call an inspection in for me. I can't tell you how thankful I was and how appreciative I am." Jennifer Gauden sent this complimentary letter to the Building Services Division of Planning and Growth Management.

SIDEWALKS

(From Page 1)

ing target areas – is the first in a series of decisions the department's staff makes to bring a project in on time and on budget.

To better understand how each project fits into the County's "big picture," the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved the Hillsborough County Sidewalk Master Plan in 2001, which essentially takes a proactive approach to spending the money set aside to retrofit existing roads with new sidewalks as unincorporated parts of the County continue to expand and grow. The Master Plan includes rankings that prioritize, by benefit/cost factor, the roughly 3,600 miles of roadway that might be viable as sidewalk retrofit projects.

"We have staff that regularly does site visits all over the County to gather this information and develop an annual plan of action," said Sandy Pettit, professional engineer. Those proposed projects are then presented to citizens during a series of public meetings designed to offer them an opportunity to comment, Pettit said. Those that meet the requirements for construction, and are not challenged by a citizen-driven "opt-out" procedure opposing the project, go before the BOCC in September for review and approval.

According to Pettit, other considerations taken into account under the

sidewalk retrofit program include gap construction to handle shorter, easily-constructed segments of existing roadways and adherence to current ADA standards that have been adopted by the Florida Department of Transportation and ADA Accessibility Guidelines. "Sidewalks are a common means of transportation for many of the County's disabled citizens," she said. Each year, between \$3 million to \$4 million is allocated for new sidewalks, gap sections, ADA ramps, curb cuts and sidewalk repair/replacement efforts.

Currently, the department is in the middle of improving upon the Master Plan by incorporating GIS capabilities into the programming and construction process. For instance, a residential developer is required to construct sidewalks internally and along the entire frontage of road that they connect with. It's important, Cottrell said, for the County to work with the developers and take into account their contribution to the sidewalk network when programming and planning our annual sidewalk construction program. By incorporating this tracking system into our network, he said, the County's field agents will gain greater efficiency and response time to issues that may occur. The department hopes to have a prototype in place by the end of the year.

BRIEFS

(From Page 1)

Clear Paper Clutter

Check the County's record retention guidelines to find out how to rid yourself of old, outdated files and paperwork.

In 2004, offices participating in the County's in-house Office Recycling Program recycled 326 tons of paper.

Keep this year's recycling program strong by telling new employees about the recycling program, keeping an easy reference list of what can and cannot be recycled. Information is available on COIN or from the Solid Waste Management Department.

Head Start Collects Success Stories

In commemoration of its 40-year anniversary, the National Head Start Association and the Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start Program are collecting stories from people whose lives the organization has positively impacted.

Anyone interested in sharing a story can visit Head Start's web site at IGotAHeadStart.org. The stories will be used by the Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start Program.

HIPPA Security Law Takes Effect

The security portion of the HIPAA law went into effect April 21 and over 4,100 employees under the County Administrator have successfully completed the new training.

Employees who have not completed the training must do so immediately.

For more information, please see your supervisor/manager or contact Cecilia Favata in the HIPAA Compliance office at 272-6347.

CLASSIFIED

MERCHANDISE

Couch and love seat, like new, \$575; entertainment center, like new, \$250; oval glass coffee table, \$35; glass end table w/ lamp, \$35. Call 240-2891.

Bedroom set, Mediterranean style, pecan wood, 5-drawer chest, 7-drawer triple dresser with mirror, 2-drawer night stand, queen headboard. No mattress, asking \$300. Call 251-3472.

Portable Generator, Coleman Powermate, 1850 watts, used during '04 hurricanes. \$300. Call 251-3472.

Vehicle roof racks, Yakima IA, rain gutter tower w/ locks. \$100. Call 251-3472.

Wedding dress, vintage (1967) silk, veil and unique detachable train. Lace bodice, beaded, long sleeves, size 8-10. \$450. Call 881-1912.

Desktop computer, Compaq Presario, great school/internet, Intel Celeron processor, 128MB RAM, 15GB hard drive, CD-ROM, CD burner, new modem, 17" monitor, Altec Lansing speakers, \$300 OBO. Call 323-3048.

Sony Xplod CDX-M8800 CD, never used, CDR AM/FM, car stereo with XM radio compatibility, 52W x 4 mas output, AUX input, built-in equalizer, CD changer controls and more. \$250. Call 787-2055.

Plylox Hurricane Clips, 2 packages, unopened, \$30 each. Call

505-1364.

Crib, white w/ matching changing table, separate white toddler bed, \$100 for all 3! Call 986-1975.

Men's shoes, size 10 (4 pairs), three brand new from Nunn Bush (\$35), Covington (\$25) and Nike (\$25). One pair slightly used Nike (\$15). Or, take all 4 for \$80. Call 417-5654.

Sofa and loveseat, neutral colors, in fair condition, \$100 OBO. Call 767-4885.

Daybed, beige, never used, includes all items, pillows, comforter, etc. \$140 OBO. Call 877-8085.

Triple dresser w/ tri-fold mirror and large armoire, whitewashed oak, condition OK. \$50. Call 685-5399.

Refrigerator side by side, 22" Kenmore w/ ice maker, 6 years old, good working condition, \$275, call 662-2645.

AUTOMOTIVE

'03 Nissan Altima, metallic blue/green, great condition, 29K miles, \$14,500. Call 971-6372.

'96 Mustang, white, 110,000 mi., new paint, P/S, P/B, P/W, ice cold air, auto transmission, rear spoiler. \$3,400. Call 251-3472.

'90 Honda Accord EX, 2-door, front end damage, no engine damage, excellent tires, good A/C, radio, seats. Can be used for parts. \$600. Call 240-5512.

'97 Land Rover, great condition, 90K, all leather, all power. \$8,900.

Call 671-1479.

'98 Nissan Altima, 70K miles, black w/ grey leather interior, power package, sunroof, loaded, looks and runs great. \$5,600 OBO. Call 926-0045.

'04 Kawasaki Vulcan Nomad 1500, only 22,000 mi., Vance and Hines exhaust, \$11,500. Call 655-3543.

'97 Cadillac Seville SLS, taupe exterior, bone interior, alloy, chrome factory wheels, 63K miles, garage kept, \$8,000. Call 287-0468.

Mitsubishi Montero Sport XLS, 45K miles, non smoker, all maintenance, blue, beige interior, 4-dr, great on gas, automatic, A/C, single CD, very good condition, \$14,500. Call 416-1983.

'96 Ford Mustang, blue w/ black widow body kit, 3.8 V6 engine, 5-speed, 78K miles, JVC MP3 player, alarm, new tires, A/C, power locks, \$6,500. Call 754-5921.

Chevy Avalanche tires & rims, 4-17" factory aluminum rims and tires, new, \$1,000. Call 307-4735.

'95 Saturn LS, plum, great condition, manual, A/C, cruise control, power locks & windows, only 134K mi., \$1,500. Call 453-8324.

MISCELLANEOUS

Custom reptile cage w/ lights, 2-parts, iguana and Savannah monitor all or separate. \$250. Call 546-1045.

'82 FLH Shovel Head, 1340cc,

pearl white, ape hangers, piston rings, good condition, \$8,900 OBO, call 426-7546.

'03 two-seat Go Kart w/ 6-1/2 HP engine, red & black w/ roll cage, off road tires and seat belts, very good condition, garage kept, \$575 OBO. Call 244-5386.

'01 Sea Ray 185 Bowrider, bimini top, trailer, all ski equipment included, only 119 hrs on 190 HP I/O motor, \$14,000 OBO. Call 625-8912.

PETS

12-wk-old puppy, ABA and CKC registered, white fur, black nose, all shots, \$350, call 763-1884.

Boxer puppy, AKC, brindle, female, shots and registration papers, health certificates. \$400. Call 476-2403.

Thoroughbred gelded, 7 years old, must sell immediately, very sweet disposition, approx. 16 hands high, \$300. Call 681-6589

REAL ESTATE

Beautiful 3 bdrm, 2 ba. brick home on lake with 3 acres in Columbus, GA (1 hr south of Atlanta). Great deal. \$239,000. Call 671-8591

WANTED

Digital camera w/ memory card under \$100. Call 909-8651.

Kitchen cabinet(s), donation needed, or reasonable price paid for used base kitchen cabinet(s), either 2 small, (12" or 15") or 1 larger (36" to 48"). Call 917-1320.



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
An Affirmative Action-Equal
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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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