Important Hernando County Events, Community Announcements and More!



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER * JAN - MAR 2020

WELCOME

Welcome to the Hernando County Government quarterly newsletter, **Hernando Highlights**.

In this issue, learn more about upcoming County events/activities, adorable adoptables, community development, this quarter's spotlight on Hernando and so much more!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Check out upcoming County events and activities in your neighborhood:

- JAN 10, FEB 14 & MAR 13 - Friday Night Live
- JAN 17, FEB 21 & MAR 20 - Historic Downtown Brooksville Mural Tour
- JAN 18 & 19 - Brooksville Raid Civil War Reenactment
- JAN 18, FEB 15 & MAR 21 - FREE First-Time Home Buyer's Class
- JAN 18, FEB 15 & MAR 21 - Arts and Autos
- JAN 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade
- FEB 1 - Brooksville Native American Festival
- FEB 8 - Concert at the Lake House
- FEB 28 & 29 - Father Daughter Dance
- MAR 6, 7 & 8 - Weeki Wachee Swamp Fest
- MAR 14 - 36th Annual Art in the Park

VIEW MORE EVENTS

HERNANDO COUNTY HAPPENINGS



- Holiday Office Closures - All Hernando County Government offices will be closed on the following days in observance of the listed holidays:
  - January 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
  - February 17 - President's Day
- Severe Weather Awareness Week - January 27 - 31 is Severe Weather Awareness Week with the State-wide tornado drill being held on January 16. Get ready to duck and cover!
- Visit Your Local Library! - There's always something going on at your local library
- branch. Check out our schedule of events and come visit!
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping - Learn how you can have a beautiful landscape that could save you time, energy AND money by attending one of these FREE classes!
- Water Awareness Series - Learn how to protect Florida's water resources by attending one of these FREE monthly classes!
- UF/IFAS Extension - Learn more and attend educational programs in Hernando County on sustainable agriculture, natural resource and energy conservation, food safety, youth, child and family development, and more!
- Tourism Newsletter - Sign up for the Adventurer, Hernando County Tourism's official newsletter. Learn more about all that Florida's Adventure Coast has to offer!

- Extended Transit Hours! - Transit Services (TheBus) has extended its service hours AND added Saturday service for its riders. Use Transit to get around town!
- Bayport Pier to Re-Open Spring 2020! - The long-awaited reconstruction of the Bayport Pier began on October 28, 2019 and is expected to be completed by spring 2020, weather conditions permitting!
- Building Division Pilot Program - The Building Division will implement a state-approved pilot program that will allow contractors to utilize a web-based application to perform on-site video inspections remotely and in real-time. This 24-month pilot program, beginning in 2020, will test the efficiency and viability of the video inspection services. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon!
- Tire Amnesty Day - Mosquito Control held another successful Tire Amnesty Day on December 7, 2019. Four 48-52 cubic yard containers of waste tires were collected, weighing more than 78,000 lbs. Thank you for helping to reduce container breeding mosquitoes in our community!

MORE NEWS

ADORABLE ADOPTABLES

CHERRY

Meet Cherry, this quarter's featured adoptable dog, available at Hernando County Animal Services located at 19450 Oliver Street in Brooksville!

Cherry is an older female Chow/Sharpei mix that is great on a leash. She is tan in color and sweet as can be.

Cherry would make an excellent addition to any family, come meet her today!



NIKKI

Meet Nikki, this quarter's featured adoptable cat, available at Hernando County Animal Services located at 19450 Oliver Street in Brooksville!



Nikki is a female, adult brown and white tiger. She would love to start the new year off right with a home all her own.

Take a trip to the shelter today, Nikki can't wait to meet you!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Check out some of the new development planned for the Hernando County area:

Permit Applications Received:

- Spring Village Apartments
  - Purpose: Construct a 12 unit apartment building on Landover Blvd.
  - Valuation: $1,149,447
- Dania Alaswad
  - Purpose: Expand the Pain Management Center located at 11040 Northcliffe Blvd.
  - Valuation: $150,000
- HPC, Inc.
  - Purpose: Construct a new two-story medical office building located at 11375 Cortez Blvd.
  - Valuation: $5,658,236

Permits Issued:

- Sherman Hills
  - Purpose: Construct the Stoney Brook lift station located at 31298 Lancewood Dr.
  - Valuation: $1,011,477
- Storage King USA
  - Purpose: Construct a mini warehouse located at 3617 Commercial Way
  - Valuation: $3,747,884
- Dunkin Donuts
  - Purpose: Construct a fast food restaurant located at 11046 Spring Hill Dr.

- Valuation: $1,000,000

COUNTY KUDOS



Thank you for going above and beyond for Hernando County!

Utilities staff member **Ricky Leach** received the following thank you from a resident after responding to a water line break at their residence:
"Ricky is exceptional, knowledgeable and thoughtful. He respected the neighbors to go door to door and is an awesome guy!"

Solid Waste & Recycling staff member **Carmen Bruno** received the following thank you from a resident after assisting with a garbage collection issue:
"Thank you for taking the time to assist me in having my parent's garbage picked up. Pretty much as I hung up the phone with you today, I received a text from my parent's neighbor that a special pick up of the garbage had occurred. Your pleasant and professional attitude in handling this situation is greatly appreciated."

Aquatic Services & Waterways staff member **Keith Kolasa** received a certificate of appreciation from the Florida Sea Grant Program for his participation in the 2019 National Site Review stating the following:
"We are proud of what Florida Sea Grant has been able to achieve during the past four years with your help. It is through your passion, effort and ingenuity to devise creative solutions to issues that affect Floridians that Florida Sea Grant continues to emulate its motto 'Science Serving Florida's Coasts'."

SPOTLIGHT ON HERNANDO



Centipede Bay north of Hernando Beach
Photo courtesy of Keith Kolasa

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon, an oil rig drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, exploded causing the largest offshore oil spill in the United States. Oil flowed unchecked for three months and millions of barrels of crude oil were released. The disaster led to thousands of square miles of federal waters closed and caused extensive damage to marine and wildlife habitats and tourism.

Because of this, the President signed into law the Federal Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act).
The RESTORE Act then established the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund, where eighty percent of the penalties paid will be deposited.

Hernando County has applied for and was awarded funding from this Trust Fund. With these funds, the following programs/projects/activities will take place in our community to restore and protect our coastal environment as well as our area's tourism:

- Awarded - *Currently Underway!*
  - Bayou Drive Repair and Restoration ($457,500) - Remove non-native vegetation from marshes, install native plantings, repair roadway and upgrade parking area
- Pending Project Award - *Coming Soon!*
  - Linda Pedersen Park Improvements (Pending Award: $411,000) - Replace existing retaining wall, replace existing boardwalk and install swimming platform
  - Artificial Reef Program - A total of 10 artificial reefs will be deployed over 12 years - $453,807 pending award for design and permitting with additional $2,000,000 allocated for deployments of reefs
- Future Projects - *Coming Soon!*
  - Coastal Habitat Enhancement Program - Creation of oyster bars and creation of living shorelines in the Jenkins Creek, Bayport and Hernando Beach areas
  - Coastal Public Access Program - Improvements/enhancements to existing coastal parks and boat ramps to increase public access near shore waters and the Gulf of Mexico
  - Coastal Stormwater Improvement on Calienta St. - Drainage infrastructure improvements and the construction of stormwater treatment systems along Calienta St. to reduce flooding and improve water quality
  - Weeki Wachee Spring-Shed Septic to Sewer Conversion Program - Long-term commitment by Hernando County to provide centralized sewer collection, treatment and disposal services to older residential portions of the County starting in District A

Learn more about the RESTORE Act and Hernando County at the following link: www.HernandoCounty.us/RESTOREAct

HERNANDO COUNTY OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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