

# Partners in Planning

A PUBLICATION OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

## RIVER NEWS

*Serving Tampa, Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County*

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### Tampa's New Shining Evening Star Lights Up River Tower Park at Sulphur Springs

On Saturday, January 8, 2005, between 500-1,000 celebrants, including neighborhood folks, community activists and politicians, gathered at Tampa's River Tower Park to take part in the official lighting of the Sulphur Springs water tower at River Tower Park. The folks that

gathered for the event enjoyed perfect weather, strolling along the Hillsborough River, watching children climb ancient oaks, touring the inside of the tower and listening to music as it wafted over the 13-acre park site.

The tower lighting culminated long-term efforts by several groups and individuals that worked years to secure the park space along the river for public use and to preserve the community's history in this part of Tampa. In the 1980s and 1990s, when the Tower Property was privately held, the River Board and TAC advocated for the provision of public access along the waterfront as various development plans were proposed for the site. Then, in the late 1990s, the River Board & TAC strongly supported the City of Tampa's outright ownership of the property as this site was the one last remaining sites along the river of any significant size and historical significance.

The tower lighting signals a continued commitment to improving park spaces, the river and the community. It illuminates the historical past that was Sulphur Springs and shines a new light to the future for the area.

So as you pass by during the evening hours and see this landmark glowing softly, marking the Sulphur Springs skyline and shimmering in the river below, know it shines because the people of Sulphur Springs and Tampa have cared enough to see that the past is not forgotten while providing a light to guide the community into the future. Congratulations to the City of Tampa and the community on a job well done.



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## **TAC Meeting Summary**

The Technical Advisory Council met on January 18th at the Crystal Spring Preserve in Pasco County. Among discussion/reports at the meeting were:

: Mr. Robert Carnahan, Jr. was elected 2005 TAC Chair and Mr. Pete Owens was elected Vice-Chair.

A briefing on Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board's action regarding the establishment of a minimum flow for Sulphur Springs.

An update briefing on recent actions in the development approval process for the Cypress Creek Town Center project in Pasco County.

Review of two Tampa Port Authority Minor Work Permit Applications.

A status report on recent Hillsborough River levels.

Briefings on recent river-related events including the 18th Annual City of Tampa Mayor's Hillsborough River & Waterway Clean Up and Sulphur Springs Tower Lighting Event at River Tower Park in Tampa.

Following the regular monthly TAC meeting, Ms. Karen Pate, Director of Crystal Springs Preserve, spoke to the TAC about educational programs at the Preserve. A walking tour of the Preserve grounds and Crystal Spring followed.

Upcoming TAC meetings scheduled are February 15th and March 15th. All TAC meetings are scheduled to be held at the Tampa Union Train Station second floor meeting room unless otherwise noticed. TAC meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. To review River Board and TAC agendas visit our website at [www.hillsboroughriver.org](http://www.hillsboroughriver.org) and click on *Agendas* under the River Board/TAC logo or contact staff at 273-3774, extension 323.

## **River Board Meets for Updates**

The River Board met on January 21st at Tampa Union Station. The River Board took action and was briefed on a number of issues reported by the TAC. Among those issues were:

A briefing on Southwest Florida Water Management District actions regarding the establishment of a minimum flow for Sulphur Springs.

A briefing on Southwest Florida Water Management District actions regarding the renewal of Tampa's Water Use Permit.

Reports on water quality technologies in use as part of local jurisdictional efforts to cleanse storm water directed to the river.

An update briefing on recent actions in the development approval process for the Cypress Creek Town Center project in Pasco County.

A report on River Tower Park site plans.

A report on Riverside Garden Park shoreline restoration progress.

An update report on the Blake Trail Extension which provides expanded public access to the river in the downtown Tampa area.

Review and support for six Tampa Port Authority Minor Work Permit Applications.

A status report on recent Hillsborough River levels.

A briefing on recent river-related events including RiverFest and River Wonderland events in the City of Temple Terrace and the 18th Annual City of Tampa Mayor's Hillsborough River & Waterway Clean Up and Sulphur Springs Tower Lighting Event at River Tower Park in Tampa.



## **River Maintains Steady Levels**

The Hillsborough River reservoir remained at a relatively high level over the past couple of months despite little significant rainfall. The reservoir's water level hovered near 22.5', the top of the dam, while total rainfall for the period was just around an inch over the last two months. Cooler weather has helped to keep river conditions at optimal levels for this time of year along with less of a demand for water for irrigation of plants. As the winter and early spring months are historically drier, a decline in the river's level should be expected as the river is continually tapped as a water supply source. Limited flows from the reservoir have been allowed to flow through the dam under the control of the City of Tampa. The City, in conjunction with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, have been monitoring the effects of limited freshwater inflows into the lower river from the upper river. Most recently, flows have been maintained around 10 cubic feet per second. Other flow rates are to be evaluated as part of the on-going studies. These controlled flow tests and other studies continue to assess the minimum flow set for the lower Hillsborough River in 2000.



# River Tower Park Lights Up Sulphur Springs

Here is a compilation of photos taken at the January Tower Lighting Event held at River Tower Park. Everyone seemed to enjoy their visit to the park to see the official tower lighting.



Tampa's Mayor Pam Iorio shares a light moment with Sulphur Springs Action League President Joseph Robinson.

Tampa City Councilwoman Linda Saul-Sena (left) enjoyed the tower lighting event with friends Guy Labalme, Sally Thompson and Sylvia Espinola.



As dusk gathered, folks from around the community listened to music and visited the tower, the river and with each other.



Long-time citizen activist and Sulphur Springs advocate Linda Hope distributed 2005 Sulphur Springs calendars in the park.



Neighbors met along the riverfront to enjoy the beautiful weather, explore the park and get caught up on neighborhood issues.



Friends of the River held a neighborhood membership drive and talked river issues with those visiting the park site.



**YOUR River Board wants to hear from YOU! Call the River Hotline at 272-5940**



# RIVER NEWS

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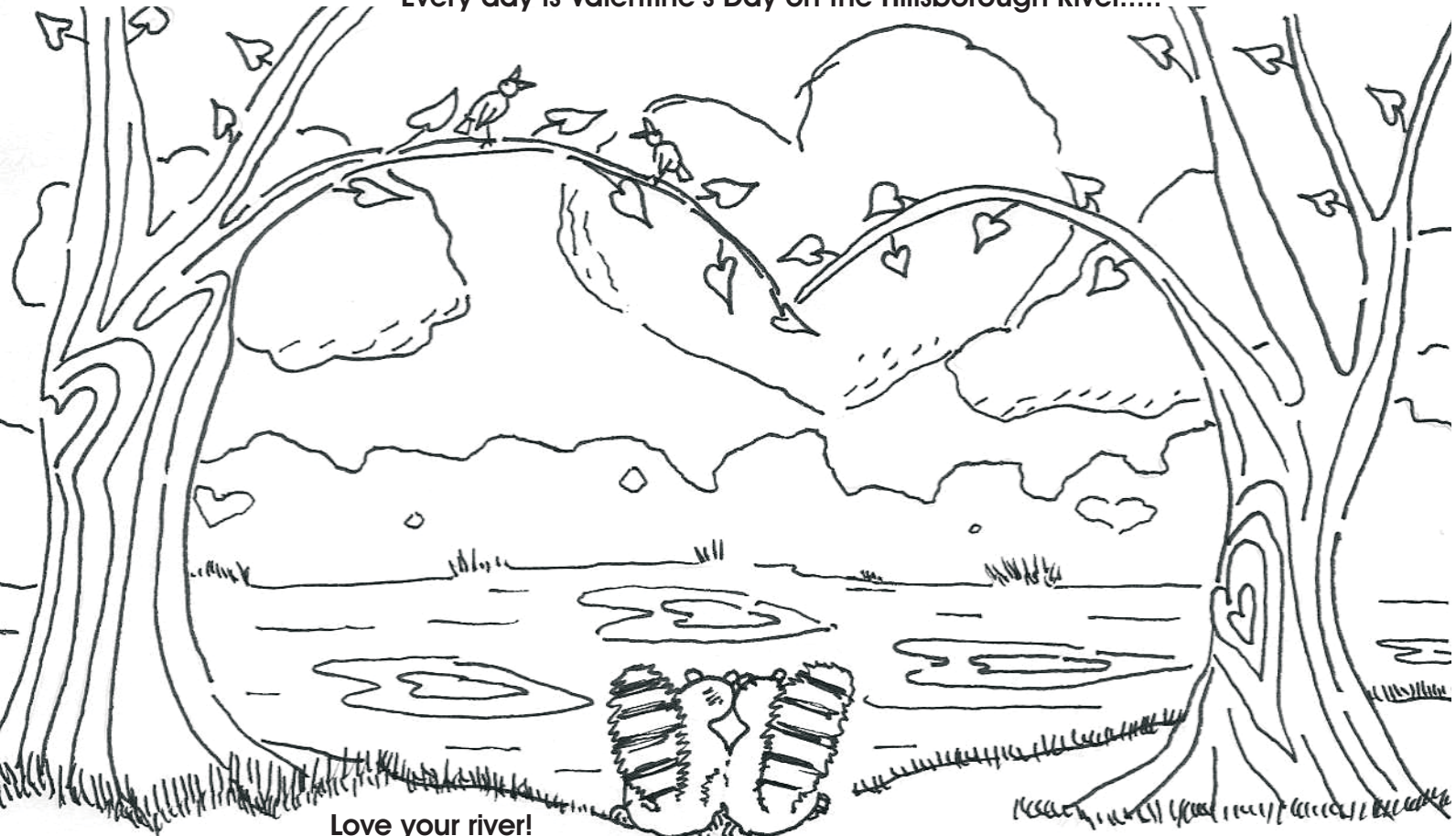
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**Change Service Requested**

Every day is Valentine's Day on the Hillsborough River.....



Love your river!