



Commissioner Sandy Murman proclaimed Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Hillsborough County. On hand at the recent BOCC meeting to receive the proclamation were Hillsborough State Attorney Andrew Warren, Public Defender Julianne Holt, City Councilman Mike Suarez, Jillian Penhale, Dotti Groover-Skipper, Ewelina Krzanowska, LaAysha Neal, Tammy Bertron, Col. DJ Reyes, Brent Woody, Jenay Iurato and Gwen Green.

Sidewalks to schools coming to 'dangerous' Gibsonton area

Hillsborough County commissioners formally approved a plan to add sidewalks to areas around Eisenhower Middle School and East Bay High School. Commissioner Sandra Murman tells ABC Action News the project is already funded, and brought the agenda item forward on Wednesday. "We have 11 to 18 years old crossing Big Bend Road," she said.

Hillsborough County's choice: Spend \$10 million on new buses or not?

Hillsborough County Commissioner Pat Kemp wants to use \$10 million of the county's sales tax contingency fund as a fiscal guarantee for the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority so that agency may purchase eight electric buses before the end of the year. Reluctant commissioners argued, why not wait? "There's too many minuses – uncertainty of litigation, approval by the oversight committee, HART has not brought anything to us – and using over half of our sales tax reserves as a guaranteed backstop concerns me greatly," said Commissioner Sandra Murman.

Tampa YMCA opens newest family facility in south Hillsborough

The Spurlino Family YMCA held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 10, to celebrate the opening of the new facility. Located at 9650 Old Big Bend Road in Riverview, the 32,000-square-foot indoor facility includes a cycling studio; two exercise rooms; and a wellness center.

Change is coming: Development projects to watch in 2019

If you're planning to be out of town in 2019 for more than a week, prepare for change when you return. That's how fast building projects are getting started, being topped off and finishing up in time for people to move in throughout the Tampa Bay Area. The biggest and most anticipated may be Water Street Tampa, a \$3-billion, 53-acre reconfiguration of downtown between the Tampa Convention Center and the Florida Aquarium.

FROM THE BOARD ROOM:

County Commissioners approved an agreement with the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management to provide the County access to 17 generators that will enhance County services and response in case of an emergency.

The BOCC approved an agreement with Success 4 Kids and Families, Inc. providing \$20,000 to their Juvenile Re-Entry Education Program, which helps youth seamlessly transition from juvenile justice facilities to the community and obtain their General Education Diploma (GED).

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY

Tuesday, January 15, 9:00 a.m. – BOCC Land Use Meeting at County Center

Thursday, January 24, 9:00 a.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting at County Center

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