

Get Connected—August 2009

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH COUNTY CONNECTION CENTER



Marie Elam (L), Jane Muhrlin (C),
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Dear friends and neighbors!

Have you heard? County Extension is making it easier than ever to take informative classes through webinars. Many organizations are using this new computer learning format for those who have a hectic schedule or when travel may be difficult. The 30-minute programs, **Solutions in 30**, are offered at lunch time from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45. The classes are free.

Get Organized with a Household Inventory is the featured program on Wednesday, August 5. In this class you will learn how to prepare a household inventory. This is an important step in getting organized during these tough economic times and in the event of a disaster such as a hurricane, fire or burglary. Additional topics this month include: Healthy Home Healthy Family, Financial Incentives for Home Energy Savings and Losing Your Home? - A session on foreclosure prevention.

In just 30 minutes you'll be on your way to learning new tips and techniques to make your life a little easier.

To register, visit www.pinellascountyextension.org, click on the "Online Class Registration" button and then click on the "Solutions in 30" tab. You can also call (727) 582-2100.

Thanks as always for staying "connected."

Jane

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Green Tip



Examine the rubber flapper in your toilet tank to see if it's worn or corroded. A leaky flapper can cost hundreds of dollars a year in wasted water. A new flapper costs from \$2 to \$10. For instructions on checking and replacing a flapper, visit www.ToiletFlapper.org.

Courtesy of Pinellas County Utilities Conservation Department

Info: www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/green or Green Tips on PCC-TV

Pinellas County Animal Services & Dog Days of August

By Greg Andrews, CPM, Operations Manager – Pinellas County Animal Services

What are the “Dog Days of August”?

“The term "Dog Days" was used by the Greeks, as well as the ancient Romans who called these days *caniculares dies* (days of the dogs) after Sirius the "Dog Star", in Latin *Canicula*), the brightest star in the heavens besides the sun. In Ancient Rome, the Dog Days extended from July 24 through August 24 (or, alternatively July 23-August 23). The Old Farmer's Almanac lists the traditional timing of the Dog Days as the 40 days beginning July 3rd and ending August 11th. These are the days of the year when rainfall is at its lowest levels. A casual survey will usually find that many people believe the phrase is in reference to the conspicuous laziness of domesticated dogs (who are in danger of overheating with too much exercise) during the hottest days of the summer. When speaking of "Dog Days" there seems to be a connotation of lying or "dogging" around, or being "dog tired" on these hot and humid days. Although these meanings have nothing to do with the original source of the phrase, they may have been attached to the phrase in recent years due to common usage or misunderstanding of the origin of the phrase.” (*Wikipedia Dictionary*)



Old Southern Folk Lore will say that you should be very careful not to hurt yourself, such as a cut, sores on the body, or have surgery during the Dog Days, because the body won't heal itself like normal, and could lead to problems.

Well, at Pinellas County Animal Services it simply means “It's raining Cats & Dogs”, and we celebrate Adopt a Dog month, and Pinellas County Animal Services celebrates all month by offering reduced adoption costs for dogs and cats. As part of the celebration, \$1 rabies vaccinations with the purchase of a license will be available for pets. The adoption fee in August for cats and dogs is reduced to \$20. That low fee includes a medical work-up, spaying/neutering, vaccinations, internal and external

parasite control, heartworm testing and feline leukemia testing. A required Pinellas County license is provided too.

With the summer months bearing down, citizens should remember to use common sense about the safety and well-being of pets. Make sure that adequate ventilation exists when and where appropriate; DO NOT leave pets in a parked car unattended. If pets are outside, provide pets a shaded area to rest with plenty of water to drink. When taking pets along for outside activity, remember that the hotter days may mean over-exertion. Also, keep in mind that paws can be injured on asphalt so keep to sidewalks and grassy areas.

To meet adoptable pets ready for a new summer home, stop by Animal Services at 12450 Ulmerton Road in Largo. Hours and days of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information about services and adoptions, visit www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices or call (727) 582-2600.

***Did you know... County's Website Features
Helpful Property Information***

By Janet Donegan

The North County Connection Center receives numerous calls each year, from residents or from out of state folks, requesting specific information on a property they own within Pinellas County.

Some of the information requested was available to us online; however, even that information was located in several different programs and departments. Over the past couple of years, the county has created and improved their property records programs and now our more in-depth responses to these property owners can be located much quicker.

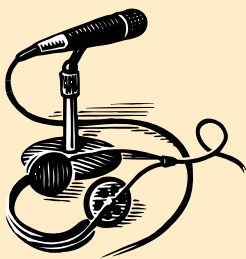
This information has been made available on the County website. The following link <http://gis.pinellascounty.org/resident/> will take you to the Pinellas County *Resident Address Report* where you simply enter your address to view a myriad of information regarding your property, such as:

- A map and aerial of your property
- Property Appraiser & Tax Reports
- Municipality (or unincorporated designation) with link to service provider
- Land Use & Zoning information
- Police & Fire Agencies
- Hurricane Evacuation Level
- Commissioners
- Voting Precinct
- Crime, county parks, public schools, recreation facilities and road projects relative to your property.

The initial site page gives you easy to follow directions on how to obtain the information regarding your property. And, with all the added features there you will be in the know.

Now you know!

HFA RADIO SHOW—There's No Place Like Home



This month's show—**Thursday, August 6th** features Brandi Byrne, Pinellas Relationship Manager for the IRS and Karmen Lemberg, Community Planning Specialist—Pinellas County Community Development. Our topic features loan programs and new federal stimulus programs. The program, sponsored by the Housing Finance Authority, airs the first Thursday of each month from **10:04 to 10:35 a.m. on WRXB 1590 AM**. If you miss a show, listen at your leisure on-line at [HFA Radio Shows](#). You can also watch on [Pinellas County Connection TV](#) — *There's No Place Like Home*. If you have a question you'd like us to answer, e-mail: connect@pinellascounty.org.

Thanks for tuning in!



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Meeting & Event Tips

At your next meeting, consider providing name tags for attendees. For a little twist, have them put their favorite hobby or special interest under their name. Not only is it a great way to meet people, you may find a common interest.

Get HIP with Pinellas County Community Development

Pinellas County Community Development has established the **Homebuyer Information Program (HIP)**. The Program provides the latest news and information related to affordable housing in Pinellas County. Sign up today and be the first to receive the latest news and information on:

- △ Available Quality-Built Affordable Homes, Condos, and Townhomes
- △ Down Payment & Closing Cost Assistance Programs
- △ Homebuyer Counseling Services
- △ Home Repair and Remodeling Low Interest Loans
- △ Limited Time Special Offers and more

“This program is great for anyone interested in becoming a homeowner”, said Daphne Johnson-McCluster, Senior Community Planning Specialist. “Affordable Housing is our business and we strive to help individuals achieve the dream of homeownership.”

For more information or to **sign-up**, contact Pinellas County Community Development at (727) 464-8210 or visit the website at www.pinellascounty.org/community.

