

COMMUNITY FIRST

Community Services Department Newsletter

www.seminolecountvfl.gov/srvs/

Volume 1, Issue 13- July, 2015

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THE COUNTY'S MISSION:

To deliver excellent public service that enhances quality of life and addresses our community's needs now and in the future.

DIVISION INFORMATION

Community Assistance

534 West Lake Mary Blvd. Sanford, FL 32773 Phone: (407) 665-2300

Community Development

534 West Lake Mary Blvd. Sanford, FL 32773 Phone: (407) 665-2300

Prosecution Alternatives for Youth (P.A.Y.)

Seminole County Juvenile Justice Center 190 Bush Blvd. Sanford, FL 32773 Phone: (407) 665-5360



Employee Service Milestones This Quarter:

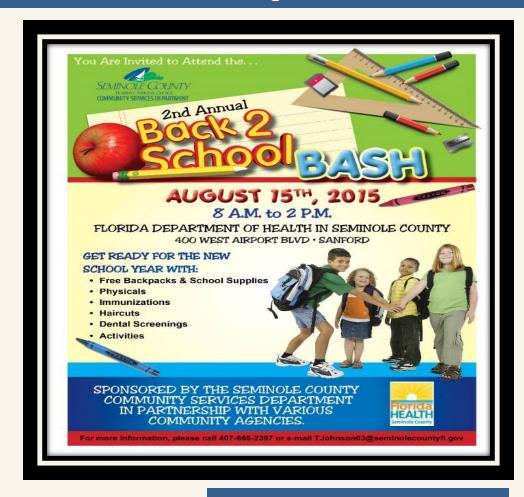
Rita Hendricks-26 years

Pamela Martin-10 years

Tracy Justice-7 years

Carmen Hall-6 years

Front Page News





VALMARIE H. TURNER COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings from the Community Services Department!

Great news!!!! The <u>Housing Rehabilitation Program</u> will be accepting applications on **August 13 -14th**. This program has not accepted applications since 2011 as the Community Development Division has worked diligently to exhaust the waiting list of over 200 applications. Please check our webpage in the coming weeks for more information on how to apply.

We are also continuing our outreach efforts as June was National Homeownership Month and we celebrated with our 2nd Homeownership Fair in conjunction with the City of Sanford, Sanford Middle School, 21st CCLC, Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida, local lenders, realtors, contractors and nonprofit agencies. Stay tuned for our 2nd Annual Back-to-School Bash on August 15th at the Florida Department of Health in Seminole.

If you or your agency would like to learn more about the Community Services Department, please contact us at 407-665.2300.

"It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed."

— Napoleon Hill



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Around the Divisions

Community Assistance

Aura Lynn Rouse is a single mother who is currently enrolled in the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Family Self Sufficiency Program (FSSP). Aura enrolled in the program in July 2014, while she was attending Seminole State College in pursuit of her paralegal degree. Aura had already obtained her nursing degree and was previously practicing with her license. In 2010, she became unable to practice nursing as a result of a criminal conviction. As a result of the conviction, both her driver's and nursing licenses were revoked and she had to start over again with a new life plan. Aura was determined to overcome the obstacles placed before her and enrolled in Seminole State College with hopes of becoming a paralegal. During her time in the FSSP program, Aura has maintained her employment, excelled in her school work, and complied with every requirement of the program, all while using public transportation and her bicycle to get her from place to place. During her last meeting, Aura reported that she is in an internship at a local Law Office and continues to be employed. She reports her credit score has improved and she now has good credit. She is currently interested in purchasing a home and has been referred to the Seminole County Down Payment Assistance Program. She is expected to graduate with her AA in August 2015 with a G.P.A. of 3.7. Aura has truly been a success story in the program and the staff of Community Assistance is proud of all she has accomplished.

Veterans Services



Ed Burford, Veteran Services Officer for Seminole County, was the Master of Ceremonies for the dedication of the Heroes Memorial on May 25, 2015. The County constructed the Memorial as a place to gather and remember the sacrifices of our community's heroes.



Seminole County Teen Court is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year! To mark this milestone, we are hosting a Youth Summit in October, 2015. Representatives from Teen Courts throughout the region will be invited to share ideas, hone their skills, and take part in training on topics relevant to today's teens

VRC Workshop

On May 28th, the Seminole County Office of Emergency Management and the Community Services Department held a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) Workshop for preparedness in the event of a disaster. The exercise simulated the activation of a VRC during a disaster. Seven stations/tables were set up in unison to depict how the volunteers would be maneuvered through the system to address the needs of the community. We had a number of stations, such as: Security/Registration, Data Collection, making Volunteer ID's and Mapping. The exercise was a success and a lot of fun, thanks to Alan Harris, EOC Manager and his staff of volunteers.





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Around the Divisions

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Seminole County Community Services Department Hosts its 2nd Annual Homeownership Fair

In partnership with the City of Sanford, Sanford Middle School, 21st CCLC, and Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida, the Seminole County Community Services Department hosted their 2nd Annual Homeownership Fair on June 6, 2015 at Sanford Middle School. More than 200 people participated in the event! A great deal of information was provided to those who attended the classes and walked down the aisles to speak with the vendors about mortgage products, affordable housing opportunities, credit, housing market, Seminole County Programs, and many other interesting topics. More than 90% of the class attendees did not own a home, but they gained information from the classes in their quest for homeownership. The vendors, who included mortgage lenders, realtors, construction companies, housing counseling agencies, health department, home maintenance, fair housing advocates, and emergency management personnel, are all geared up to do it again next year!!! Many door prizes, including a cruise for two, were won throughout the day. A big thank you to everyone who participated!





FAIR HOUSING ART CONTEST

April is considered national "Fair Housing Month." In order to raise fair housing awareness, Seminole County held an art contest throughout the month of April. The theme of the contest was "Fair Housing and What It Means to Have a Place to Call Home." To be eligible, the participants had to be residents of Seminole County between the grades of K through 5th Grade. A total of 68 entries were received. The judges were: Tad Stone, Director of Public Safety; Meloney Lung, Assistant County Manager; Steve Fussell, Manager of Business Processes; Melissa Clarke, Assistant County Attorney; and Dr. Swannie Jett, Health Officer – Seminole County. There were three categories. Within each category there was an award for a 1st place prize of \$50 and a 2nd and 3rd place prize of \$25. The prizes were provided by 5/3 Bank. The entries were judged on creativity and originality, quality (use of colors and lines), and appearance (overall impression).

