

CALENDAR

To have an item included in the Around Town, please send it to:

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TODAY

Free GED classes

Free GED classes are offered Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 2 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. at the Family Support and Resource Center, 7520 W. Waters Ave. Call: 356-1703.

Garden Circle

The Town 'N Country Garden Circle will host its monthly meeting Nov. 1 at noon at the Town 'N Country Recreation Center, 6039 Hanley Road.

Norma Bean, master gardener, will present a program on cottage gardens.

Prospective members are welcome. Call: Fran Gamester, president, 884-3462.

Parent Internet safety meeting

A workshop for parents to learn about Internet safety is set for Nov. 1 at Alonzo High School, 8302 Montague St., in the auditorium.

MS fundraiser

Beef 'O' Brady's Family Sports Pub, 10029 W. Hillsborough Ave., will host a fundraising event Nov. 1 to benefit the MS Walk. The fundraiser runs from 5 to 9 p.m. with 10 percent of sales going to Jackie Durning's efforts in the walk.

Intersection meeting

Hillsborough County will hold a public meeting to discuss improvements to the intersection of Hanley Road and Waters Avenue. The Nov. 1 meeting takes place at 6:30 p.m. in the Webb Middle School cafeteria, 6035 Hanley Road.

These proposed improvements include the addition of several turn lanes, concrete medians, new traffic signals and disabled-access crossing ramps, which are expected to improve safety and capacity. Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2009, and is anticipated to cost about \$2.2 million.

STUDENTS STAGE LIVING MUSEUM

By SARAH ROTHWELL
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Eleanor Roosevelt, Thomas Edison and Pocahontas were just a few of the famous faces seen roaming Tampa Charter School's halls last month.

On Sept. 29, about 100 students in grades 3 through 8, staged the school's fourth annual living museum. The project required students to choose a historical figure, then accurately dress and act the part.

Their performances counted toward grades in social studies, reading and writing.

Seventh-grader Jeymar Matias chose former President Ronald Reagan. To get into character, he wore a well-pressed suit, slicked back his dark hair and flashed the politician's winning smile.

"I admire President Reagan's courage and the speeches he made throughout the past," Matias said. "I've thought about being the president when I grow up. I would like to be governor and then be president."

Tampa Charter School, 5429 Beaumont Center Blvd., is a Hillsborough County public school open to general, gifted and special education children. The school staffs one teacher per subject and accepts no more than 135 students per year.

Principal Sheila Thomley said having fewer students makes it easier for children, parents, teachers and administrators to communicate. She considers the living museum an example of the faculty's personalized approach to education.

"It's a school-wide event and everyone participates," she said. "The students have such a wonderful time and what they learn impacts them significantly. I have had past students tell me that they will always remember the museum."

About 200 parents, grandparents and friends visited this year's museum. They watched as students brought to life a variety of inventors, politicians and entertainers. Selections ranged from Leonardo da Vinci to Frank Lloyd Wright and Dr. Seuss.

Social studies teacher Bethany Kanach encouraged students to thoroughly research their characters.

"It's important for students to understand the impact people in history had on everyday life," she said. "This project helps make history more real."

Jamie Spencer, another seventh-grader, enjoyed making her Pocahontas costume.

"My father is Seminole Indian and I've always looked up to Pocahontas," she said. "She has influenced me to do good things."

Thomley said everyone involved learned something new from the project.

"Even the parents learned things they didn't know about people in history," she said.

Reviving History



SARAH ROTHWELL/Staff photos

Fourth-grade student Ian Stevens had a blast reenacting the life of Theodore Roosevelt.



Third-grader Corynne McKinney, above left, had a bright idea when she chose to portray inventor Thomas Edison. Third-grade student Lexi Noceda, above right, portrayed Pocahontas at the Tampa Charter School's living museum Sept. 29.

