



Commissioner Sandy Murman presented a commendation to the Mobile Interactive Literacy Opportunity (MILO), a partnership between Tampa-Hillsborough Public Libraries, the Junior League of Tampa, WEDU PBS, and the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, that provides books and educational tools for children. On hand to accept the commendation were Andrew Breidenbaugh, Kelley Parris, Lorie Tonti and Melissa Falvey.

[Homelessness down by 15 percent in Hillsborough County](#)

After several years with barely a dent in the number of people living on the street, the homeless count in Hillsborough County fell by 15 percent in a single year, reports the Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative. The biggest drop, some 26 percent, was in the number of unsheltered people, a group that includes those battling poor mental health and substance abuse who often refuse help. Homelessness was also down 5 percent among veterans.

[Tampa's \\$3 billion waterfront plan aims to reshape downtown](#)

Tampa's waterfront is about to be transformed, with an ambitious \$3 billion plan already in motion to turn 53 acres into a sustainable mixed-use district that will see 23,000 people reside within, work at, and visit each day. Water Street project seeks to add 9 million square feet of new buildings over the next decade, creating a unified neighborhood developers hope will become a destination both locally and nationwide. The first phase should be completed by 2020.

[Hillsborough County hosts annual neighborhood conference](#)

Thriving neighborhoods are the building blocks of successful communities. That was the underlying message of the Annual Neighborhoods Conference, and all-encompassing celebration of the places we live. The July 15 gathering drew hundreds of people from throughout Hillsborough County and elsewhere. This reflects the mission of Neighborhood Relations: Connect neighbors to each other, and neighborhoods to Hillsborough County government.

FROM THE BOARDROOM:

Commissioners approved an agreement with Project LINK to facilitate Back to School Fairs that will provide physicals and immunizations, promote healthy lifestyle choices, and provide information on community resources to assist low-income students and their families.

County Commissioners approved a budget agreement to appropriate a \$4.2 million State Housing Initiative Program grant that will fund activities to produce affordable housing for moderate to very low-income households.

The Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners approved \$52,000 from the Environmental Restoration Fund to restore 28 acres of native wildlife habitat at the Bell Creek Nature Preserve.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY

Tuesday, July 25, 9:00 a.m. – BOCC Land Use Meeting at County Center

Wednesday, August 2, 9:00 a.m. – BOCC Meeting at County Center

Friday, August 11, 8:30 a.m. – Sandy Murman's South County Job Fair at HCC SouthShore Campus, Ruskin

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WHAT'S ON THE BOCC AGENDA?

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