



Sandy Murman

June 24, 2019

HEADLINES FROM HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY



Commissioner Sandy Murman presents a commendation to recognize the 19 graduates of Backstage Pass, a Hillsborough County Leadership Program, and applauds them for taking the time to learn about the inner workings of local government. The program fosters an understanding of the services and programs provided by County departments, and forms productive relationships between participants and County staff. In addition, Backstage Pass provides first-hand experiences that inform, educate, and engage business and community leaders in understanding how their government works. Well-informed and civically engaged leaders become more effective leaders, benefitting everyone.



[Hurricane Irma Prompts Revamp of Emergency Management Agency](#)

As part of the overhaul, the county replaced the retired emergency manager with Tim Dudley, who was formerly Pinellas County senior emergency management coordinator. “We want to make sure we’re being a resilient community, being able to bounce back as soon as possible to make sure our citizens are well taken care of,” Dudley said. “Some of the areas we’re focused on are working with the GIS folks and developing improved damage assessment applications.”



[Citizens Property Insurance announces rate decrease following legislation](#)

Instead of an average rate hike of 8.2 percent for homeowners policies across the state, which the state-backed insurer's board [approved in December](#), rates would increase 2.3 percent on average for homeowners. “Today’s recommendation is a direct result of meaningful legislative reforms passed earlier this year to combat rising premiums that have placed an increasingly heavy burden on our policyholders,” Gary Aubuchon, interim chairman of Citizens' board of governors, said.



[Virgin will be the fastest train ever in the southern U.S. when Orlando service starts](#)

In a presentation given to the Central Florida Expressway Authority, Virgin confirmed that a portion of the route will reach a top speed of 125 miles per hour. That would make it the fastest train ever built in the southern United States, only a few gasps behind the northeast corridor’s Acela, which tops out at 150 miles per hour. All told, a trip from Miami Central Station to Orlando International will take approximately three hours, shaving about a half hour off drive time.

FASTEST GROWING CITIES IN FLORIDA



[These are the fastest growing cities in Florida](#)

According to the latest [figures](#) from the U.S. Census Bureau, Jacksonville is the fastest growing city in Florida, with the largest numeric increase in population statewide between July 1, 2017 and July 1, 2018. Miami is the next fastest growing city, and the city of Tampa is the third-fastest growing city in Florida, with a population increase of 6,313 from 2017 to 2018. St. Petersburg is the 13th-fastest growing city in the state, while Clearwater experienced minimal growth. Tampa proper's growth outpaces that of Orlando, which falls sixth on the list, having grown by 4,570 people.

[Chamber summit: Apprenticeships could tackle workforce challenges](#)

The Florida Chamber of Commerce estimates the state will need another 1.5 million jobs by 2030, and apprenticeships could be a major cog in drawing the higher-tech, higher-skill jobs of the future.

Over the last two years, the state has invested more than \$3.5 million into expanding apprenticeships programs. [A bill](#) passed by the Legislature this year will pump in another \$10 million.

CareerSource Florida head **Michelle Dennard** said the word "apprenticeship" is used in many ways, but those state dollars will be used to boost the 200-plus recognized apprenticeship programs in the state while adding others to the quiver via the newly formed "[Apprentice Florida](#)."



FROM THE BOARDROOM

Matching Grant Supports Restoration of Historic Building

The Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners approved a [Historic Preservation Challenge Grant](#) agreement to support the restoration of the Buchman Building, one of the oldest remaining buildings in the Ybor City historic district, to a mixed residential/retail space that will enhance the commercial reuse of this historic structure.

Increase in Beds to Aid in Fight Against Opioid Crisis

The Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners approved an agreement modification with [DACCO Behavioral Health](#) that adds more beds to the Intermediate Care Program, which focuses on adult mental health and addiction treatment, recovery, and re-integration back into the community.

Grant Continues to Provide Rides on the Bright Side

The Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners approved a \$2 million grant for [Sunshine Line](#) from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged that will fund transportation services for elderly, people with disabilities, or low-income residents who do not have, or can't afford, their own transportation in Hillsborough County.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY

Monday, June 24, 6:00 p.m. – Hurricane Prep Talk at the Showmen's Event Center, Riverview

Thursday, June 27, 1:30 p.m. – BOCC Budget Workshop on Water/Wastewater

Thursday, July 4 – Independence Day

STAY CONNECTED



WHAT'S ON THE BOCC AGENDA?

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