



*Commissioner Sandy Murman honors Champions for Children, which since 1977 has provided high-quality, research-based early childhood education and prevention services to the children and families of Hillsborough County. Executive Director Brian McEwen accepted the commendation on behalf of the organization formerly known as the Child Abuse Council.*

#### **Hillsborough BOCC approves budget**

Hillsborough County commissioners unanimously approved a \$3.96 billion budget for next year. For the 22nd consecutive year, commissioners lowered the property tax rate. For example, the owner of a \$150,000 home with a \$50,000 homestead exemption would save 17 cents under the rate. The countywide tax rate is about \$5.79 for every \$1,000 of assessed, taxable value.

#### **Commission okays funding for affordable housing projects**

The Hillsborough County Commission approved funding Wednesday for two projects that will help fill the void in affordable housing. One of the projects, a new 80-apartment complex scheduled to go up in the University of South Florida area, will benefit older military veterans. The second allocation will help pay for renovations to an existing apartment complex in Town 'n Country to house low- and very low-income county residents.

#### **Commissioners considering alternative Code Enforcement options for problem properties**

Hillsborough commissioners asked county staff to look at options that would seek a Code Enforcement Board Order to authorize clean up of problem properties that have built up fines with no remediation by the owner, and also directed the County Attorney's Office to move forward with legal action to collect out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the County.

#### **Hillsborough County surpasses annual bed tax record**

Hillsborough County has broken its yearly record for bed tax receipts, and there's still a month to go. As of the end of August, the county had amassed \$21,894,143, beating a prior high: \$21,840,869 in 2007. The revenue comes from a 5 percent tax levied on hotel rooms. According to numbers provided by Visit Tampa Bay, Hillsborough also set a new mark for room occupancy in August at 66 percent.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY**

Thursday, Sept. 25, 6:30 p.m. – Waterset Reclaimed Water Storage Public Meeting at 7012 Sail View Lane

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 10:00 a.m. – Landlord/Tenant Forum at Town 'n Country Regional Library

Wednesday, Oct. 1, 9:00 a.m. – BOCC Meeting at County Center

### **STAY CONNECTED**

