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BRIEFS

Head Start Programs Recognized

The National Head Start Association (NHSA) has again designated Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS) as a Quality Initiative Program of Excellence.

The award was presented on May 12, at the NHSA's 33rd Annual Training Conference in Detroit, Michigan where Louis Finney, Jr., Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start Division Director, accepted the award.

Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood education program providing education and human services to more than 3,000 infants, toddlers and children in Hillsborough County. Hillsborough County HS/EHS serves low-income families of children under the age of four in 25 full-day/full-year sites and 44 part-day/part-year sites throughout the county.

(More Briefs, page 5)

County's First Live Call-In Show Gives Residents the Answers They Need

How prepared for hurricane season are you? Hillsborough County residents got an opportunity to consider that question during the first-ever live call-in show hosted by Hillsborough County television, HTV22, on Sunday, May 21.

Geared specifically toward providing answers to residents' questions about storm prepared-

ness, "Storm Ready in Hillsborough County" featured a panel of experts who took questions from a live studio audience as well as viewers calling in from home.

During the hour-long broadcast, viewers were given a bird's eye view into emergency planning as Hillsborough County Administrator Pat Bean and Emergency Management Director Larry Gispert described the role of

the county's Emergency Policy Group and what the elements of a good emergency plan include.

Other panelists included Hancock County, MS Emergency Manager Brian "Hooty" Adam and State Meteorologist Ben Nelson. Adam

talked about the lessons learned from Gulf Coast areas like his that were

hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina. Hancock County was officially adopted by the Hillsborough County Commission after Hurricane Katrina hit in August 2005.

Nelson discussed the conditions that would need to be present in order for a state of emergency to be called in the State of Florida and

(see *Storm Ready Show*, page 2)

Making the Right Choices for the Right Reasons at the Right Time

Hillsborough County is a viable organization that depends on the public's trust to function like a well oiled machine. Often times employees face tough situations that require tough decisions, but sometimes these decisions and choices are not always clear cut.

Starting this month, the county's Human Resources Department will begin delivering ethics training for all employees to provide a framework for helping them figure out how to best deal with unfamiliar situations.

The goal of the 2-½ hour long Hillsborough County Ethics program, *Doing the Right Thing*, is to introduce the county's *Statement of Ethics*, which is an ethical standard developed for all Hillsborough County employees.

"This program is not about rules, policies and regulations," said Anne Marie Campbell, Training & Development Manager. "This program was designed to help employees make the

(see *Choices*, page 3)



June 1st ... A Date Hillsborough County Takes Seriously

It may be the single most dreaded calendar date for Floridians – June 1st, the start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season. But, it doesn't have to be.

Recently, I've written to you about the ways Hillsborough

County government is preparing communities as well as itself. We've talked about the need to *Have a Plan and Know Your Plan* in this column, too. It's a very serious message that residents need to prepare now, before a storm, and to be able to live on their own for up to three days after a disaster.

We now have hurricane kits we're providing to a wide variety of com-

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

**PAT
BEAN**



others are handing out these kits to citizens at many different events and through a variety of county service deliveries. We're also pleased to have received donations of flashlights and batteries from Energizer and Lowe's that are being provided to these targeted communities.

Our Emergency Operations Center Media Day on May 15 was attended by almost every single television, radio

(see June 1st, page 3)

munities that might be at the greatest risk if they are not prepared: minorities, non-English speakers, transportation disadvantaged and the elderly. Emergency Management, Community Liaisons, Aging Services and

Storm Ready Show (From Page 1)

how he works with the governor to make that determination.

Program host Jerome Ritchey invited viewers to stay tuned after the live telecast to watch the debut of a mini-series on hurricane preparedness which included:

- How to prepare your home for a storm
- What to do about transportation and evacuations
- What you really need to know about shelters
- How to prepare your pets for the storm
- What to expect after a storm

A taped interview with Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center also aired. Replays of the mini-series and call-in program will continue to run on HTV22 throughout the month. For scheduling information, call HTV22 at 276-2675 or log onto www.htv22.org and then click on "schedules."

I-3 Technology Expo Provides Information to Make Living Easier for the Disabled

Advances in technology have made living independently even more attainable for people with disabilities.

Technologies such as eye gaze systems, help individuals communicate through eye tracking, and the Interpretive keyboard enables the deaf and hard of hearing to communicate without using actual speech. Technologies like this have helped millions of people worldwide become active participants in everyday activities that many take for granted.

On Wednesday, July 26, 2006, Hillsborough County will commemorate the 16th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act by hosting the *I-3 Technology Expo* for citizens to recognize the impact of this legislation in our local commu-

nity. The Expo will highlight the many technological advances that have been made on behalf of people with disabilities in the areas of communication tools and assistive devices, which allow the disabled to become more independent and active in all areas of the community.

Activities will be held from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the lobby area and 26th floor of County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., downtown Tampa. Citizens will have a "hands-on" opportunity to test out some of the new equipment designed for use in school and work environments, as well as the sports and recreation fields.

For information, contact ADA Liaison, Sandra Sroka at 276-2742.

Nominees Sought for Disabled Advocacy Awards

The time has come to once again recognize those individuals and organizations that have contributed to improving the lives of people with disabilities in Hillsborough County.

Awards include: the Tom Ulvenes Outstanding Community Service Award, the Karen Jacobs Accessibility for All Award, and the Outstanding Youth Service Award. Nominations are due by June 23.

Recipients will be recognized at the July 26 ADA event in County Center. For more information, or to get a nomination form, contact ADA Liaison Sandra Sroka at 276-2742 or Melinda Wheatley, Senior Recreation Therapist, at 744-5309.

Emergency E-News Service Now Available to Residents

Residents looking for Hillsborough County official emergency information can now subscribe to Hillsborough County's E-News Service. The service provides up-to-the-minute information on evacuations, shelters, and more, directly to their e-mail address from the Emergency Operations Center (when activated).

Users don't need to worry about spam because only disaster-related information will be sent during a declared emergency.

To subscribe, visit the county's

website, www.hillsboroughcounty.org and click on "Emergency/Hurricane Information," located on the right-hand side of the page, then click on the "Emergency News" button and type in an e-mail address.

During a disaster, residents can also count on the county's television station HTV22 or Hillsborough County's Infoline, at 272-5900, as official sources of information. The Infoline is available seven days a week from 7 a.m.-11 p.m., but would be converted to a 24/7 operation in an emergency.

June 1st

(From Page 2)

news and newspaper outlet in the Tampa Bay area. Emergency Management Director Larry Gispert and I gave them an overview of the lessons we'd learned from visiting our adopted county—Hancock County, Mississippi—so devastated by Hurricane Katrina last year. And, we updated reporters on how we need their help to get the word out to people about being prepared to survive on their own for at least three days following an emergency event.

Not only are county employees speaking to groups each day, but there have been a large number of informational events such as the Spanish Hurricane Workshop May 18 and five Preparedness Forum Series held at Neighborhood Service Centers May 18–25 by Aging Services and Health and Human Services.

ITS, Emergency Management and Communications have made user-friendly changes to the Emergency Management Hurricane Information page and I invite each of you to view it at www.hillsboroughcounty.org. Visit the Emergency Management Department's site and click on "Hurricane Information". Here, you'll find many different areas to help you with your preparedness plan. There's

also an "E-news subscription service" which allows citizens, employees, and anyone anywhere to receive the Emergency Operations Center bulletins directly via e-mail during an EOC disaster activation.

HTV22 hosted a first-ever live call-in show on May 21 giving viewers a chance to ask their individual questions of an expert panel. Probably most meaningful were the incredible firsthand tales of surviving the brutal Katrina that Hancock County's Emergency Manager Brian "Hooty" Adam shared with us all.

And, our participation in the state-wide exercise Hurricane Zoey on May 24 reinforced our commitment to work through potential issues and challenges and to try and be as prepared as possible.

There's even more. Every single department from Animal Services to Housing and Code Enforcement to Public Works and Solid Waste is involved in planning meetings, public events and preparations.

I'm very proud of the way our whole team has rallied around disaster preparedness and continues to assist our citizens in this effort. It's another reason we're on our way to becoming the Best County in the Nation.

Choices

(From Page 1)

right choices for the right reasons at the right time."

In addition, the training program, designed jointly by Human Resources and the Department of Consumer Protection and Professional Responsibility, will help raise ethical awareness among employees and provide a clear, easy-to-use model that will help them analyze various situations that they may encounter and arrive at the most appropriate choice of action to take.

Training classes will be held over the next several months and scheduling will be made available through Human Resources' HRIS system. The end result, Campbell says, is to maintain the overall integrity of Hillsborough County Government.

The EAC Needs You

Do your co-workers find it easy to talk to you about issues? Maybe you have the ability to look at both sides of a matter objectively before making a recommendation? Or, perhaps you enjoy working to resolve problems that affect the everyday working life for classified employees?

If you have any of these special skills, then consider placing your name in the hat for a seat on the Employee Advisory Committee (EAC).

The EAC, established in 1970 under Civil Service Law, is a group of employee representatives that meet once a month to provide a meaningful exchange of ideas concerning personnel matters between the Civil Service Board and classified employees.

The 14 representatives serve a term of four years and are elected from three main areas, based on the number of classified employees.

For details, contact John Wever, Labor Relations Manager at 276-2755 or Mathew Verghese, Senior Personnel Analyst at 276-2736 before June 16, 2006.

GOOD NEWS — SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Former Buc Gives Pep Talk

Former Tampa Bay Buccaneer star quarterback Doug Williams shared his strategy for developing a winning team during last



month's management team breakfast.

After delivering his speech on teamwork, Williams (left) was joined in

the winner's circle for photos with County Administrator Pat Bean.

Perrone Award Winner Named

Congratulations to Esther Rivera, this year's recipient of the Sandy Perrone Award, honoring employees who demonstrate selfless encouragement to others.



Rivera is a secretary in the Consumer Protection Department and has been with the county for three

years. She received the award during the annual support staff luncheon on May 4.

Employee Heads to Rodeo Nationals

Mark Tyler of the Solid Waste Department won first place in the tractor trailer division of the annual Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Rodeo.

SWANA pays for first place winners to attend the National Rodeo which is in Phoenix later this year.

Ed Clapper, Olin Miller and Mike Wade also participated.

HTV22 Earns More Accolades

Hillsborough County's cable television station, HTV22, recently received *1st place for Excellence in Media* from the Mayor's Alliance for Persons with Disabilities.

Senior Producer Cornelia Washington accepted the award on behalf of HTV22. Washington, along with host Sandra Sroka, ADA Liaison

for Hillsborough County, produced *ADA: Able, Determined & Aware*,

for seven years. During that time, 20 programs covering issues that affect the county's disabled community were produced. The

station has continued that tradition through programming on its new magazine series which debuted last year.



LETTERS

► “Mike (McCarthy), you are a wise man and I see why you are in your position. You do it very well! I am thrilled to hear there will be something mailed out directly from you and your department (about the Traffic Calming Program) to all citizens concerned! I am positive you will do a great job of coming up with a fair petition representing both sides which also includes a visual map for people to see. You will then do a great job of reviewing the information and creating the best overall plan for this neighborhood. Thank you for taking on this huge project.” —Resident Gina Shannon

► In a note to HTV22 Senior Producer **Cornelia Washington**, Kemly Green in the county's Code Enforcement Department had this to say: “I really want to thank you and your crew. I just received a copy of the First Time Homebuyer segment and it is outstanding. I will show it in our next staff meeting. It was great working with you.”

► Margaret Skinner in Payroll sent this message to Assistant Chief **Wade DeHate** in Fire Rescue: “I just want to thank the department for the wonderful job you all did with the brush fire. I live in the Southpointe subdivision on South 301. It was very scary, but because of the great job you all

did, we were safe and our homes were not damaged.”

► In an email to Commission Aide Joy Kinney, Robin Ronne commended Public Works employees **Pete Noto** and **Max Dix** for a job well done. He said, “(Both) were very responsive, friendly and understanding. We are very, very appreciative of your assistance in securing the very fast response to our concerns. And special commendations should be given to Pete and Max for the efficient, courteous and friendly manner in which they conducted their work on our behalf - their representation of Hillsborough County government was truly exceptional from a customer service standpoint.”

► While in Florida on personal business, Bill Knight, Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal in Rapid City, SD, became ill and needed the assistance of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue. In a letter to Chief Bill Nesmith, Knight said, “When I heard the apparatus pull up, all I can remember is what a great familiar sound. I can also tell you that the crew's demeanor and professionalism were outstanding, as they were very pleasant and calming during the event, and were constantly advising me of what was taking

(See Letters, page 5)

LETTERS

(From Page 4)

place. From one firefighter to another, all I can say is, thanks. Please make sure the crew is made aware of my gratitude. It will never be forgotten."

► "I want to tell you how pleased I am with the quick response I received from your department, namely, **Philip A. Bethel** (Public Works). He responded within two hours to my request regarding the sidewalk in front of my house. He was very courteous. I feel he is an asset to your department." –Patricia Brylski, Sun City Center in a letter to Scott Cottrell, PE Division Director.

► Resident Kimberly Gentry had this to say about a couple of "impressive employees" in the Water Resource Services department: "I was trying to get new water service installed at my property in Thonotosassa. As soon as I arrived, I was greeted by a very pleasant **Cheryl Rosenak**. Although there was a problem finding my address, she kept on it until she did. Then I went to see **Diane Shultz** who helped me set up the installation of the water meter. Both women were friendly and I felt like they went out of their way to help me. They deserve recognition for being terrific employees."

► In a letter praising Sunshine Line driver **Ray Johnson** and workers at the Lightfoot Center, Mabel Stepp said, "The Center is a wonderful and clean place for older people to go and get out to meet others. Without the bus, I would not be able to go. Ray goes overboard to do for the elderly, blind and people in wheelchairs. He is the best person in the world for that job!"

► William and Mary Willis think that the Ruskin Senior Center is one of the best that the county has to offer. In their letter, they said, "We want to express our appreciation to **Lynn Voss** and the Ruskin Senior Center for all the benefits given to the

seniors who attend. It is like a second home and all the people are very friendly. We consider ourselves very lucky to have access to such a wonderful place."

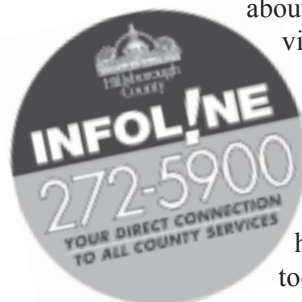
► **Trena Morgan**, Water Resource Services, was commended for services she provided to a customer recently. In an e-mail, Brenda Gough said, "I received a wonderful commendation from Glenda J. Washburn regarding the customer service you provided to her. Ms. Washburn indicated that you provided very courteous, caring and professional service. Keep up the good work! Thanks for rendering stellar customer service!"

► Congratulations to Children's Services Division Award Winners for the 1st quarter of 2006:

Veronica Williams, Children's Choice Award; **Fran Burton**, Supervisor of the Quarter; **Connie Knecht-Vargas**, Child Care Licensing Employee of the Quarter; **William Howard**, Severely Emotionally Disturbed Program Employee of the Quarter; **David Gray**, Child & Family Counseling Services Employee of the Quarter; **Frederick Wright**, Emergency Shelter Care Program Employee of the Quarter; **Bill Mitchell**, Maintenance/Administration Employee of the Quarter; **Evon Jenkins**, Clinical Services Employee of the Quarter

For Reliable, Courteous Service, Call InfoLine

Residents can always count on the Hillsborough County Information Line for courteous and professional assistance about county services.



Need help getting the answers to your questions? Don't hesitate to call today.

BRIEFS

(From Page 1)

Energizer Shines a Light on Area's Efforts

Hillsborough County and battery-maker Energizer have teamed up to promote the need for hurricane preparedness in Tampa Bay.

During last month's Spanish Hurricane Conference, held at Jefferson High School, the company announced a donation of \$10,000 worth of batteries and flashlights to be distributed to residents.

Energizer's "Plan. Prepare. Protect." program is an educational campaign designed to provide residents with hurricane preparedness information and supplies to help set their plans in motion. The program runs through the end of July and focuses on regions of the country likely to be hard-hit during hurricane season, including Tampa Bay and Miami.

Children's Services Offers Parenting Skills Classes

Hillsborough County's Children's Services Department is offering Parenting Skills Classes to residents. Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) is taught nationally to parents of children all ages. STEP emphasizes improving communication skills, understanding children's behavior, and discipline that makes sense, among other topics. Classes are being held at various locations throughout the year, and a \$36 registration fee is due on the first day of class.

The required class textbook, *The Parents Handbook*, by Dinkmeyer & McKay, costs approximately \$18. It can be purchased at local bookstores or at the high schools where the classes are being taught for \$14.90.

To attend a class, call 264-3807, Ext. 130.

CLASSIFIED

MERCHANDISE

Lazy Boy, rust-colored convertible **sleeper sofa**, like new condition, asking \$700. Call 443-206-0028.

Guitar, '72 Gibson Flathead, J45 ADJ, sunburst color w/ hard side guitar case, \$700 OBO. Call 323-6861.

White, french **provincial sofa & loveseat** (\$125), 2 french provincial chairs (\$60), Mahogany 7-pc table and chair set (\$75), home interior pictures, and other miscellaneous items. All in very good condition. Call 335-7086.

X-Box video games, includes Halo 1 & 2, Lord of the Rings 1 & 2, Grand Theft, etc. for a total of 16 games, \$240 takes them all. Call 298-3522.

Play Station 2 game system wanted. Must be in good working condition. The cheaper, the better. Call 917-1320.

Treadmill, like new, folds up for vertical storage, checks heart rate, counts calories burned, motorized incline. Asking \$350. Call 837-9824.

Nextel 7510 Blackberry, hardly used, comes w/ wall charger, USB cable, CD & handsfree unit. Asking \$125 OBO. Call 376-5650.

Side-by-side almond **fridge w/ ice maker**, \$150 OBO. Green loveseat and couch, \$100 OBO. Call 671-6617.

AUTOMOTIVE

'86 **Pontiac Fiero GT**, 124K mi, A/C, CC, power windows/mirrors, AM/FM, pdl, sunroof, new tires, tune-up, O2 sensor, cooling sensor, alternator, K&N, \$3K OBO. Must sell ASAP. Call 391-5813.

'03 **Harley Davidson 1200CC**, 100 year anniversary edition, low 3K mi., fwd. controls, windshield, H.D. saddlebags, detachable backrest, luggage rack & highway bar, garage kept. Excellent condition. Asking \$7,800. Call 677-6270.

'86 **Mazda 323 LXI**, 3-dr, 4-cyc, automatic, A/C, manual sunroof, no rust, in great condition, 87K original miles, great on gas, only needs a ECU, asking \$750 OBO. Call 965-1342.

'90 **Toyota Camry** w/ low mileage & in good condition, w/ A/C & runs well. Call 888-8454.

'85 **Ford F-150**, 6 cylinder, AT, PS, PW, PD locks, PB. Dependable & runs good, new brakes, exhaust & battery. Little rust on body, soiled undercarriage, faithful work truck, passenger window recently broken., \$800 firm. Call 601-6413.

'05, 17" **350-Z rims**, only 3K miles on rims and tires, \$700 for both OBO. Call 817-9061.

MISCELLANEOUS

Juiceman Jr., juicer, model JM1C, JM1AC, used very little, good for making healthy veg-

etable/fruit juices (but not orange juice), \$15. Call 986-4720.

Wood for fireplaces, or anything else, free. You must be able to haul it. Located in Dover. Call 752-0874.

Mustang GT Diablo Super Tuner for 2001-2004 GT V-8. This allows you to increase overall HP, shift point & firmness, gear ratios, timing and much more, \$250. Call 625-8912.

Punching Bag, 100 lbs., TKO, like new. Asking \$80. Call 961-5516.

Sliding Glass Door, 94 x 95, \$150. Call 416-3043.

Travel Trailer, 1997 Franklin 5th Wheel 45ft., 2 A/C units, 2 electric slide outs, 50 amp., 2 bdrm/ 1 ba., washer & dryer, built-in stereo, ref./freezer, microwave, awnings, triple axle. Asking \$18,000 OBO. Call 477-7162.

'01 **Yamaha Raptor 660**, full gyt-r pipes, jet kit, nerf bars, gyt-r graphics, and more. Very fast, race ready, \$3,400 OBO. Call 672-9205.

PETS

Chihuahua puppies, 3 boys, 1 girl. Registered pedigree. Vet certified with first shots. Will be ready July 10. Asking \$600. Call 629-2473.

Free kittens to good home, 9 weeks old, eating on their own, one male orange tabby and one

black female. Very sweet. Raised indoors. Call 231-0768.

Beautiful **Bay gelding (quarter horse)**, 15 hands, 11 yr., registered, sired by Mr. Exclusive. Asking \$1,500 OBO. Call 633-0853.

REAL ESTATE

3/1 house, nice, large den, central AC, ceramic tiles and wall-to-wall carpet. Near Busch Gardens, asking \$159,900. Call 685-7755.

Newly remodeled **3/2 home** in Plant City, 1372 sq. ft, home on double lot with 2-car carport, 12x12 shed, new appliances and concrete driveway for \$199,500. Call 754-8888.

Condo for sale, North Tampa/ Temple Terrace area. Convenient to USF and I-75, 2 bd/1-1/2 ba, 2-story, downstairs has new ceramic tile throughout. Upstairs bedrooms are carpeted. Small fenced backyard with ceramic tiled patio. Recently painted inside. Asking \$112,000 OBO. Call 453-6741.

4bd/2-1/2ba Lithia home, on 5.9 wooded acres w/ large spring fed pond loaded w/ Bass, metal roof, fireplace, and many extras. New A/C unit and well pump. Large storage shed/shop w/power. Above-ground fenced pool. Call 737-6279.

WANTED

Sony PSP Game, Need for Speed, most wanted for the Sony PSP, great condition, \$20. Call 672-9205.



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.

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