

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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

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

Catherine Schubert	28 Years
Ana Magluta	12 Years
Joyce McBride	2 Years
Rose Banks	1 Year

Message From the Director's Office



Olivette Carter
Director, Community Services

The Community Services Department is pleased to highlight the many noteworthy services and activities conducted in the 1st Quarter of 2018.

The Department remains committed and focused on ensuring decent, safe and affordable housing for our low-income citizens. During the last quarter, the CD Division assisted 13 households through the Immediate Needs Program which provides housing repairs primarily for roofing, heating/air conditioning, electrical, plumbing, and barrier removal. We also assisted 9 households through our Rehab/Reconstruction Program. The department also recently opened the Rehab/Reconstruction Program for new applicants; and staff is currently reviewing the 48 applications received.

The department is very excited to be a part of acknowledging and honoring our Veterans through the Veterans of the Month Award Initiative which was implemented by the BOCC in November 2017; and coordinated by our Veterans Service Office.

In addition to the above accomplishments, the Community Services Department forged a new pilot project with Habitat for Humanity that will provide a path to homeownership for formerly homeless households through a "Rent-to-Own" Model. The first household is scheduled to move in during the month of May 2018.

We look forward to working closely with our community partners in the implementation of our 2018-2019 CDBG, ESG, HOME and CSA Grant Programs. Stay tuned for more information.

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts". Winston Churchill

Employees of the Month

The Community Services Department internally nominates an employee of the month for the previous month. Employees nominate a fellow employee to recognize their accomplishments of dedication, achievement, and excellence in their performance such as teamwork, customer service, and going beyond the call of duty. The three Employees of the Month for December through February are featured below.

December 2017
Rose Banks
Case Manger, CA



January 2018
Cathy Schubert
Veteran Services



February 2018
Melody Frederick
Compliance Officer



Around the Divisions

Community Assistance Division

Veteran Services

Seminole County Celebrates a Veteran of the Month

The Seminole County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) unanimously agreed that Seminole County owes our military personnel a debt of gratitude for their military service and sacrifice to the United States of America. Effective November 17th, 2017, the BCC began recognizing a Seminole County Veteran of the Month at the Board of County Commissioners Meeting. Subsequently, a Veteran has been recognized monthly at the 1st BCC meeting each month.

To be eligible for nomination, the Veteran must be Honorably discharged and must be a Seminole County Resident. Additionally, the Veteran must have distinguished themselves while on active duty or post military -bringing great credit upon themselves and Seminole County. The Nomination and selection process is coordinated by a nomination committee comprised of Seminole County Veterans. To recommend a Veteran for the Veteran of the month award, please contact Ed Burford, Veteran Service Officer at rburford@seminolecountyfl.gov or 407-665-2371.



January 2018: Cpl O'Connor served in the United States Marine Corps for over 2 years serving in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was seriously wounded during the Battle of Fallujah on June 3, 2005. With assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation, he was able to earn both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Central Florida. He has also completed classroom instruction for his PhD at Stetson University and is writing his Doctoral thesis.

February 2018: Major Octavius R. Clark, United States Navy and United States Air Force (Retired), served three years in the United States Navy after graduating from Seminole High School and retired from the US Air Force Reserve in December 2017. He served two combat tours in Iraq, one combat tour in Afghanistan, and has been awarded numerous awards and decorations. A self-described Native-Son of Seminole County, Major Clark grew up on his Grandparents' farm in Bookertown, and graduated from Seminole High School. Major Clark is currently serving as Dean of Students at Winter Springs High School.



March 2018 : Staff Sergeant McClellan served in the United States Air Force from October 1962 until May 1966 as a Ground Radar Operator. He served in Vietnam in 1965 until he was seriously wounded, causing him to spend almost a year in various hospitals. Staff Sergeant McClellan went to college using the GI Bill. He graduated with both Bachelor's and Master's degrees. He worked as a teacher for over 7 years and later became the State of Pennsylvania Archeologist for Valley Forge. McClellan is also an active volunteer with IDignity and a mentor for the Seminole County Veterans Court.

Around the Divisions

Community Assistance Division

Community Assistance

Improving the Customer Service Experience

In an effort to improve Customer Service, the Community Services Office has installed and launched a customer-use computer kiosk in the lobby. The Kiosk enables customers to retrieve, print, and submit documents that are essential for the financial assistance application process. Documents such as proof of income, child support, and social security disability documents can be retrieved and submitted for case processing in a timely manner, thereby alleviating the need for multiple visits to the Community Assistance office.



Extended Day /Summer Camp Program

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides scholarships for Seminole County residents with school aged children. The Scholarships provide funding for before/after school care for working parents and summer camp assistance. These scholarships ensure a safe environment for children during the summer months. The County subcontracts with the Early Learning Coalition of Seminole County to administer registration for summer camp. Registration will be opening during April, 2018. For more information or to apply, contact The Early Learning Coalition at 407-960-2460 or www.seminoleearlylearning.org.

Pilot Program provides a path to Homeownership for Homeless Households

The Community Services Department has formed a unique partnership with Habitat for Humanity to assist with the Rapid Rehousing and a path to home ownership for homeless households. The program will provide up to 18 months of rental assistance and supportive services through the County's Rapid Rehousing Program. Habitat for Humanity will work with the household to improve their credit, establish and maintain their savings and ensure they contribute their sweat equity towards meeting the Homeownership requirements.

We are excited to announce that we have identified the first household for the program. The family is scheduled to move into the home on May 1, 2018.

Community Development Division

Community Development

In January and February we had 40 new and renewing lenders attend our lender workshops. We look forward to working with them on the purchase assistance program.

Purchase Assistance had three new homeowners this quarter. We assisted with \$60,222 in down payment and closing costs. A member of the Community Development staff is going to be attending each of the closings this year. We attended the first one on February 21st and were happy to be part of their journey to homeownership. There are currently four applications in process that will be closing in April and May.

Around the Divisions

Community Development Division

Community Development



On March 16, 2018, Community Development successfully acquired a foreclosed property through the National Community Stabilization Trust (NCST). The 3 bedroom 2 bath home is within the NSP 3 Target Area and will assist in meeting the low income set aside by being utilized as a future affordable rental unit.



DEMOLITION



BEFORE



AFTER

Community Development utilized CDBG funds to complete three demolitions of blighted properties in the county. Federal funds are utilized through this program to demolish dilapidated properties in low – moderate income areas of the county that pose a health and/or safety threat to the area.

Around the Divisions

Community Development Division

HABITAT DEDICATION

Seminole County donated a property located on Summerset Terrace in Casselberry to Habitat for Humanity through the vacant lands program. The property was divided into three parcels to build single family homes for income eligible families. On February 28th, Habitat dedicated the first home on this property located at 13 Summerset Terrace. The soon to be new owner, Lashawna Dixon, is a single mother of three children. She has worked for the past two years to surprise her children with a new home. On the evening of the dedication, she brought the children to attend what they thought was going to just be another Habitat event and she surprised them with the keys to their new home. The final closing is scheduled for April.

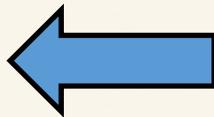


HOMEOWNER RECONSTRUCTION

Reconstruction was completed on the home of Eddie Gray at 1821 Alexander Avenue in Sanford.



Before



After



Homeowner Eddie Gray with daughter Alexis.