



Commissioner Sandy Murman proclaims Infant Mental Health Day in Hillsborough County. On hand to accept the proclamation were Maria Negrón and Irene Hill from the Children's Board of Hillsborough County; Steve Martaus, Greg VanPelt, and Alyse York of the Early Childhood Council; Brian McEwen of Champions for Children and Kasey Coryn of True Blue Communications.

Commissioners approve deal for \$100M in downtown development funds

Hillsborough County commissioners unanimously approved a proposal Wednesday designed to mean more money for county government while still earmarking up to \$100 million for high-profile downtown redevelopment projects. Tampa has CRAs in seven parts of the city, including downtown, the Channel District, Ybor City and East Tampa. Along with extending the life of several CRAs, commissioners agreed to the creation of an eighth in West Tampa.

County approves measure to spur economic development

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners approved a temporary 45 percent reduction in building permit fees intended to spur construction. The fee reduction takes effect Jan. 1 and will last until Sept. 30. The reduction will save the local construction industry an estimated \$6.3 million, according to Bonnie Wise, Hillsborough's chief financial officer.

Commissioners look to Splash Parks to enhance Hillsborough neighborhoods

After asking the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation staff to look at the feasibility of creating Splash Pads in county regional parks, Commissioners accepted a report that will consider future locations at Edward Medard Park and E.G. Simmons Park. The BOCC will look at funding these low-cost "Spray-grounds" in the 2016 budget.

Vink offers land for downtown USF Medical School complex

Jeff Vinik is sweetening the pot as the University of South Florida decides whether it wants to build a medical school complex downtown. Vinik, the Tampa Bay Lightning owner who also controls dozens of acres of land in downtown Tampa, has offered to donate nearly an acre of land to the university — if the new Morsani College of Medicine and the USF Health Heart Institute are built there, USF spokesman Adam Freeman said Wednesday.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 11:30 a.m. – **Think Pink! Breast Cancer Awareness Day Proclamation at County Center**

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 1:30 p.m. – **Policy Leadership Group: Transportation for Economic Development at County Center**

Thursday, Nov. 6, 9:00 a.m. – **BOCC Land Use Meeting at County Center**

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