



Hernando County News

*A Weekly Update from
Hernando County Government*



March 5, 2010

Weekend Work Program

County Commissioners agreed this week to pursue the idea of a weekend work program as an alternative to incarceration in the Hernando County Jail for non-violent and misdemeanor offenders. County staff proposed the idea after reviewing similar programs in Pasco, Marion and Sumter Counties. The Hernando County Public Safety Council looked at the concept as a way to reduce the County Jail population. Offenders would be sentenced to the weekend work program by a judge. The participants would work in groups, under the supervision of a corrections officer, for a local non-profit or governmental entity. They would be required to comply with the rules of the program, including paying to participate. The County Commissioners asked staff to bring back more information for further consideration at a future meeting. Based on 10 inmates per week, the program could save the county an estimated \$55,000 annually.

Hernando Beach Channel Dredge Project Update

This week Hernando County provided its official response to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's request for information, stating that the treated material dredged from the channel would be transported to the Hernando County Solid Waste Facility, a Class I landfill. A letter from the Hernando County Landfill stating they would accept the material was included with the response.

Health Department

**will offer free H1N1
vaccinations on Wednesday and Friday beginning
March 10th at the
Brooksville Clinic**

More info:

http://www.hernandocounty.us/cr/PressRelease_detail.asp?Key=1296

2060 Florida

Transportation Plan

Informational Webinar

Satellite Host Location

Wednesday, March 10 @ 2:00 p.m.

Planning Department—Room 261

Hernando County Government Center

20 N. Main St., Brooksville, Florida

County Government Meetings/Events March 8-12

Board of County Commissioners'

Meeting

Tuesday, March 9

9:00 a.m.

Hernando County
Government Center

20 N. Main St.

Room 160

Brooksville, Florida

Citizens Ordinance

Advisory Team (C.O.A.T.)

Monday, March 8

1:30 pm

Public Works Department

1525 E. Jefferson St.

Brooksville, Florida

Library Advisory

Committee

Monday, March 8

5:00 P.M.

Main Library

238 Howell Avenue

Brooksville, Florida

Aviation Authority

Thursday, March 11

(CANCELLED)

A Chance to See Our Natural Beauty

The Hernando County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program is offering an opportunity for the public to participate in a series of four leisurely walking tours of its preserves and projects. Observe scarce natural plant communities, animal tracks in the sand and learn about the human and natural history of the areas. Residents are invited to enjoy a series of four guided tours of Hernando County's special places—Cypress Lakes Preserve, Fickett Hammock Preserve, Peck Sink Preserve and Bayport Park. Space is limited, so reservations must be made. Contact Jim King, Conservation Lands Specialist; Phone 352-754-4057, extension 28020 Email: jking@hernandocounty.us

E-Verify Employment Eligibility Tool

County staff will provide additional information at a future County Commission meeting on the proposal to utilize a system to verify the eligibility of an applicant to work prior to hiring. The E-Verify System is an Internet-based tool offered through a partnership of the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration to determine if an individual is legally eligible to be employed in the United States. It is a free service and is available for voluntary use by employers in all 50 states. If the County opts to use the system, it must ensure that it is used consistently for all **new hires**. The Board could also opt to require its use by all vendors who contract with the county. Staff will work with Hillsborough County officials who are currently using the E-Verify system to gather more information and schedule the matter for further consideration next month.

Sheriff to Propose Jail Management Change

Sheriff Richard Nugent announced this week that he will present a proposal to the Board of County Commissioners on March 9th for assuming responsibility for management of the Hernando County Jail. Sheriff Nugent stated that he believes the Sheriff's Office can manage the jail more efficiently and cost effectively than the current operator. The discussion has been placed on the agenda for the March 9th County Commission meeting.

For more info on items discussed at the March 2nd County Commission workshop and to watch the meeting, click on <http://hernandocountyfl.igq2.com/citizens/>

This Weekend:

Weeki Wachee

Swamp Fest

March 6 and 7

Linda Pedersen Park @
Jenkins Creek

<http://www.wswampfest.com/>

To view a calendar of
Hernando County March events:

www.naturallyhernando.org



6th Annual Reading Festival

Saturday, March 6

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Nature Coast Technical High
School

4057 California Street
Brooksville, Florida

<http://www.hcpl.lib.fl.us/>

To view the back-up
materials for the Board of
County Commissioners'
March 9th meeting, visit
<http://hernandocountyfl.igq2.com/citizens/>
folder icon

County-Wide Radio System Update

Bill Kicklighter, Director of Public Safety for the Hernando County Sheriff's Office, presented a status report of the county-wide 800 mhz radio system, including an overview of P25 or Project 25, a nationwide standard for interoperable radio communications created for use by public safety professionals. Hernando County's radio system is outdated, replacement parts are becoming unavailable and the system needs to be upgraded. Other counties are migrating to the P25 system, and a gradual upgrade and migration is necessary for Hernando County both technically and financially. Funding sources will be researched and further discussions will be held as part of the upcoming capital improvement budget considerations.

STAND AND BE COUNTED!

Coming to your mailbox soon!
2010 Census questionnaire

Take 10 minutes to answer 10
Questions and **send it back!**
Our chance every 10 years to
count our residents

Funding for our community, legislative representation and much more depends on our population count

http://www.hernandocounty.us/cr/PressRelease_detail.asp?Key=1291

Upcoming Community Events



U.S. Navy Band Concert
Friday, March 12
7:30 p.m.
Hernando High School
Gymnasium
700 Bell Avenue
Brooksville, Florida

<http://www.navyband.navy.mil/CBsched.shtml>



Will McLean Music
Festival 2010
March 12, 13 and 14
Sertoma Youth Ranch
85 Myers Road
Brooksville, Florida

<http://willmclean.com/>