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DEPARTMENT'S

MISSION:

Stimulate social and economic opportunities to improve the quality of life for Seminole County residents.

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



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**Employee Service
Milestones This Quarter:**

Annie Knight	32 Years
Michelle Cahill	13 Years
Josie Deladgo	11 Years
Valmarie Turner	5 Years
Olivette Carter	3 Years
Sylvia Johnson	3 Years
Joan Jones	3 Years
Joe Sandley	2 Years
Teri Williams	2 Years
Anea Brown	1 Year

Front Page News

Community Services Annual Retreat

On Friday, December 9, 2016 the Community Services Department held their yearly winter retreat at the Seminole County Sports Complex. After enjoying a continental breakfast provided by the managers, the group had the pleasure of listening to guest speaker Rashida Jourdain who presented her Connection & Growth Workshop. The workshop was full of great hands-on team-building activities and lots of food-for-thought. After the workshop wrapped up, a delicious barbeque lunch provided by Valmarie was served. The afternoon activities kicked-off with a challenging scavenger hunt. The group also played several exciting field games such as: Egg & Spoon Race, Red Light /Green Light, a Three Legged Relay and the ever-popular Musical Chairs at which Teri Williams was victorious. The group ended the afternoon with a review of the Community Services Department Strategic Plan & Charter presented by Valmarie. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie of the event.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings and Happy New Year!!!

At the end of the year, we take the time to reflect on the programs and services that we administer and the impact they have on our community. We reviewed the Department's Strategic Plan as well as our Charter. As a Department, we are committed to establishing programs and services that positively impact the lives of the Seminole County residents.

We are excited to announce the addition of our new office—the Homeless Advocacy Office. **Carrie Longworth** has been selected as the new Homeless Advocacy Program Manager and will manage the day-to-day operations of this office. The primary goal of this office is to reduce homelessness in Seminole County by coordinating resources, implementing strategies and providing ongoing support to various partners and sectors also addressing homelessness in Seminole County.

For more information about our services, please check out our webpage: www.seminolecountyfl.gov/comsrvs

Please welcome our newest team members: Bonnie Logan, Tonya Turnley, and Rose Banks.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

- Winston Churchill



Around the Divisions

Community Assistance

The **Veteran's Services Office** Responds to the Community.

The Seminole County Veteran's Services Office had an active fourth quarter.

On November 11th, the County Veteran's Services Officer, Ed Burford, was called upon to emcee the annual Veterans Day Celebration in Sanford. Sponsored by the City of Sanford and the Seminole County Veterans Advisory Council (SCAVAC) and held at Veterans Memorial Park, Sanford, this event attracted almost 1000 residents. When the designated guest speaker could not attend, Ed went looking for a worthy alternative. He did not look far and recruited Jeff Aldridge of Community Services. Jeff, a Veteran of the US Navy, spoke of his time in the Navy and the respect he has for all Veterans.

The community showed their respect to Veterans on both Thanksgiving and Christmas. The "Heels and Holsters" Group provided food baskets to the Veterans Service Office for distribution to homeless or at risk Veterans and their families. The Disabled American Veteran's Post 30 Auxiliary provided gift cards to be given to homeless or at risk Veterans. Heels and Holsters now feel they have a mission and are looking at additional baskets for low income/homeless Veterans for Easter. A tremendous thank you to both Heels and Holster and DAV Post 30 Auxiliary, you made a difference in our Community. While these two groups worked through the Veterans Services Office, many other groups, and people, worked independently, they too deserve a big thank you.



Around the Divisions

Community Assistance

The Community Services Department/Community Assistance continues to strengthen its relationship with local nonprofits to address the issue of homelessness in Seminole County. We are pleased to highlight our relationship with the **Christian Sharing Center** which has been vital for our Shelter Plus Care clientele. On any given day, The Christian Sharing Center thrift store assists Seminole County residents with clothing, household items, appliances, and childcare items. With the leadership of Mark Romagosa, Store Manager, Jim Lillo, Assistant Store Manager, and Crystal Echevarria, Boutique Manager, the Shelter Plus Care team was able to help previously homeless individuals and families with essential items needed for their new homes. These items included kitchenware, living room furniture, bedding and the list goes on. As a result of the donated items 6 housing units were fully furnished. Without the support of the Sharing Center many of these families would be without essential items needed to make their unit a place to call home. The Community Services Staff extends our appreciation to the staff and management of the Christian Sharing Center.



Congratulations Joan!!!

The Community Assistance Division would also like to recognize Joan Jones who has been promoted from Case Manager to Case Manager's Supervisor. Joan has been with Community Assistance as a Case Manager for 3 years. She has always worked in the government sector providing case management to families seeking various services. Her past experience consists of public service work in the states of Florida, Georgia and Maryland. Congratulations to Joan!

Around the Divisions

Community Development Division



The Community Services Department welcomes **Bonnie Logan**, Community Development Division Manager. As the new Division Manager, a significant part of her responsibility is the supervision of the employees within the Community Development Division. Equally important is her ability to achieve departmental goals through the effective management, motivation and empowerment of the team.

Bonnie has worked in the public sector for over 22 years; most recently as Homeownership Program Manager in Boulder, Colorado. She was also Program Director for the City of Chicago Department of Housing. Bonnie lived, worked and raised her daughter in Chicago for 33 years. She is now excited to be a resident of Florida and to work with the Community Development team to help improve the lives of the residents of Seminole County.

The Community Development Division would also like to welcome: Tonya Turnley, Project Coordinator. Tonya is originally from Indiana. She brings over 20 years of varied public service experience.

Notice of Funding Availability Published

Seminole County Government supports efforts to ensure the community is a great place to live and work for all its residents. Through the Community Development Division, the County directs funds to programs and services which benefit low- to moderate-income members of the community. The CD team provides ongoing direct services to eligible residents such as home purchase assistance, major home rehabilitation and reconstruction, and livability repairs such as roof, electrical, plumbing, HVAC and accessibility/barrier removal. The team also works to provide affordable housing, and with human and public service partners to improve the health, well-being and living conditions of those in the community who need it most.

Currently, the CD Division is planning the next funding allocation and is seeking partners to carry out community projects which benefit low- and moderate income households in the 2017-18 program year (begins October 1, 2017). A Notice of Funding Availability has been posted publicly since January 1, 2017 in the Orlando Sentinel and on the Community Services website. **Two technical assistance workshops were planned; one was held January 19th, and the other will take place on February 15, 2017 in the Community Services building. The deadline for applications/proposals is Tuesday, February 28, 2017.**

Immediate Program is OPEN!!!

The Seminole County Immediate Needs program is currently accepting applications. The Immediate Needs Program is designed to provide funds in the form of a grant to qualified applicants with necessary immediate repairs and/or alterations to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the household or to affect the immediate livability of the home. The five (5) trades in which assistance can be provided are roofing, electrical, plumbing, HVAC (heating and cooling systems), and accessibility.

Other News

Community Services' Activities:

Breast Cancer Awareness Month October with everyone wearing **PINK!**



Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

1st Annual "Ugly" Christmas Sweater Contest

