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**THE COUNTY'S**

**MISSION:**

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

**THE COUNTY'S**

**VISION:**

*A thriving community where all residents can achieve social and economic success*

**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

**Years Of Service**

Rita Hendricks	29 Years
Pamela Martin	13 Years
Tracy Justice	10 Years
Jennifer Ortiz	4 Years
Cindy Baldus	2 Years
Melody Frederick	2 Years
Donna King	2 Years
Kimberly Paul	2 Years

## Message From the Director's Office

The Community Services Department is pleased to present our 2nd Quarter Newsletter for 2018.

One of our key events this quarter was our Annual Homeownership Fair held on June 9th at the Extension Services Office in Seminole County. This event provided educational resources for potential homebuyers to aid them in the home buying process. In addition to information on the County's Purchasing Program, participants also received information on home maintenance and landscaping. The event featured more than 13 vendors as well as several county services including Emergency Management, Financial Assistance and Extension Services. For information about our Purchase Assistance Program, please contact:



Olivette Carter  
Director, Community Services

Cora Yon at 407-665-2357.

## Employees of the Month

The Community Services Department internally nominates an employee of the month. Employees nominate a fellow employee to recognize their accomplishments such as teamwork, customer service, and performance beyond the call of duty. The three Employees of the Month for March through May are featured below.

Tonya Madison  
Project Mgr. CD  
March 2018



Pamela Martin  
Administrative Asst.  
April 2018



Michelle Cahill  
Project Mgr. CD  
May 2018



## Around the Divisions

### Community Assistance Division

### Veteran Services

#### Veteran of the Month



**Veteran of the Month, April 2018** – On April 10, 2018, Master Chief Petty Officer Charles J. McDevitt, Jr. (United States Navy - Retired) was recognized by the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners as the April 2018 Veteran of the Month. A Proclamation, signed by the Chairman of the Board was presented to Master Chief Petty Officer McDevitt, Jr. He retired from the United States Navy after twenty-three years. He served during the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Shield, and Desert Storm. Master Chief Petty Officer McDevitt, Jr. served as a Master Chief Missile Technician on various nuclear Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines - having twenty-nine Strategic Deterrent Combat Patrols - spending over nine years of his career under water. Post retirement, he started a Navy Junior ROTC program with an annual enrollment of over 350 cadets and worked as a career counselor.



**Veteran of the Month, May 2018**—on May 22, 2018, Staff Sergeant Robert J. Miller was recognized by the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners as the May 2018 Veteran of the Month. Miller entered the United States Army on August 14, 2003 and was killed in combat on January 25, 2008. His final resting place is in Casselberry, Florida. While active, Miller served two tours of duty in Afghanistan as part of Company A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne). Miller posthumously received the Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony on October 6, 2010. It was presented to his family by President Barack Obama.



**Veteran of the Month, June 2018**—on June 12, 2018, Captain Richard “Robbie” Roberts was recognized by the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners as the June 2018 Veteran of the Month. Captain Roberts entered the United States Navy on July 1, 1938, and retired December 1, 1963 - serving more than 25 years. His awards include the Bronze Star with Combat V, three Air Medals, two Presidential Unit Citations, nine Pacific Theater ribbons, plus twelve other awards. Captain Roberts served as a combat aviator during WWII, was shot down on the third day of the war, evaded capture, and ultimately repaired his aircraft and returned to the war to continue combat operations. Captain Roberts was instrumental in transitioning from sea planes to helicopters and developing both tactics and doctrine still in use today. Captain Roberts is 104 years old and a longtime resident of Seminole County. Captain Roberts has brought great credit and distinction upon himself, his country, the United States Navy, and Seminole County.

## Around the Divisions

### Community Assistance Division

### Community Assistance

#### Prevention and Homeless Services

##### “On the Road to Self-Sufficiency”

Tamika Washington came to the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Homeless Program (TBRA-HP) at the end of March after having resided in the Rescue Outreach Mission Shelter for four months with her six young children. Tamika is a life-long Seminole county resident who was born and raised in Sanford. Tamika’s primary goal was to find permanent housing and be able to provide stability for her children. Having fallen on hard times and with very little social support, she faced financial barriers to obtaining housing that she could not seem to overcome. She worked diligently on finding housing upon entering the TBRA-HP program, and in April was able to move into a townhouse in her hometown of Sanford.



#### Operation New Start

##### “Moving Toward Home Ownership”



Ms. Jessica Roberts began her participation in the Operation New Start program in July 2017. At 35 years old, this single mother of six has remained patient and encouraged throughout her housing search process. Two of Ms. Roberts’ children reside outside the state of Florida. Ms. Roberts often expressed the desire to spend more time with her children, but being a single mom with two jobs and no stable housing, maintaining a consistent relationship with those children proved challenging.

Seminole County Community Assistance, in conjunction with, Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County & Greater Apopka, Inc., has provided financial assistance and housing resources for Ms. Roberts. As of May 1, 2018, Ms. Roberts was able to secure a single family home in Sanford, where she can now provide a safe, affordable, and stable living environment for her family.

Ms. Roberts is currently working from home which allows her to spend quality time with her children. In addition, Ms. Roberts is actively working with a credit counselor (referred by Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County & Greater Apopka, Inc.) that will assist her in building her credit so that some day she may achieve her ultimate goal of becoming a future Seminole County homeowner.

**Around the Divisions**

**Community Development Division**



**Immediate Needs**

Ms. Serge of Apopka, had an air conditioning unit that was not working well and was causing high electric bills. She qualified for assistance through the County Immediate Needs program and now has a brand new, energy efficient HVAC unit - just in time for the summer.

**Purchase Assistance**

Congratulations to our newest homeowners - Brian Nooyen, and his family. He purchased a condominium in Casselberry in the same complex where his grandparents lived in the mid 1970's. Seminole County was able to provide \$30,000 in assistance to make his dream of homeownership a reality.



**Community Development Habitat Teambuilding**



On June 13, 2018, the Community Development team participated in a teambuilding exercise by volunteering at a Habitat for Humanity construction project. The house under construction is being built on property that was donated by Seminole County last year. In four hours, the team was able to paint the entire house. Their volunteer hours to Habitat has an estimated value of \$1,110. Throughout construction, all cost savings from work completed by volunteers is passed on to the homebuyer. This savings makes homeownership affordable.

**Purchase Assistance**



Ms. Ashley Savitz, is a 32 year old single parent that was seeking to purchase a home for her and her 3 children. The homebuyer was very persistent and endeavored to accomplish her long term goal. On May 16, 2018, she closed with the assistance of County program certified lender, Aaron Duba, Senior Loan Advisor for Waterstone Mortgage Co. Aaron, was phenomenal in introducing Ms. Savitz to Seminole County Homebuyer's Purchase Assistance Program, who worked untiringly, making sure the application and required paperwork was received in a timely manner. It is very rewarding when you see house-keys in the hands of the homeowner.

## Around the Divisions

### Community Development Division

#### Homeownership Fair

On June 9, 2018, Community Development with the help of Community Assistance staff, hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Homeownership Fair for persons interested in purchasing homes in Seminole County. 13 vendors and 2 county departments (Extension Services and Emergency Management) also participated in the event. Attendees were provided information on various programs and services including mortgage lending, real estate, and inspection services. Educational sessions during the event included Seminole County's Purchase Assistance program, home-buyer education, home maintenance, and landscaping/gardening. A total of 46 households attended the event. Cora Yon utilized her advanced coordination skills to ensure a successful event. Thank you Cora Yon!



#### Community Services Team Building

The Community Services Department held its Annual Team building Picnic at Red Bug Lake Park on May 4, 2018. The Annual Picnic is a half-day event designed to strengthen the department through team-building activities that foster teamwork, camaraderie, and trust.

