



Sandy Murman

July 8, 2019

HEADLINES FROM HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY



Commissioner Sandy Murman spoke at Tampa Bay Wave as they hosted Hillsborough County’s monthly coffee networking with local tech companies, organizations, and entrepreneurs. This event featured started stories from 3 of Wave’s companies and 1 coworking company. Those 4 companies included: [Knack](#), [Blockspaces](#), [Verapy, LLC](#), and [MyArea Network](#).



[MacDill Air Force Base is a premier Tampa Bay economic driver](#)

A staple in the Tampa Bay community, MacDill Air Force Base employs approximately 15,000 people and creates over \$3 billion a year in economic impact. Established in 1939, the base has been an economic powerhouse and premier training ground for aircrews throughout all the major wars since its inception. The impact of the base is far-reaching, as collaboration with various sectors of the local economy has spurred continued interest from companies to do business in Tampa Bay.



[Disaster Preparedness for Your Pet](#)

Pets are family – do you have a plan for your pet in an emergency? Including pets in emergency plans helps your family’s ability to respond to an emergency. Be prepared: make a plan and prepare a disaster kit for your pet. Leaving pets out of evacuation plans can put pets, pet owners, and first responders in danger. Even if you try to create a safe place for them, pets left behind during a disaster are likely to be injured, lost, or worse. Before a disaster strikes, find out what type of shelters and assistance are available in your area to accommodate pets and include pets in your family disaster plan to keep them safe during an emergency. Don’t wait until it’s too late. Start today by including your pet in your family’s preparedness plans to protect the health of yourself, your family, and your pet.



[Williams Boat Ramp and Park to Reopen After Major Renovations](#)

[Williams Boat Ramp and Park](#), one of the most heavily used ramps in Hillsborough County, will reopen to the public on Monday, July 1. The boat ramps have been closed since December 2018 for major renovations. In addition to resurfacing the ramps and improving the fishing pier, the fixed docks have been replaced with ADA-compliant floating docks. The docks rise and fall with the tide, keeping the dock surface a constant distance from the water and making it easier for those of all abilities to use the docks.



[New Florida laws take effect July 1](#)

Several new Florida laws took effect on July 1st.

Here are some of the highlights:

Texting and driving

The new law will allow law enforcement to [pull people over and issue citations](#) for texting as a primary offense. Authorities could also stop a person for using any sort of tablets or other electronic devices that could be distracting, with extra penalties enforced in school zones. There are other exceptions to the law, including checking GPS maps. Drivers are also allowed to use their phone while stopped at a red light or stop sign. A first offense is punishable by a \$30 fine, with a second offense costing \$60. Court costs and fees also would apply.

Combating opioid abuse

The new law allows Republican Attorney General Ashley Moody to collect information from the state's prescription drug database to help build a case for the state's lawsuits against companies she says have created the [opioid addiction problem](#). In addition to opioid manufacturers, Florida is also suing Walgreens and CVS, alleging they added to the opioid crisis by overselling painkillers and not taking precautions to stop illegal sales.

Cheaper drugs

The law allows the creation of two prescription drug importation programs subject to strict regulation: one involving [importing drugs from Canada](#) and a second calling for drugs to be brought in from unspecified other countries to be chosen later.

It would allow Floridians to gain access to cheaper prescription drugs.

Home gardening

Floridians can [grow fruit and vegetables](#) in their front yards without fear of local government fines.

Growing hemp

Florida will [establish an agricultural hemp program](#). Citrus farmers will now have an option of supplementing their groves with hemp.

Hemp is related to marijuana but only has trace amounts of THC, the chemical that makes people high. The plant has a wide range of uses, from ropes and clothing to building materials and animal feed.

Firefighter benefits

The new law allows for certain disability [payments to firefighters and death benefits](#) to their families if they die because of cancer or cancer treatments.

Counties will be responsible for most costs, an estimated \$3 million collectively statewide. And, the state will pay about \$920,000.

Autonomous vehicles

The new law means [human-less self-driving vehicles](#) could be hitting Florida streets soon.

It also helps pave the way for rideshare companies like Uber and Lyft to expand the use of driverless vehicles.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY

Wednesday, July 17 9:00 AM – Regular BOCC Meeting – County Center

Thursday, July 18 1:30 PM – BOCC Workshop, Fire Impact Fee / Districts - County Center

Thursday, July 18 6:00 PM – BOCC Public Hearing, Budget – County Center

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

STAY CONNECTED



WHAT'S ON THE BOCC AGENDA?

[Click on this to see a list of BOCC Agendas](#)

