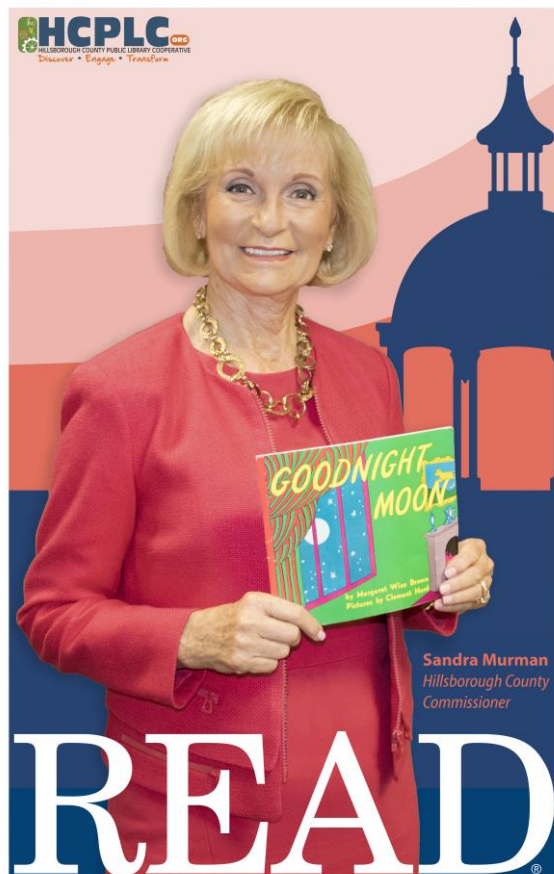




Sandy Murman

October 1, 2019

HEADLINES FROM HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY



The Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library has been named “Library of the Year” by the Florida Library Association. For over 100 years, the Library has been steadfast in its belief that literacy and access to information serve as the foundation of strong and prosperous communities. Its innovation initiatives increased access to resources and services, and expanded opportunities for community engagement.



Fees Waived in Plea to Clear Shelter

This week, Pet Resource Center (PRC) was awarded custody of more than 300 dogs living in unsafe and unsanitary conditions as part of an animal-breeding business in Tampa. PRC was already over capacity, and the large influx of dogs will create stress on spaces and resources. While these dogs remain in PRC custody for at least 30 days, as required by state law, the shelter is asking Tampa Bay Residents to come save a life and adopt from our currently ready-to-go cats and dogs.

[Dogs and cats available for adoption are also viewable online.](#)



Commissioner Sandy Murman's 5th Annual County Job Fair

Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandy Murman, in association with CareerSource Tampa Bay and Hillsborough Community College, will be hosting her 5th Annual County Job Fair on Friday, October 18th, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the HCC Dale Mabry Campus, 4001 W. Tampa Bay Blvd., Tampa, FL 33614. Some 45-50 employers and vendors are expected to participate this year, some of whom may interview potential employees on the spot, while others may provide online links to jobs. These employers have hundreds of positions available part time and full time work.



Florida Aquarium scientists fight to save endangered coral reefs

Using techniques pioneered with Pacific coral species at an aquarium in London, a team at the Florida Aquarium used artificial lighting to fool pillar corals into thinking it was time to spawn. The result: thousands of fertilized eggs which have now become tiny, barely visible colonies growing in tanks at the Aquarium and possibly to go back to the sea. “This is the first step to being able to replant a reef with genetically diverse corals,” says Keri O’Neil, the senior coral scientist who led the Aquarium’s effort. “This will allow us to have a managed breeding program similar to what you would do with terrestrial endangered species.

[New laws taking effect in Florida Oct. 1](#)

Nearly 20 new laws went into effect last summer after being approved by Gov. Ron DeSantis. In total, 150 bills took effect on July 1. Now, 27 new laws are taking effect on Oct. 1, including laws about hazing and veteran access to court-appointed programs.



Among the new and updated laws taking effect Tuesday, here are some highlights:

HAZING (SB 1080)	Created after Andrew Coffey died in a hazing event at Florida State University fraternity pledge, this law makes a third-degree felony out of hazing that results in a permanent injury. The bill outlines immunity to witnesses who call 911 or report the need for medical assistance during hazing incidents.
TEXTING WHILE DRIVING (HB 107)	This measure took effect July 1, but starting Oct. 1 drivers will be required to be hands-free in school and work zones. Law-enforcement officers will give out verbal or written warnings until the end of the year for motorists who don't put down cell phones in those areas. Law enforcement will begin being issued Jan. 1 as a moving violation that puts three points on the driver's license.
POLICE DOGS AND HORSES (SB 96)	Makes it a second-degree felony, up from a third-degree felony, for people who kill or cause great bodily injury to police, fire or search-and-rescue dogs or police horses. The amount of potential prison time increases from five years to 15 years. This bill stems from the deaths of Fang, a member of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office canine unit that was shot and killed, and a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office police dog named Cigo that was killed in the line of duty.
Pet	This law expands eligibility of court-ordered treatment options. Providing that veterans who were discharged or released under any condition, individuals who are current or former United States Department of Defense contractors, and current or former military members of a foreign allied country are eligible in a certain Military Veterans and Service members Court Programs.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY

Wednesday, October 2nd **9:00 AM** – Regular Board of County Commissioners Meeting, County Center

Tuesday, October 8th **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](#)

