



Inside this issue:

<i>7th Annual Neighborhood Conference Info</i>	2-4
<i>Neighborhood Conference Registration Form</i>	5
<i>Ask-A-Lawyer Recap:</i>	6
<i>Pet Registration Rings in 2010</i>	7
<i>From A Manager's Perspective: Year-End Financial Reporting & Tax Reporting</i>	8-9
<i>Don't make your home an easy target to burglars</i>	9
<i>Winter's Electric Bills</i>	10
<i>Cold Damage to Palms</i>	11
<i>Update Your Neighborhood Contact Information</i>	11



Hillsborough County

Office of Neighborhood Relations
 County Center
 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 13th Floor
 Tampa, FL 33602
 813-272-5860
www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr

Fostering Community Spirit
7TH ANNUAL HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 27, 2010

8 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

**Hillsborough Community College
 Dale Mabry Campus**



Join hundreds of neighborhood leaders and advocates for a day of informational workshops, exhibits, neighborhood awards ceremony and luncheon.

For more information about attending, becoming a sponsor or exhibitor, or volunteering, contact:

Office of Neighborhood Relations
 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 13th Floor
 Tampa, FL 33602

Phone: 813-307-3564

Fax: 813-276-2621

Email: sloanw@hillsboroughcounty.org

There are only **six short weeks** left before the Seventh Annual Hillsborough County Neighborhood Conference! I am very excited about the workshops and speakers for this years conference. The planning committee and I have tried very hard to plan for an informative, relevant conference that will educate and strengthen our neighborhoods during this time of economical downturn. Past evaluations have recommended for a session where neighborhood leaders may network and share “best practices.” This year we are making that happen! In the next few pages you will see the agenda for the conference and a few of our dedicated sponsors.



MARCH 27
 Mark your calendar today for a fun-filled day of education and networking!

The one thing I ask of you is to take note of the sponsors and exhibitors, they care enough about Hillsborough County's neighborhoods to sponsor and we should care enough to patronize their business.

Wanda Sloan
Hillsborough County
Office of Neighborhood Relations

Conference Workshops—Schedule

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	WKSP Session A	A Few Good Men & Women (A-1)	It's A Tree, A Flag No It's a Cell Tower (A-2)	All Together Now! The Importance of Diversity (A-3)	Show Me the Money! Grants (A-4)
		Florida Friendly Landscaping SB2080 (A-5)	Empty Houses Full of Trouble (A-6)	Speak with Confidence (A-7)	2010 Legislature (A-8)
10:20 AM to 11:20 AM	WKSP Session B	9 Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping (B-1)	Election Myth Busters & Adopt-A-Precinct (B-2)	How Do Neighborhoods Survive Foreclosure? (B-3)	Fair Housing/ Section 8 (B-4)
		What Can Be Recycled? Curbside Pickup (B-5)	Healthy, Wealthy & Wise: Reserving for the Future (B-6)	Feed Me! Importance of Web site Updating (B-7)	Catch me If You Can! Rain Barrels (B-8)
11:40 AM to 12:40 PM	WKSP Session C	Eyes In the Neighborhood! Who Needs Crime Watch (C-1)	Leadership Partners: Youth & Adults Working Together (C-2)	To the Powers That Be: HOA Officers (C-3)	Learn It, Grow it, Eat It—Community Gardens (C-4) (C-4)
		Who's Maintaining Your Neighborhood? (C-5)	Empty Houses Full of Trouble (C-6)	Using Art As A Community Building Block (C-7)	Association Leaders Networking Session (C-8)

Special Workshop— "Hands-on Hillsborough County " An All Day Forum

2010 Sponsorship and Exhibit Opportunities

The Hillsborough County Neighborhood Conference would not be possible without community contributions. A number of cash and/or in-kind sponsorship opportunities exist. In addition, local businesses who serve the community and associations are invited to set up exhibit booths for a small fee. Contact us today if you, your business, or neighborhood association would like to show your support for making neighborhoods and our community better by sponsoring the 2010 Neighborhood Conference. For more information about reserving an exhibit booth or sponsorship opportunities, contact Wanda Sloan at 813307-3564 or via e-mail sloanw@hillsboroughcounty.org.

You can also visit our Web site for more information at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr.

General Conference Workshop Descriptions

A Few Good Men & Women (A-1)

Learn how to strategically search for volunteers to serve on a board. It's never too late to create a recruitment plan!

It's a Tree, a Flag Pole, No It's a Cell Tower (A-2)

After attending this workshop, neighborhood leaders will understand FCC restrictions and other legalities when it comes to cell towers.

All Together Now! Importance of Diversity (A-3)

Neighborhoods today are more culturally diverse than ever before. Learn to minimize problems with a little effort and understanding.

Show Me the Money! Grants (A-4)

Learn how to search for grants to benefit your neighborhood. As grant programs become more popular and competitive, it's more important than ever before to obtain some background on grant writing.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping—SB 2080 (A-5)

A Florida-friendly yard doesn't merely offer a beautiful landscape, but also protects our natural resources and preserves Florida's unique beauty. Taught by the University of Florida's Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) Program and the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Empty Houses Full of Trouble (A-6)

Find out how law and code enforcement officers are working to fight crime in neighborhoods caused by vacant homes. Also, learn about the recently implemented Hillsborough County Abandoned Property Registration Ordinance.

Speak with Confidence (A-7)

Explore ways to improve your communication with public agencies and elected officials. Hear tips on how to advocate your position and commanding a group's attention.

2010 Legislative Session (A-8)

Thousands of bills are filed every session. Learn how to weave through the maze and work with Legislators.

9 Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping (B-1)

A properly maintained Florida-friendly yard can help homeowners conserve water and reduce water pollution.

Election Myth Busters & Adopt-A-Precinct (B-2)

Get a reality check on your election knowledge. Find out about Adopt-A-Precinct, a way for neighborhoods to raise funds and for voters to receive excellent service on Election Day.

How Do Neighborhoods Survive Foreclosure? (B-3)

For those neighborhoods dealing with a flood of foreclosed properties.

Fair Housing/Section 8 (B-4)

Learn the truth about Fair Housing and Section 8, and how your neighborhood can benefit from these programs.

What Can Be Recycled? Curbside Pick-up (B-5)

A little recycling education will go a long way and help increase recycling in your neighborhood.

Healthy, Wealthy & Wise: Reserving for the Future (B-6)

In these economic conditions, it is more important than ever for communities to adequately budget for and prioritize capital repair projects. Without this sort of contingency plan can result in special assessments, or worse, deteriorating property conditions and property values. This session will explore the benefits and process of establishing a plan.

Feed Me! Importance of Web site Updating (B-7)

There are many social media tools to help neighborhoods reach their audience ... Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and more. Which one will you use? Also, learn about content management for your neighborhood's Web site to make it as relevant and user-friendly as possible.

Catch Me If You Can! Rain Barrels (B-8)

Florida receives a yearly rainfall average of 52 inches, and most of it falls off of roofs and driveways, picking up pesticides and pollutants that eventually find their way into our waterways. Rain barrels are a convenient and effective solution! It's green and it's fun!

Eyes In the Neighborhood! Who Needs Crime Watch (C-1)

Learn how to start an official crime watch program, which will give your neighborhood additional resources and support from local law enforcement. Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and the Cities of Tampa and Temple Terrace.

Leadership Partners: Youth & Adults Working Together (C-2)

Strong neighborhoods need a strong intergenerational bond. Learn how to get adults and students working together to design, carry-out and evaluate projects to address community needs.

To the Powers That Be—HOA Officers (C-3)

Understand the various issues relating to the operation of condominium and homeowners Associations in Florida.

con't on page 4

General Conference Workshop Descriptions (con't)

Learn It, Grow It, Eat It—Community Gardens (C-4)

Establish, increase neighborhood support, jump zoning hurdles and find a suitable property.

Who's Maintaining Your Neighborhood? (C-5)

Obtain information on the maintenance responsibilities of the Hillsborough County Public Works—Transportation Maintenance Division. Find out about various measures residents and HOAs can undertake to improve their communities.

Empty Houses Full of Trouble (C-6)

Find out how law and code enforcement officers are working to fight crime in neighborhoods caused by vacant homes. Also, learn about the recently implemented Hillsborough County Abandoned Property Registration Ordinance.

Using Art As A Community Building Block (C-7)

How can a community come together through an art project? What does it take to design and implement a project to guarantee its success? What about funding? Learn about community mural projects and other art activities that have successfully brought a community together and enhanced aesthetics.

Association Leaders Networking Session (C-8)

Share resources, tools, information and “best practices” to help drive positive results for your neighborhood.

Hands On Hillsborough (Open House)

Hillsborough County is seeking your input on an exciting new interactive addition to our Web site! Soon you'll be able to report a problem or concern from anywhere you can connect to the Internet. In this session, we'll introduce you to this interactive service and we need your help to determine how to make sure it meets your needs.

Our 2010 Neighborhood Conference Gold Sponsors



Thanks to our sponsors and partners for their support in making the 2010 Hillsborough County Neighborhood Conference possible!

Lets Celebrate What We All Want to See More of with the Neighborhood Recognition Awards

The Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations is accepting nominations for the Board of County Commissioners' Neighborhood Recognition Awards. Nominations are due no later than Thursday, Feb. 25, 5 p.m. Nomination forms can be obtained by calling (813) 272-5860 or visiting www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr

Applications may be submitted via fax (813) 276-2621 or e-mail ashd@hillsboroughcounty.org.

Award Categories

- Best Beautification Program/Project
- Best Crime Watch/Crime Prevention Program/Project
- Best Environmental Program/Project
- Best Newsletter
- Most Successful Special Event
- Best Web site
- Most Successful Youth Program
- Best Umbrella Association of Associations



Hillsborough County Neighborhoods Conference 2010

March 27, 2010, 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Hillsborough Community College, Dale Mabry Campus

Conference Registration Form

Please mail the completed registration form with a check or money order for \$12 per person. Forms must be postmarked by Friday, March 12, 2010. Make checks payable to BOCC – Conference Registration and mail to Office of Neighborhood Relations 601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 13th floor, Tampa FL 33602. After March 12, 2010 the conference cost will be \$15 per person and can pay at the door the day of the conference.

Conference Registration Fee: \$12.00 (includes official conference professional bag, continental breakfast, admission to three (3) conference workshops, access to conference exhibits and luncheon).

Please complete a registration form for each individual attending the conference.

SECTION ONE – Registration Information

First Name:		Middle Initial:	Last Name:	
Preferred Name on Nametag:		Organization:		
Street Address:				
City:	State:		Zip Code:	
Daytime #	Evening #		E-Mail:	

SECTION TWO - Workshop Selection

Please review the Workshop Descriptions on page 4, 5 and 6 of the Conference Program to guide you in making selections. Workshops are denoted by a letter and number code such as B-1. Please choose two workshops for each session. Every effort will be made to grant your first choice, however each workshop has a limited number of space available. Those with questions regarding registration can call 307-3564.

	WKSP 1 (9:00 AM- 10:00 AM)	WKSP 2 (10:20 AM- 1:1:20 AM)	WKSP 3 (11:40 AM -12:40 PM)
First Choice			
Second Choice			

SECTION THREE – Conference Luncheon

The Conference Luncheon will feature a delicious sit-down lunch, presentations from County Commissioners, an Annual Neighborhood Awards Ceremony and door prizes. This is a chance to network with other neighborhood leaders and hear from elected officials.

Will you attend the Conference Luncheon? _____ **YES** _____ **NO**

Conference Registration:

Hillsborough County BOCC
 Office of Neighborhood Relations
 601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 13th FL
 Tampa, FL 33602
 (813) 272-5860 (813) 276-2621 fax

Payment Methods:

Check / Money Order (made payable to BOCC – Conference Registration).
 All registrations must be postmarked by March 12, 2010. After March 12th all registrations will be \$15 per person and can

ASK-A-Lawyer Recap

Community Association Assessment Collection: Alternative Strategies for Community Associations in the Current Market Crisis

The Office of Neighborhood Relations hosted a free legal workshop on Jan. 23 for neighborhood associations in Hillsborough County. ONR partnered with Taylor-Carls, Esq to present a workshop offering free legal advice to neighborhoods dealing with foreclosures and loss of assessment funds. Because of Greenacre Properties, Inc. sponsorship we were able to hold the training on the beautiful campus of Stetson University College of Law, Tampa Law Center.



Harry Carls, of the firm Taylor & Carls, P.A., presented tips on what works and what doesn't when it comes to community association assessment collection. He made the workshop informative and interesting to a mixed audience of association leaders and property managers. With 80 attendees, the workshop was at capacity and staff received nothing but positive comments.



These Ask-A-Lawyer sessions will be held quarterly. Future topics, dates and agendas will be posted on the ONR Web site prior to the meetings.

The Office of Neighborhood Relations is proud to partner with strong business such as Taylor & Carls, P.A. and Greenacre Properties. ONR tries very hard to provide high quality speakers to ensure our neighborhoods are receiving up-to-date, viable information. It is because of these relationships that ONR is able to offer educational opportunities to our neighborhoods. Remember ... "Strong Neighborhoods are the building blocks of quality communities."

A special thank-you to Stetson Law for allowing us to use their state-of-the-art facility.

Hillsborough County

Taylor & Carls, P.A.

Greenacre Properties Inc. GPI
 The Industry Leader - Serving Over 35,000 Tampa Bay Families Since 1974
 Jeffrey L. Greenacre, CPM®
 Professional Management & Accounting Services For Homeowner & Condominium Associations
 813-600-1100
 4131 Gunn Highway Tampa, Florida 33618



Pet Registration Rings in 2010

Hillsborough County Animal Services reminds pet owners to ring in the new decade by keeping County tags up to date. Registering your pet is not only required by law, it's truly a free phone call home for lost animals. Unlike so-called vanity tags, only your County tag lets others know that your lost pet is safely vaccinated against rabies and is safe to shelter until help arrives. Neighbors can plug a lost pet's tag number into

Hillsborough County Animal Services' web site and learn the first name and number of the owner. Happy reunions can take place any time of day or night – without requiring the assistance of an officer. How great is that!? And how much better for your beloved pet to get back home where it belongs – ASAP.

If your lost pet should find its way to the County animal shelter, your County tag lets shelter staff contact you that much faster for pick-up. Since hundreds more animals arrive each week, time is of the essence for your reunion, and a pet redeemed is always a cause for celebration by shelter staff!

Simply put, pet registration is a matter of owner responsibility, but keeping your pet's County tag up-to-date and securely fastened is also like wearing a badge of support for animal welfare in our community. Fees from tags not only support programs for spaying/neutering, they also drive our County's successful team for the investigation and prosecution of animal neglect and cruelty. Hillsborough County Animal Services' defense of innocent creatures has been noted as the toughest and most successful in the State of Florida.

Pet registration is also vital in assisting Animal Services' emergency responders with future disaster planning. In addition, there are always tag discounts for senior pet owners and pets that have been spayed or neutered.

Even if your pet obtained a three-year rabies vaccine, your County registration is due annually. Ask your veterinarian for more information, call Hillsborough County Animal Services at (813) 744-5660, or email info@hillsboroughcounty.org.



Thanks for your support!

Count Us In



United States[®]
Census
2010



In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau is on a mission to accurately count every resident in the country.

Everyone is to be counted, regardless of age, race, ethnicity or citizenship status. The Census Bureau will mail or deliver census questionnaires to individual households in mid-March 2010. It is vitally important that everyone fill out the questionnaire or request additional assistance to complete the form if needed. A complete count in our community will guarantee that Hillsborough County receives its fair share of federal funds.

www.hillsboroughcounty.org/census

From a Manager's Perspective

By Robert Jay Moyer, Jr

This month's article will deal with a pertinent item near and dear to all of us living in common interest (condominium and homeowner associations) communities. Once again it is that time of year that requires both some type of year-end financial reporting and tax return preparation for those associations whose tax year ended Dec. 31.

This article covers both homeowner associations and condominiums. They are more similar than not. F.S. 718 for condominiums came first, so FS 720 is pretty much a copy of F.S. 718.

Provisions of law *in common*:

...Within 90 days after the end of the fiscal (tax) year ... the association shall prepare ... a financial report for the preceding fiscal (tax) year. Within 21 days after the final financial report is completed...but not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal (tax) year the association shall mail to each unit owner at the address last furnished to the association by the unit owner, or hand deliver to each unit owner, a copy of the financial report or a notice that a copy of the financial report will be mailed or hand delivered to the unit owner, without charge, upon receipt of a written request from the unit owner.

...An association that meets the criteria of this paragraph shall prepare ...a complete set of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The financial statements shall be based upon the association's total annual revenues, as follows:

1. An association with total annual revenues of \$100,000 or more, but less than \$200,000, shall prepare compiled financial statements.
2. An association with total annual revenues of at least \$200,000, but less than \$400,000, shall prepare reviewed financial statements.
3. An association with total annual revenues of \$400,000 or more shall prepare audited financial statements.
4. (a) An association with total annual revenues of less than \$100,000 shall prepare a report of cash receipts and expenditures.
 - (b) An association which operates less than 50 units, regardless of the association's annual revenues, shall prepare a report of cash receipts and expenditures in lieu of financial statements required by paragraph.

As an aside let's briefly review the four levels of financial reporting from the preceding paragraph. Typically throughout the year, management provides monthly financial statements in some type of accrual based format. Accrual records income and expenses when they are incurred, regardless of when cash is exchanged. Accrual accounting provides information that allows one to better understand the true state of an

association's finances. However not many of us use accrual accounting to keep up with our personal affairs. So if we have not been blessed with at least a basic understanding of accrual accounting, it is confusing to some.

Cash basis is basically money in and money out. So this type of accounting is very easy to understand. However, in the world of accounting, a cash basis report typically receives no scrutiny. Accrual numbers are converted into cash basis by your accountant or tax preparer at year end and nothing more is done with or to the information.

The other three: compilations, reviews and audits are always prepared by a CPA. These are never prepared by an accountant or bookkeeper. Of the three, the compilation is prepared with minimal scrutiny. The review receives more scrutiny, but not the attention of an audit. Bank accounts may be verified, source documents are lightly reviewed and certain levels of inquiries are made. The audit is the most detailed report. Much more checking is done by the CPA. Minutes are reviewed. Confirmations are sent to third parties and the list goes on.

One point that is worth clarifying is a misconception about the "audit." Many believe that the scope of an audit is such that it will uncover wrong doings such as embezzlement, misuse or misappropriations or other illegal acts. The audit called for here, though very detailed, is not designed to look specifically for fraud or misappropriations. An audit to uncover fraud would require a "special engagement." The scope of scrutiny on a special engagement audit is significantly greater than what is required for financial reporting purposes.

Back to provisions in common:

Increasing the scope of financial reporting means the association is desirous of increasing the level of scrutiny or verification to a greater extent than that required by statute as previously discussed. For example: if an association has little in revenue as indicated above, it will only be required to provide statements in a cash receipts format or a compilation. If they choose to do a more detailed reporting with increased scrutiny, they would be increasing the scope by opting for a review or audit even though neither is required.

Decreasing the scope is the opposite. An example would be whereby the statute calls for an audit, but the association opts for a cash basis report, review or compilation.

Both an HOA and condo can decrease the scope by getting the approval of a majority of members at a duly called meeting. Say here you have 100 members in your community. A duly called meeting typically calls for a quorum which is a majority (51%) unless the Declaration says less. So if you have 51 people say, at a duly called

Continued on next page

From a Manager's Perspective (con't)

meeting and 26 people are for the change – this is the majority needed.

Provisions of law **not in common**:

Condominium

A condominium can increase the scope financial reporting without a vote of the members. The Board can decide at a regularly called board meeting as long as the matter appears on the agenda.

A condominium may not waive the financial reporting requirements for more than three consecutive years. This means that even with the approval of the members at a duly called meeting that you have to do what the statute says or more every four years.

Homeowner Association

The only way an HOA can increase its scope is by a majority interest of all parcel owners. This calls for a properly noticed meeting of the members.

The members of an HOA may waive their financial reporting requirements each year that the membership properly approves it at a duly called meeting of the members. The HOA is not required to comply with the statute every four years as is a condominium.

Conclusion:

As you can see there is very little that they do not have in common. I will address one more question that is asked frequently each year. It has to do with holding the meeting to waive or increase financial reporting. One cannot change the reporting requirements for the prior year during the current year. For example, we are in 2010 and a report is required for 2009. It is too late to waive 2009 audits, comps, etc. If one desires to change requirements for year 2010, the meeting and approval must be held during the year 2010.

Next month we will speak of tax returns.

What to do Before the Burglar Comes

There are enough easy targets to make residential burglary one of the fastest growing crimes in recent years. These safety tips are designed to help you target-harden your home! They are simple, basic security measures that will make your home less inviting and, in so doing, cause the burglar to look elsewhere for an easier target.

Make Your Home Look and Sound Occupied

By day, leave drapes and shades in normal position - the way you have them when at home. Don't leave easily movable valuables in sight close to windows or in plain view. At night, leave on some inner lights – nightlights or bathroom and hallway lights. Consider buying automatic timers that turn lamps on after dark, then off a few hours later or at dawn. These timers can turn a radio on, too, so your home sounds occupied.

Never leave garage doors open, especially with no car in sight. This is like a WELCOME sign to burglars. It's best to keep your garage door closed even when you're at home. When leaving for longer periods, don't forget to move easily stolen objects like a power mower, garden hose, lawn chairs and bicycles from your yard and keep them safely locked up.

Be a Good Neighbor

Keep an eye on your neighbor's homes and have them do the same for you. If you see something suspicious - movement inside when a home that should be empty, a strange car or truck in the driveway, a loiterer, call Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department non-emergency (813-247-8200) or Tampa Police Department non-emergency (813-231-6130) immediately. Make a reasonable effort to get a good description and license number, without endangering yourself. Burglars have been known to use a truck and openly carry off valuable possessions. If neighbors haven't mentioned moving, be suspicious. Police would rather you called than wished you'd called.

Don't Welcome Burglars by Telephone

Burglars often try to find out if anyone's home by telephoning. If you get several suspicious "wrong number" calls or "nobody at the other end" calls, keep a record of the caller's telephone number. Teach your family members, especially, children, not to give out information by telephone, especially about who is home, who is out and how long anyone is expected to be out.

Make it hard for burglars to "case" your home by telephone by not putting your name on your mailbox, doormat or on your doors. Your name on display only makes it easier for the burglar to look up your telephone number in the directory.

Article from City of Tampa Crime Watch



Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

- **Emergencies – Dial 911**
- **Crime Stoppers – (800) 873-8477**
- **Non-Emergencies – (813) 247-8200**

Tampa Police Department – District 1

- **Emergencies – Dial 911**
- **Crime Prevention – (813) 354-6692**
- **Non-Emergencies – (813) 231-6130**



Cold weather's impact on electric bills

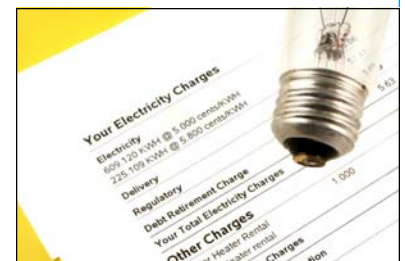
A Message from TECO

This month, you might see a higher electric bill than typical because of the extended cold weather that hit the Tampa Bay area in January. That's in part because it takes more energy to heat areas and spaces in your home or business than to cool them. For comparison, look at the *Average kWh per day* column on your electric bill to see how your electric usage from January differs from past months' usage.

It's a top priority at Tampa Electric to help you save energy as a way to save money on your electric bill. All year round, our energy-saving programs can help you create a more energy-efficient home as a way to manage your energy costs. With our Free Home Energy Audit, a trained Tampa Electric team member will inspect your home to find ways it can be more energy efficient – and we'll give you eight free energy-efficient light bulbs too.

In addition to the energy-saving programs you can learn about at tampaelectric.com, below are some tips to help you save energy during cold weather:

- Set your heating equipment's thermostat at 70 degrees or lower.
- Keep your heating system serviced and cleaned for maximum efficiency.
- Lower the thermostat on your electric water heater to 120-140 degrees, and install flow-restricting devices in showers and faucets.
- When appropriate, open blinds on the southern or western exposures of your residence to allow sunlight that might provide additional warmth.
- Close fireplace dampers when not in use.
- Change or clean the filter on your heating system monthly.
- Visit us online for more about our energy-saving programs and more tips that can help you balance your comfort at home with savings on your electric bill.



Learn more at tampaelectric.com/saveenergy.

SME: Rick Morera

Homeowner Association Board Training

February 16 & March 16 (Tuesdays)

6:30 p.m.— 8 p.m.

Children's Board of Hillsborough County

1002 E. Palm Ave., Tampa, FL 33605

Office of Neighborhood Relations is offering

FREE training to all HOA board members. Learn about:

- Community management
- FL Statute 720
- Declaration of Covenants
- Conditions & Regulation
- Enforcement & Rule Making
- Insurance
- Budget/Financials
- Reserves

For more information, call 813-272-5860 or visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr

Cold Damage to Palms

By Rob Northrop



Trying to grow tropical palms in our sub-tropical and temperate climates means cold damage is inevitable. This year's cold weather is not uncommon for Florida. During late 1970's and early 1980's a series of hard freezes caused severe damage to the citrus industry and landscape palms.

The difference between the two events is that there are many new residents in the area who have not experienced the severe damage to palms that occurs during one of our cold snaps.

Patience is essential with cold-damaged palms. Avoid the temptation to immediately trim damaged leaves. In most cases, the petiole and rachis will still be green and alive. As long as any part of the leaf still remains green, the leaf should not be removed. Damaged leaves provide some protection during subsequent cold events, and the green part of the leaf continues to provide the palm with energy through photosynthesis. Even a completely dead leaf provides some protection from subsequent freezes. Once a palm has produced substantial new growth (2 to 3 leaves), damaged leaf tissue can be removed. If the trunk has noticeable freeze damage, it is likely that there is substantial internal damage to the trunk tissue. Such palms should be removed as they can pose a structural hazard to the landscape.

You may not know if the palm has survived until new growth emerges, which may take 4 - 7 months. Hence, the need for patience. The new growth may be severely malformed or damaged, but the emergence of any living leaf tissue is a sign the palm is alive. Subsequent leaves will gradually improve in quality, but it may take as long as a year before normal leaves emerge.

To help answer the many questions about cold damage to palms the University of Florida IFAS Extension has published a document, "Treating Cold damaged Plants," found at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg318>.

In another publication, "Cold Protection of Ornamental Plants" (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg025>), experts at the University of Florida IFAS Extension describe how tropical and sub-tropical plants can be damaged at temperatures above freezing, and the two different types of freezes or frosts.

Rob Northrop is an Urban and Community Forester with the University of Florida IFAS/Hillsborough County Extension. For more information, visit <http://urbanforestry.ifas.ufl.edu/>



Neighborhood Contact Information

Please update your neighborhood's contact information so you can stay up to date on programs being offered. It is easy to do—just visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr/assnform/home.cfm

Complete the form and submit online!



Neighborhood Relations
601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 13 Floor
Tampa, FL 33602

The Office of Neighborhood Relations is sponsored by your Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners:

*Kevin Beckner
Rose V. Ferlita
Ken Hagan
Al Higginbotham
Jim Norman
Mark Sharpe
Kevin White*

*Patricia G. Bean,
Hillsborough County Administrator*