



Sandy Murman

December 9, 2019

HEADLINES FROM HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY



Commissioner Sandy Murman presents a Commendation to Mark Englehardt on his retirement from the University of South Florida and expresses profound appreciation for his 44-year career developing services, systems, and policies to serve and protect the community's most vulnerable.



Tampa Bay area named one of top 20 'Tech Towns'

"Efforts to transition the economy from one based on traditional construction, agriculture and tourism businesses to an economy built on technology are paying off," said the association, which is based near Chicago and is commonly known as CompTIA. "The investment opportunities in Tampa Bay are plentiful and the area is now home to more than 150 tech startups." With nearly 43,200 IT jobs posted last year and IT jobs estimated to grow by 6% in the next 5 years, Tampa Bay has the numbers to bolster this growth. [Full List Here](#)



Florida agriculture: Innovations, better crops, greater production

In the Tampa Bay Area, agriculture is a major economic player just as it has been since at least the late 19th century, when cattle ranches, citrus groves, and vegetable crops were established throughout rural communities around the Bay. Florida had 47,000 commercial farms occupying over 9.45 million acres in 2017. Overall, the value of agricultural products from Hillsborough County yielded \$378 million in 2012, while Pasco and Pinellas pumped out \$74 million and \$3 million, respectively.



Make Someone's Holiday Happy & Bright

The giving season is upon us and Hillsborough County has many ways to give back. Whether you want to make a difference in a child's life or a pet's life, Hillsborough County has many ways for you to give back to the community this holiday season. Several different Hillsborough County departments are asking for donations to help residents and pets who aren't able to celebrate the holidays on their own. [Click here for a few ideas](#)



Closing the 2019 Hurricane Season

Hurricane Dorian became an event of concern on August 26, 2019 as a category 5 tropical cyclone that could affect the Tampa Bay area. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM), along with many County employees, moved to action. Agencies and partners were placed on alert. Dorian was an extremely slow-moving hurricane, which meant OEM, Fire Rescue, and all essential employees put in many hours to continue to prepare, coordinate, and inform. While Hillsborough County was fortunate that Dorian did not affect the Tampa Bay area, it was a reminder that teamwork and preparation is key.

Florida-friendly landscaping guide here in time for the holidays



From the Tampa Bay Times. Lynn Barber is the Florida-Friendly Landscaping agent for UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County. Contact her at labarber@ufl.edu, or 813-744-5519, ext. 54105

Florida is a beautiful place to garden. But especially if you come from someplace else, you may need a helping hand. The *Florida-Friendly Landscaping Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design* is easy to use, understand and makes finding the right plant for the right place a simple process.

The guide is intended for homeowners who want make informed decisions about planting the right plant in the right place. The beauty and functionality of a Florida-friendly landscape depends on a mix of trees, plants and turfgrass chosen for their specific location and maintained according to recommendations by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension service. The principles encourage using both native and non-native plants, but not invasive exotics, which should be removed where possible and never planted.

This must-have resource provides a number of landscape design scenarios, with areas including front entry, along walls, sidewalks and fences, and under windows and trees. It details how to convert your yard to a Florida-friendly landscape, ecological considerations, five common gardening mistakes and a list of trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, grasses, perennials, annuals and turfgrass. Plant information covers cold hardiness zones, growth rate, height and spread, native status, drought tolerance and light range.

The guide is available online at: http://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_2015.pdf. You can order a free print copy from the Southwest Florida Water Management District at: <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/>. Click on Resources, then Free Publications.

For assistance with horticultural questions, contact the UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County, 813-744-5519. View our calendar at: <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/hillsborough/upcoming-events/>, and stop by to view our demonstration gardens at 5339 County Road 579 in Seffner. We hope you will get outside and garden.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY

Tuesday, December 10th – 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](#)



