



*Sandy Murman*

March 9, 2020

HEADLINES FROM HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY



*Commissioner Sandy Murman presents the BOCC proclamation for Women’s History Month in Hillsborough County. Receiving the proclamation were members of Commission on the Status of Women. “It is a great honor and privilege for me to deliver this recognition, surrounded by so many other outstanding women leaders who are the torchbearers of women’s rights,” said Commissioner Murman.*



**[Three Tampa Bay beaches named best in the US](#)**

Three Tampa Bay beaches were named among the five best beaches in the United States by [TripAdvisor](#). In the travel sites rankings, users rated Siesta Beach in Siesta Key the best beach in the U.S. and the 11th best in the world. The beach sports a 4.5 rating with almost 7,600 reviews. St. Pete Beach ranked as the second best U.S. beach and the 16th best in the world. Clearwater Beach rounded out the top five with a 4.5 rating with over 12,000 reviews. It did not make the best in the world list, though.

[CLICK HERE](#) for complete ranking



**[Now Accepting Applications for Summer Youth Fire Academy](#)**

Hillsborough County Fire Rescue is now [accepting applications](#) for its [Chief Alan D. Anderson Summer Youth Fire Academy](#). The deadline to apply is Friday, March 13. The program offers students in Hillsborough County an exciting opportunity to learn what it takes to be a first responder. Over two weeks, students will learn about careers in firefighting. Applicants must be high school students or graduating seniors between 14 and 18 years old. A panel will review applications and make final selections based on class size.

**[Commissioner Murman on panel discussion “Tampa Bay: Road to Winning the White House”](#)**

The Economic Club of Tampa announces its sixth annual event the Florida Economic Forum featuring a panel discussion themed “Tampa Bay: Road to Winning the White House” to be held Monday, March 16, 2020. The panel will discuss the pivotal role Hillsborough and surrounding counties play in the U.S. Presidential primary and general election



-  Lifetime Achievement Award  
Jim & Celia Fermin
-  Economic Leader of the Year  
Joe O'Rourke, President & CEO, Mosaic
-  Moderator  
Dr. Susan McManus, USF Emerita, Political Science
-  Panelist (R)  
Sandy Murman, County Commissioner
-  Panelist (D)  
Alex Sisk, Former FL CFO & Governatorial Candidate
-  Honorary Chair  
Tampa Mayor Jane Gertor

# 5 Ways To Prevent And Prepare For The Coronavirus



Currently, if you live in the U.S. the risk of getting the virus remains very low, but public health officials say there will likely be outbreaks in the United States. So this is a good time to review your emergency game plan.

Here's what you need to know to make good decisions to plan, prepare and even prevent the spread of the disease.

## 1. This virus is contagious, but so far it's not as deadly as other outbreaks

Overall, the death rate in China is estimated [at 2%](#), and the average age of death among those with COVID-19 is in the 70s. People with underlying medical problems, and particularly smokers, seem to be at higher risk. Compared to prior outbreaks of novel viruses, this coronavirus appears less deadly than other human coronaviruses that have spread in recent years. For instance, the death rate was about 34% for MERS and about 10% for SARS.

## 2. To fend off coronavirus, follow flu prevention tips

The top tip: Wash your hands. Why? Viruses can spread from person to person via respiratory droplets. When an infected person coughs or sneezes, close contacts can be infected. In addition, the virus can end up on doorknobs, elevator buttons and other surfaces. If you touch those surfaces and then touch your eyes, nose or mouth, you can become infected.

## 3. Don't panic — start to prepare

"This is not the time to panic, but it is a time to prepare — good old fashioned preparedness planning for your family," says Katz. Think about the threat of a possible outbreak in your community the way you'd think about a big snowstorm or a hurricane. If it never hits, great. But if it does, you'll be glad you prepared. Don't hoard, but do stock your cupboards with some extra food and cleaning supplies.

## 4. The uncertainty of masks to prevent illness

Overall, there's not conclusive evidence that wearing a face mask can help prevent being infected by the virus. And public health officials give mixed messages about usefulness for the general public.

## 5. Be smart about travel

The CDC advises that older adults and those with chronic medical conditions should consider postponing nonessential travel. "Travelers should avoid contact with sick people and clean their hands often by washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60%-95% alcohol."

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY

Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM  
11:45 AM

BOCC Land Use Meeting  
Economic Club of Tampa, Armature Works

## STAY CONNECTED



## WHAT'S ON THE BOCC AGENDA?

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