

# Why I Support United Way

Every year, there's a wonderful season of tasty treats, department camaraderie events, book drives and more. It's the swirl of activities that occur during the Hillsborough County United Way Campaign.

And, at some point during the hub-bub, we're all handed a card that comes with an important question. Will we give some portion—whatever the size—of our hard-earned pay to help others who aren't as fortunate as we are?

This may be the point where some employees are turned off. But, if they are, I wonder if it's not because they

don't know how much their help is needed and what it really means to boys and girls, moms and dads, even elderly grandparents right here in our own community. Who knows, at some point in time, any one of us could need the services of a United Way agency.

I learned that \$5 a week can help to feed an abused or neglected child; \$20 a week for a year can provide clothes and other needs for a family of seven after a disaster. A few dollars a week can ensure there are books for children to read in various care programs.

True, we can't take on all of the needs of a child, much less an entire family, but the great thing about United Way participation is that you know your contribution is being leveraged by other employees' contributions and together, a very real need is being met for our neighbors.

## MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



**PAT  
BEAN**

This year's campaign is only running for about a month, September 18 - October 13. So, why not take a moment now to think about how you can help and what you could give. Together, we're making a difference in our community. And, together, we're becoming the best county government in the nation because WE'VE GOT HEART!



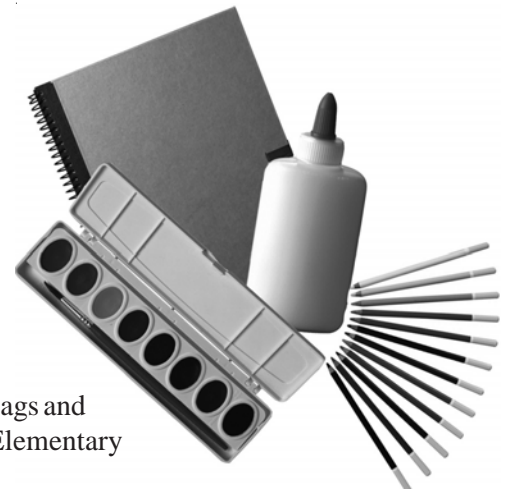
## Security Services pitches in school supplies for B.T. Washington

A thankless gesture by Security Services Sergeant Patti Conover resulted in several bags of school supplies for Booker T. Washington Elementary School students. Expecting just a few hundred dollars worth of donations, about \$1,200 was collected.

"If one less child comes into our courthouse because those supplies helped in their education, it will be worth it," Security Services Director Scott Dunlap said.

Everything from the basics to higher-priced items such as calculators, book bags and more were donated. The supplies were delivered Aug. 3 to Washington Elementary Principal Jason Pepe.

Coordinating donations for children is second nature for Sergeant Conover. She also organizes donating Christmas gifts for children under the protective custody of the Children's Justice Center – Controlled Visitation Program. According to Director Scott Dunlap, Security Services personnel can "fill up a Toys R Us store with the toys my officers buy for that [holiday drive]."



**PRINTER SUPPLY SCAM WILL STICK YOU WITH AN INVOICE** - Be wary about telephone calls from vendors claiming to be an authorized vendor and inquiring information about your printers. You may get a supply of toner delivered to your door that no one ordered, as well as an invoice! Just remember, for printers in departments supported by Hillsborough County's ITS, the only authorized printer service and repair company is AXON Technologies or their associates OPTIMA. For more information, call the ITS Technical Support Help Desk at 635-8455.

## *Known for mentoring rookie firefighters, Gilbert Rodriguez is honored for his passion*

Almost 300 family members, colleagues, fire rescue personnel and Hillsborough County commissioners gathered Aug. 17 at Fire Station 9 to pay tribute to Captain Battalion Gilbert Rodriguez.

Now retired, Rodriguez dedicated 40 years to fire rescue service in Hillsborough County, as well as training and mentoring future firefighters. It became his passion. He assisted with establishing the original training division for Hillsborough County Fire Rescue. County will pay tribute to his contributions and commitment by dedicating Hillsborough County Fire His passion also led him to teach at Hillsborough Community College. In 2001, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue named its annual leadership award after him.



**Commissioners and County Administrator Pat Bean present Captain Battalion Gilbert Rodriguez with a plaque, renaming Fire Station 9 in his honor.**

"I'm overwhelmed," said Mr. Rodriguez. "The kiddies--like I call them, are the ones that actually deserve this. If I taught them anything, I hope that they realize that no man is an island. They have to depend on their fellow firefighter."

### **UNITED WAY MESSAGE**

(Continued from Page 1)

for a short time and received a helping hand to get us back underway.

Our leadership strongly believes in caring for our residents and have always been proud of our employees' continued commitment to the United Way. The funds we raised last year were put to work in ways that helped thousands of men, women and children right here in Tampa Bay who need your help. With United Way's commitment to excellence, you can have confidence that your donations are being used to directly impact the priority issues of concern to the community by focusing on caring for those who need help the most.

Each department has a campaign coordinator who is more than willing to answer any questions you may have. They are so enthusiastic and committed that many have already started within their department to raise the awareness, and in several cases, scheduled fund raising events. I invite you to join me by personally involving yourself in supporting our community beyond what we already do in our jobs. Give generously through our United Way campaign, which officially begins September 18 and runs through October 13.

Let us all rise to Pat Bean's challenge to become the "Best County in the Nation" through our work, our commitment and our caring. Make a difference each and every day - and every way possible.

**Hillsborough County was one of 107 organizations in the area that helped surpass this year's book drive campaign for United Way, collecting 101,405 books for 25,000 economically disadvantaged children in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties' elementary schools.**

## **BRIEFS**

(Continued from Page 1)



### **Hillsborough County Hispanic Heritage brings the arts to downtown**

Hispanic Heritage Month begins in September and employees can once again help celebrate at the *Hillsborough County Hispanic Heritage Celebration*.

**Thursday, September 28, 11:30 a.m.**  
**Joe Chillura Courthouse Square**

This year, it's an arts extravaganza as local Hispanic artisans demonstrate their craft. As always, music that will surely move your hips, a tasting of Hispanic foods, but more importantly, Hispanic community leaders and Hillsborough employees will be recognized during the awards ceremony. The celebration will be broadcast LIVE on HTV22. For more information, contact the Hispanic Affairs Office at **276-8622**.



### **Now offering group fitness classes**

The Wellness Center wants to remind you to pre-register for the following group fitness classes now being offered throughout September:

**Firm Action  
Pilates  
Soul Line Dancing  
Yoga**

For more information about these classes or the Wellness Center, call **272-7126**.

### **✓ 10th Anniversary of Commuter Choices Week**

Commuter Choices Week is an annual event in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties that reminds the public of the various options for commuting to work other than driving alone, such as carpooling, vanpooling, riding the bus, walking, teleworking, and alternative work hour programs. Special events will be held during the week of:

**September 25-29**

For more information, call Bay Area Commuter Services at **1-800-998-RIDE** or visit [www.tampabayrideshare.org](http://www.tampabayrideshare.org)

## GOOD NEWS — LETTERS

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

#### County Leaves Lasting Impression with Inaugural Japanese Squadron Visit

Hillsborough County's Port of Tampa hosted the inaugural visit of Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force Training Squadron held July 2-6. Impressed with Hillsborough County's hospitality and camaraderie, Japanese Consul General wrote: "Indeed, the first visit of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Training Squadron was a real success and marks another great step in the promotion of the solid and friendly ties between the people of Tampa and Japan."



The squadron's 800 seamen participated in several activities around the county, including a tour of the Florida National Cemetery, where Japanese Commanders laid a wreath as a symbol of unity between Japan and the United States and a visit to Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base.

#### Employees help with hurricane preparedness awareness

Ever walk through the 24th Floor of County Center and notice themed displays? Thanks to Sharon Willey and Judy Cole, this month they have created a hurricane preparedness display using items for a survival kit, all paid for out of pocket!



### LETTERS

- ▶ **David Kennedy**, Planning & Growth Management Division - Permitting Division, received praise from Mercedes Hearn for his time in explaining the ropes of electrical licensing. Ms. Hearn is a community liaison for the School District - Adult & Community Education, and she wrote: "Thank you for the time you took from your busy schedule to explain to me all about electrical contractor licensing. I will be sharing the information with all my students come August."
- ▶ **Robin Warren**, Water Resource Services, received a note of gratitude from customer Jerry Durden, who did not have to pay a deposit for a water account after Robin thoroughly reviewed his account history: "Good job in providing stellar customer service!"
- ▶ **Margaret Williams**, Water Resource Services, was recognized by customer Susan Echleman for her professionalism when inquiring about water rates: "You were polite and helpful and it really meant a lot to speak with someone so professional."
- ▶ Several staff members from **Public Works** received accolades from D'Ann White for keeping her updated regarding progress of her community's traffic concerns. She wrote: "The new light at Glenhaven and Bell Shoals is so wonderful. I don't feel like I'm taking my life and my son's life into my hands every time I take a left onto Bell Shoals to take him to school at St. Stephen in the morning. On behalf of all the St. Stephen parents and St. Stephen parishioners living in Bloomingdale East, thank you all so much." Ms. White especially recognized Director **Bob Gordon, Reg Alford, Mike Williams, Scott Cottrell, Thomas Fass, Carolyn Kamermayer, Leigh Ann Pyron, Dan Rhodes, Mike Williams.**
- ▶ **Mike McCarthy**, Public Works - Traffic Operations, received a letter of appreciation July 31 for his section's special disaster recovery assistance to Broward County. Jihad El Eid, Director of Broward County Traffic Engineering, wrote: "I would like to take this opportunity to once again express our sincere appreciation for the cooperation and assistance provided by your department and traffic signal technicians after our Hurricane Wilma experience last year. The professionalism and support provided by the signal technicians who responded to our emergency enabled us to expedite our recovery efforts in replacing and repairing the 1,330 signals which were damaged and non-functional."
- ▶ **Bettie Nougeras**, Planning & Growth Management, received various positive comments on the department's comment cards, including: "In each visit to this office, she went out of her way to help, and SMILED!"
- ▶ **Carol Kennedy**, Planning & Growth Management, received this note: "She was very helpful. This was the first time I had used the computerized system and she was very gracious about helping me."
- ▶ **Public Works** was recognized by constituent Randy Wojahn for a smooth operation on a road resurfacing project: "Just wanted to say that the resurfacing project on east Bloomingdale Avenue was an exceptional effort that caused a minimum of inconvenience to the motorists and, in the end, a great finished project. Many thanks from

More LETTERS on page 5

**LETTERS** (From Page 4)

one of the 'locals' who uses the road on a daily basis. Well done."

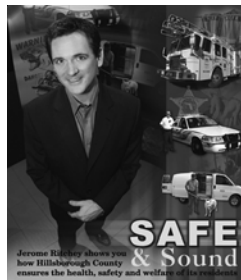
► **Patricia Matz**, Health & Social Services, was recognized by her client Nicole Williams for her four years of assistance: "Mrs. Matz is a wonderful, caring and extremely professional counselor and I could have never asked for a better counselor. As of July 31, I will be off the Section 8 Program and it is Mrs. Matz I will miss the most. She is truly a hard worker and deserves to be praised."

► **The West Service Unit of Public Works** received gratitude from citizen Lynette Peel, who wrote: "I am compelled to write you immediately and commend you on the prompt action you have taken at our local school here on Webb Road. There is someone cleaning the sidewalk and trying to remove the grass growing in the cracks to avoid the bumps for the children riding bikes. They have not completely fixed the erosion but the caution tapes have been fixed on the sidewalk that will enable the children to stay within the markings."

► **Maintenance Unit II of the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department** received a letter of appreciation for months of work to improve the Brandon Cowboy facility: "The entire Brandon Cowboy Football and Cheerleading Athletic Board would like to thank Mr. George Leto and Mr. Clayton Weaver for taking time to meet with us at the facility to review the maintenance needs of our park. Over the last couple of months, both gentlemen have really focused on our requests and have accomplished many improvements to the facility. The facility now has a new chain link fence bordering its

entire perimeter, the sprinkler system has been updated, the installation of the field lights have been completed, there have been building repairs done, the trees have been trimmed, new benches have been supplied for our players and cheerleaders, there have been upgrades done to the electrical system, and the buildings have been painted. During the process, we have had the need to call your office on several occasions for information and updates. Your receptionist and staff also deserve thanks for their patience and their willingness to help us in anyway possible."

► **Mike Hagwood**, Housing & Community Enforcement, was complimented by resident Kevin Coons for his promptness and professionalism: "He recently removed builder signs in Panthertrace CDD in Riverview. These signs were causing a traffic hazard causing obstructed view along several intersections. Mike Hagwood was very professional and expeditious in enforcing the removal of these builder signs. It is very appreciated."



**Beginning September 15, S.A.F.E. & Sound will take a closer look at the child care licensing process; how our Medical Examiner's Office takes on unidentified cases; protecting our children from heat-related injuries; and a special segment about a former Fire Rescue employee and community icon-- Battalion Captain Gil Rodriguez.**

**And don't miss TRADITIONS and INSIDE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.**

Visit [www.HTV22.org](http://www.HTV22.org)



**IN THE OFFICE**

*Remember to disclose conflicts of interests*

As employees, we know that Hillsborough County is a great place to work, and referencing relatives and friends to help fill employment openings is also a great way to maintain a superior staff. However, there are a few guidelines to follow.

New employees are required to complete an Employee Disclosure Statement, which asks about any interest—whether financial, business, family—that may be in substantial conflict with their current job position at Hillsborough County. Employment of relatives, second jobs, owning your own business or rental properties are only a few examples of the information that should be communicated.

Current employees are also required to complete an Employee Disclosure Statement as changes in their life status occur, such as beginning your small business or recent employment of relatives. Failure to properly adhere to this policy within 45 calendar days may result in disciplinary action. These Disclosure Statements are reviewed and approved by the employee's department management, as well as the Human Resources Department.

For questions, contact the Employee Relations Division of Human Resources, at **272-5130**.

**Save the Date** 

It's a picnic for this year's

**Employee Rally**  
**Thursday,**  
**November 2**  
**11 a.m. - 1 p.m. @**  
**Florida State**  
**Fairgrounds**

## CLASSIFIED

### MERCHANDISE

**Coleman-Propane Stove** - 9941-Series. Never been used. Includes stand, side tables, waterpan, regulator, propane, grill & griddle. Only \$75. Call (813)454-2068.

**Moving Sale** - Brown couch in great condition for \$400 and coffee table in great condition for \$75 (or both \$450). Mirror, lamp, & small table set for \$40. Call (813) 785-3241.

**Washer & Dryer** - Good condition. Call 389-3246.

**Oriental Rug** - Real nice. 6'x9', mixed colors (a lot of dark blue). Estimated at over \$2,500 but will sell for \$800. Can e-mail digital picture. Call (813)417-5654.

### AUTOMOTIVE

**'98 Chevy Monte Carlo** - Blue/light blue interior, 122k, cold a/c, CD player, radio, PS, PW, PL. Very good condition! Asking \$3,900 OBO. Call (813)361-5126.

**'99 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer** - Well maintained, 84k miles, newer tires, new belt, excellent condition. Asking \$7,500 OBO. Call (813) 277-6552.

**'99 Nissan Pathfinder** - Automatic transmission, V6, 133k

**'00 Infiniti G20**. Silver. Fully loaded, leather, homelink system, stereo, CD, cassette, AT, moonroof, new tires, woodgrain, 68k miles. Great condition. Non-smoker. Asking \$9,000 OBO. Call (813)368-5756.

**'03 Dodge Durango** - Silver metallic, 29,500 miles, \$15,500. Call (813) 983-9568 or (813) 727-0311.

**'66 Buick Riviera (two)** - Both run, one is partially restored. Both have original "Nailhead" engines. Many new parts go with them. \$2,500 OBO. Motivated to sell. Call (813) 391-7832.

**'87 Toyota Cressida** - Great little running car. Clean interior, but needs seat covers and paint job. Also has sunroof. 133k miles. No airbags, but can be fixed. Asking \$900 OBO. Call Jessica at (813)454-6028.

**Dodge Neon** - Yellow w/ silver stripe. AT, tinted windows, CD player, sunroof, 4-door, 33k miles, dealer maintained, excellent condition. \$10,000 OBO. Call (813)957-3746.

**Dodge Pick-up Tool Box** - Like new. Fits 2002 Dodge Ram 1500 pick-up. Opens on each end for easy access. Diamond

cut and chrome plated. Nice tool box. Call (727)641-5403.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**14 Ft. Aluminum fishing boat w/ trailer**. Also Chrysler 9.9 motor, gas tank, 2 swivel seats. Very good condition. Asking \$1,500 OBO. Call (813) 361-5126.

**Pregnancy books for sale** - Four for \$20. Call (813) 833-7683.

**Dog Travel Crates for sale** - Small \$20 used only once, medium \$35 new. Fold and carry dog cage large 24"x36"x28" \$45. Call (813) 961-8808.

**2002 Club Car Golf Cart** - 48 volts with 6 batteries and charger. Comes with extra set of tires and rims, windshield, club saver in back of cart. Asking \$2,600. Call (813)664-8693 after 6:30 p.m.

**Car Speakers** - Two 12" speakers in box with amplifier. Asking \$250 OBO. Call (813) 401-6187.

### PETS

**Yorkie Pups** - 9 weeks. CKC-shots & health certificate. Partially paper trained. Playful, adorable, family-raised. Male and females. \$800+. Call (813)478-0436.

### REAL ESTATE

**Conservation homesite** - 1.7 acres in Lutz, off Lake LeClarg Rd. Asking \$299,000 OBO. Call (813) 205-9420 or (813) 230-7538.

**2 or 3 Bedroom Home** - 1 bath, 1175 sq. ft. block home with central heat and air built in 1995. Close to everything: near airport, shopping and malls. Ceramic tile throughout, large lot and circular drive way. Washer & dryer, all appliances. \$850/month plus deposit. Will discount if military! Call (813)727-8013.

**Gorgeous 1/1 Condo for sale** - North Tampa. Crown molding and fresh paint. Great starter home! Only \$140k. Call Tasha for details at (813)493-9555.

**House for Sale**. New-construction, 3-bedroom/2-bathroom/1-car garage in new subdivision Beautiful starter home. Seffner area near MLK & 579. Asking \$182,000 OBO. Call (813)951-3594.

### WANTED

**Need Van!** Must be reliable with a/c. Lots of miles is not a problem. Only have \$1,500 to spend. Needed to drive around 6 children to afterschool and church activities.



#### 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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