



Sandy Murman

July 22, 2019

HEADLINES FROM HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY



Commissioner Sandy Murman recognized local Hispanic radio stations that inform listeners about the County’s programs and services, helping connect residents to valuable resources that build prosperous communities. Receiving commendations were radio stations: Radio Luz 760 AM and 104.3 FM, WGES Genesis 680 AM and 92.9 FM, WQBN 1300 AM and 106.7 FM, Maxima 92.5 FM, Vida 99.1 FM, Mega 101.1 FM and 1110 AM and La Ley 107.7 FM and 1550 AM.



Crossing Guard Program Expands to Middle Schools

Safety improvements for school crossings are being constructed and installed while school is out of session. When school starts in August, parents and students will notice some major changes at middle schools in Hillsborough County. In support of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office's efforts to provide new crossing guards at middle schools, Hillsborough County is making a wide range of safety improvements designed to make it easier for kids navigating to and from school.



Study names Tampa the state’s best big city to live in

Tampa isn't just any big city. It's the best large city to live in in the Sunshine State, and the 15th-best in the country, according to a new [study](#) from WalletHub. The study used 56 different metrics to rate the 62 biggest U.S. cities according to their performance in four categories: affordability, economy, education and health and quality of life. Tampa scored a 59.81 in the study. The next highest-scoring Floridian city is Miami and Jacksonville sits at 42. Tampa ranked 19th for quality of life, 21st for affordability, 24th for its economy and 40th for education and health. It has the fifth-lowest crime rate in the study.



Tampa's Pirate Water Taxi adds boats, more options for rides

Building on 3½ years of customer growth, the Tampa business is in the midst of a \$1.6 million expansion of its fleet of pirate-themed water taxis that will add a 100-passenger boat, the company's largest to date, and two 20-passenger boats by late 2019. Like the 2016 decision to open the long-planned water taxi business, the expansion is spurred by the surge in activity along Tampa's Riverwalk and the influx of restaurants, bars, and events to downtown.



[Tampa Chosen for National Startup Bus Launch Site](#)

We all are familiar with 24-hour hackathons, but the latest iteration in Tampa comes with a twist: a 72-hour bus ride that ends in pitching a startup.

[Startup Bus](#), which can best be described as a hackathon, boot camp and road trip hybrid, is kicking off its 10th year with six buses across North America, including one from Florida.

The six buses (from Florida, New York, California, northeast Ohio, Washington, D.C. and an “advancing black entrepreneurs” bus departing from Harlem) will drive across the nation and arrive in New Orleans. That’s where entrepreneurs will pitch their startup ideas they spent 72 hours creating with other strangers-turned-teammates on their bus.

In Florida’s case, the bus leaves from Tampa July 24 and takes a short detour across the Southeast region, including Atlanta and Charlotte, before landing in the Big Easy. A kickoff party will be held on July 23 at 7 p.m. at the Sail Pavilion.

FROM THE BOARD ROOM

Grant to Fund Fitness Trail for Veterans Park

The Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners accepted a \$17,365 grant from the Armed Forces Family Foundation for five fitness trail equipment stations at [Veterans Memorial Park](#) that will provide a positive form of recreation for thousands of visitors each year.

Investment Keeps Critical Environmental Lands Healthy

The Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners approved nearly \$2 million over eight years to remove invasive species and restore upland wildlife habitat at the Balm Scrub and [Little Manatee River](#) preserves to provide a more authentic nature experience for visitors.

County Adds Solar Power to Wastewater Plant

The Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners approved a contract to design a solar power system for the Valrico Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant that will generate renewable energy and reduce operation costs as part of the County’s commitment to [sustainability](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY

Tuesday, July 23 9:00 AM – BOCC Land Use Meeting – County Center

Wednesday, July 24 6:00 PM – Sun City Center Hurricane Preparedness Community Meeting – 1651 Sun City Center Plaza, Sun City Center, FL

Thursday, July 25 9:00 AM – BOCC Budget Reconciliation Workshop – County Center

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WHAT’S ON THE BOCC AGENDA?

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