

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Message from the Director
- 2 Around the Divisions
- 3 Around the Divisions (cont.)
- 4 Around the Divisions (cont.)
- 5 Other News

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

Rita Hendricks	28 Years
Pamela Martin	12 Years
Tracy Justice	9 Years
Jennifer Ortiz	3 Years
Cindy Baldus	1 Year
Melody Fredrick	1 Year
Shaina Holder	1 Year
Donna King	1 Year
Kimberly Paul	1 Year

Front Page News

4th Annual Back to School Bash

The Seminole County Community Services Department in Partnership with the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County; Healthy Start Coalition of Seminole County; and Bo-Key Riders will be hosting the 4th Annual Back to School Bash on Saturday, July 29, 2017 at the Sanford Civic Center at 401 E. Seminole Blvd. Sanford, FL 32771 from 9am -1 pm.

The Back to School Bash is a community event which brings a wide range of services to Seminole County school aged Children (Kindergarten through 12th grade). The theme of this year's event is "Minds Under Construction". In addition to free backpacks, school supplies, and haircuts, Seminole County children will have access to free immunizations, dental screening and low-cost School physicals; and linkages to a wide variety of community resources to better prepare them for a successful school year.

Pre-registration is available until Wednesday, July 19, from 1pm-4pm in the Seminole County Community Assistance Office located at 534 W. Lake Mary Blvd. Sanford, FL 32773. **Pre-registration for this event is mandatory to receive a backpack and school supplies.** Parents must provide valid Florida ID, Birth certificates for children, and proof of enrollment in a Seminole County Public School. **Registration, however, is not mandatory to attend the event.** For additional information, please call 407-665-2323.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings from the Community Services Department!!!

It's summertime and the Community Services Department is actively working for and in our community. Please join us for our **4th Annual Back to School Bash** on July 29th at the Sanford Civic Center, from 9am - 1pm. Special thanks to all of our community partners who have worked collectively together for this event.

We are also excited about a new program that we recently introduced - the Seminole County "On the Job Training (OJT)" Program. The OJT Program is funded through our Community Services Block Grant as well as the Community Development Block Grant Programs. To learn more about this program, check out page three (3) of this newsletter.

Lastly, the Community Services Senior Team will be visiting our partners and subrecipients throughout the year. Each month we will visit at least one community partner to dialog about the services that are provided and how we can continue to work together to impact our residents. Please contact me if you would like us to visit your agency soon!

For more information about our programs and services, please visit us at www.seminolecountyfl.gov/comsrvs .

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."

- Mahatma Gandhi



Around the Divisions

Community Assistance Division

Veteran Services



The 3rd Annual Veterans Appreciation Luncheon

The Third Annual Veterans Appreciation Luncheon was held on Wednesday June 28, 2017 at the Sanford Civic Center in Downtown Sanford, Florida. The Event was spearheaded by Seminole County-Community Services Veteran Services Office in partnership with the City of Sanford. Both Seminole County and the City of Sanford are designated as United States Vietnam War Commemoration Partners and as such continue to conduct events which honor and highlight our appreciation for those who have sacrificed their lives for our great Country.

The Veterans Appreciation Luncheon is an annual event which is held to honor and support Veterans of all eras. This year's event featured Judge John L. Woodward, III as the Keynote Speaker who provided valuable information on the Veterans Court and its success in reducing recidivism among veterans involved in the legal system. The event also included a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POS/MIA) Ceremony; Sounds of Gun Tribute followed by Taps. Dave McDaniel of WESH TV Channel 2 was the event's host and Emcee.

More than 200 Veterans and their families attended this year's event including several formerly homeless Veterans.



Around the Divisions

Community Assistance Division

Community Assistance

Seminole County On-the Job Training Program



SEMINOLE COUNTY & GOODWILL INDUSTRIES STAFF VISIT THE SMART BAKING CO. IN SANFORD—POTENTIAL HOST SITE FOR THE OJT PROGRAM.

The Seminole County Community Services Department in partnership with Goodwill Industries of Central Florida recently launched an On-the-Job Training Program for low-income and homeless persons in Seminole County. The OJT Program is a Pilot program designed to provide hands-on training to increase employment opportunities for low-income individuals in Seminole County. The program also promotes partnerships with local Seminole County businesses through the Seminole County Economic Development Division, which serves as a clearinghouse of information on programs and incentives available for local business. The strong relationships that the Economic Development Division has with the business community brought a robust willingness by key businesses to participate in this endeavor.

The OJT Program provides participants with 12-weeks of paid on the job training; and the opportunity for full-time employment upon successful completion of the program. The Program also provides the opportunity for businesses to make a positive impact in the lives of low-income persons by providing apprenticeship, mentorship and training opportunities at no cost to the business. To date more than 10 local business have expressed interest in serving as host sites for the OJT Program. The program is schedule to begin in Mid-July.

Homeless Advocacy Office

Seminole County Government has been very proactive and committed to eradicating homelessness in Seminole County. In November 2014, Leadership Seminole hosted Seminole Vision V – a platform that creates the environment in which community leaders come together to address challenges and capitalize on opportunities in Seminole County. Over 100 Community Leaders unanimously decided that reducing homelessness was a top community priority. As such and in response to the vision meeting, Leadership Seminole received a grant from Seminole County Government to develop a community driven plan to eliminate homelessness in Seminole County. A group of business leaders were convened and the Seminole County Homeless Task Force was formed. Mr. Mangano was hired by Leadership Seminole to help with this effort.

As a result of this effort, an action strategy was created to house 120 families and 50 individuals between June 1, 2016 and May 31, 2017. To assist with this effort local community providers servicing both homeless individuals and homeless families come together monthly to discuss community trends, housing impediments, best practices, and housing successes each month in an effort to collaborate and work together on the issues faced in the community. Additionally the Seminole Action Network Exchange (S.A.N.E.) committee led by the County Manager was formed and meets monthly to brainstorm solutions to the impediments reported by the provider agencies. The business leaders committed to stay engaged in the process and the Seminole Action Board (S.A.B.) was formed and is comprised of local businesses and community leaders who meet regularly to look at the problems and solutions presented from a business standpoint and develop the best strategies to execute the services needed. Additionally S.A.B. works to fundraise with the Seminole Action Opportunity Fund (SOAF) to leverage private resources that will help as gap funding and barrier busters to support the work of the homeless housing providers.

Because of the community effort and collaboration, Seminole County agency providers have housed 117 individuals and 142 families during the goal period and are continuing to work with the homeless population by providing housing programs to those in need.



Around the Divisions

Community Development Division

Community Development

Community Development hosted its **4th Annual Fair Housing Art Contest**, April 19, 2017. This year's contest focused on younger students, with most participants in grades K- 5. Over half of the students who participated in the contest were from Hamilton Elementary School. In addition to the art contest, parents were also invited to learn more about the 1968 Housing Act from community development staff and hear a presentation from a Lender from Fifth Third Bank. Art contest participants and their parents enjoyed light refreshments during the event. Fifth Third Bank provided gift cards to the winners. Art kits were graciously donated by Harvest Time International. The first-place winner, Trisha Gokhale's, artwork highlighted diversity, community, love and small businesses. She included a sign in the drawing that said, "A door for everyone". Tricia's artwork reflected the purpose of the Housing Act of 1968, to ensure people have access to housing of their choice and do not encounter discriminatory lending or renting practices. Melanie Lung, Desmond Morell, and Andrew Thomas served on the panel of judges for the contest. Tricia is pictured with Valmarie H. Turner, Community Services Director.



The **4th Annual Homeownership Fair** was held at Sanford Middle School. 60 current and potential homeowners attended the event along with 29 vendors and Community Services Staff. The homeownership fair offered two different tracks of classes, those aimed at potential homebuyers, and those for existing homeowners. Classes covered a variety of topics such as budgeting, credit, understanding utility bills, things to look for when house hunting, the Seminole County purchase assistance program, and gardening to save money. Lunch was provided by our event sponsors Duke Energy. Raffle prizes were sponsored by the lenders and realtors. Representatives from Congresswoman Murphy's office, the City of Sanford, Community Assistance Division, and the Cooperative Extension office partnered with Community Development. They all had staff on hand to provide information and resources to the participants.



Completion of Housing Rehabilitation for Eartha Hill

Ms. Eartha Hill's home repair was completed this quarter. The home was rehabilitated to open up the home to allow for increased accessibility for the homeowner. All of the major systems, roofing, air conditioning, electrical, plumbing, were replaced and upgraded. Ms. Hill was most pleased with the reconfiguration of the kitchen and dining area to allow for more accessibility for her and more room for the family to gather for holiday dinners. The housing rehabilitation was done by Pat Lynch Construction. The repairs were funded by State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) grant.

Other News

Community Development Division

Coffee with Your Congresswoman



On April 14th 2017, Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy of Florida's 7th Congressional District had a "Coffee with Your Congresswoman" event at the Rabbit Foot Cafe' in Sanford. The event offered opportunities for her constituents to visit and discuss important issues.

Seminole County Government was represented at the event by personnel from the Community Services Department. Donna King, Division Manager Community Development, Melody Frederick, HUD Administrator (pictured above) and Cindy Baldus, Accounting Clerk.

They discussed the changes in federal funding put forth in the 2018 budget.

Hope Helps



The CD team volunteered at HOPE Helps food pantry on May 10, 2017. CDBG funds were used for the acquisition of the Thrift Store Building. The agency employs 20 people and all of the agency's revenue is generated from the sales at the store. The agency also relies on volunteers. The Food pantry provides food to people in need. They receive food donations from the community, grocery stores and restaurants such as

Publix, Outback, Carrabba's, Panera Bread, and Chipotle. Families can receive food once per week and must meet with a case manager before receiving assistance.

FY 2017-2018 One Year Action Plan

The Community Development Division finished drafting its One Year Action Plan for FY 2017-2018. The Plan outlines how the County's federal grant funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development will be used and allocated. Seminole County is expected to receive approximately \$2.3 million in federal grants. The Planning process began with a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) inviting non-profit organizations to apply for grants for public services, homeless services, and developing affordable housing. Applications were received from 13 different agencies. The applications were ranked and scored by a review team. In addition to the competitive grants, the Action Plan includes infrastructure improvement projects, housing repairs, economic development and rental assistance strategies.

The activities included in the action plan are based on community priorities that have been identified in the County's Strategic (Consolidated Plan) and on public comment and feedback throughout the action planning process. The follow is a listing of selected projects/programs recommended for funding in the 2017-2018 Action Plan:

- Midway Waterline Improvements
- True Health Public Facility Improvements
- Economic Development- Employment and Job Skills Program
- Mental Health Services
- Childcare Assistance
- Dental Assistance Program
- Immediate Needs Program
- Homeless Shelter Operations
- Rapid-Rehousing
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance
- Development of Affordable Housing

The Action Plan will be presented to the BCC for approval prior to submittal to HUD. Seminole County must submit the plan to HUD in August 2017.