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County Line

March/April 2011

Property Appraiser's Office wins statewide award

The Property Appraiser's Office recently won a statewide achievement award for a three-year effort to map, document, confirm and adjust more than 300,000 property descriptions across Volusia County.

Under the leadership of Appraisal Activity Director Sandra Hulvey, the mapmaking team researched aerial photographs, deeds and other documents to adjust the county's records. Using computers, satellite positioning and aerial photography, they were able to update maps to pinpoint accuracy.

Not only did they make the maps more accurate, they saved taxpayers a bundle of money. If the job had been outsourced, it would have

taken five years and cost up to \$1.6 million, Property Appraiser Morgan Gilreath noted. What's more, the employees did the work while keeping up with their normal duties!

In addition to Hulvey and Gilreath, team members included Helene Anderton, Danny Asencio, Robert Funderburk, Brandy Futch, Rob Miller, Fred Morawietz, Cathy Nelson, Virginia Perez, Debbie Shapiro, Shililah Swilley and Frank Vignati.

The award was presented by the Florida Association of Cadastral Mappers.

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MAPMAKERS – The Property Appraiser's Office recently mapped more than 300,000 property descriptions in Volusia County. Front row, from left: **Debbie Shapiro, Virginia Perez, Brandy Futch, Shililah Swilley, Cathy Nelson and Helene Anderton.** Back row, from left: **Fred Morawietz, Frank Vignati, Robert Funderburk, Rob Miller, Sandra Hulvey, Danny Asencio and Morgan Gilreath.**

Employee Recognition Lunch; another impressive group



Jim Dinneen

A telling sign of a good employer is the tenure of its workforce. When you look at the makeup of Volusia County Government's workforce you see a great number of employees who have made careers working for the county. This is the classic "win win." The public wins because our citizens benefit from employees who know their jobs inside and out and have great institutional knowledge. The employees and their families win because they benefit from steady employment, excellent benefits and a sound retirement plan.

These have been difficult financial times for the citizens we serve. Those of you who are on the front lines of public service know all too well that many of our citizens are hurting. But the same goes for a number of you. County employees are just as vulnerable to the realities of today as those we serve. Nevertheless, time after time, county employees show their generosity and their willingness to go the extra mile. Our employees are the heart of our organization. And our organization has a big heart.

Our holiday food drive last year collected more than 125 boxes of food for five local food banks. The Troop Information Express, which supports employees and employee family members on active military duty, collected 38 boxes of food and personal items to send to our troops overseas at Christmas – a dozen more than was mailed the previous year.

County employees also give generously to the United Way, and take part in dozens of charitable activities all year. Adopt a Family, 100 Deputies/100 Kids and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life are among the examples.

I mention the seniority of our workforce because we just wrapped up the 2011 edition of the annual Employee Recognition Program. The list of long-time employees is impressive. This year we recognized 327 employees who were honored for tenure ranging from 10 years to 35 years. Collectively, the employees honored at this year's lunch have 5,230 years of service to our community!

I'd like to thank and congratulate all of the employees recognized this year. No doubt you are winners. But the real winners are the citizens who you serve so well.

And a pat on the back is well deserved for those employees who work so hard every year to make the annual employee recognition banquet a great success. What a great team and great employee family we have. — **Jim Dinneen,**

County Manager



January

Philip Brennan - Fire Services - 27 years

Jean Dickson - Corrections - 11 years

Edward Kent - Corrections - 18 years

February

Pam Ehrhardt - County Manager's Office - 33+ years

Wes Fontaine - Central Services - 35 years

Robert Funderburk - Property Appraisal - 24 1/2 years

Carolyn McGarity - Revenue - 30+ years

Robert Ropp - Central Services - 30 years

John Scamahorn - Central Services - 16+ years

Fred Schwenck - Central Services - 16 years

Douglas Weaver - Land Acquisition and Management - 30+ years

March

Wayne Barrs - Sheriff's Office - 29 years

Nancy Bronzi - Revenue - 10 years

Phillip Cook - Sheriff's Office - 28+ years

Garry Lester - Traffic Engineering - 22 years

Marckus Moore - Sheriff's Office - 25 years

County Line

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Andy Kelly — District 1

Joshua J. Wagner — District 2

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Carl G. Persis — District 4

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Embrace the green lifestyle this spring

If you are like most people, this time of year finds you itching to freshen up your home and yard. The warmer weather makes us want to feel the fresh air and plant a garden. Before you get started, here are a few tips for living sustainably this spring.

It's time to open those windows to get the fresh spring air! Turning off your air conditioner, even for a little while, can save you money. It's also a great time to make sure your air conditioning system is working efficiently before the long, hot summer. Remember to replace your filter regularly because a

dirty filter restricts air flow and lowers the efficiency of your cooling unit as much as 15 percent, causing it to work harder and use more energy. A check-up of your air conditioning system also is a great idea because it helps to reduce your energy bills and extend the life of your system.

Does your yard need some sprucing up? Now is a good time to get your planting beds ready and to start seeds if you are planting a vegetable garden. Be sure to use natural organic fertilizers and limit the use of pesticides. Organic gardening is healthier for your

family and your ecosystem. If you need to replace freeze-damaged vegetation, consider species that are native to our region as they will thrive year-round with minimal care. Tropical plants, while beautiful, are more suited to our southern neighbors. You'll save time and money by using plants that thrive in Plant Hardiness Zone 9. If you have gardening questions, you can find answers at the Volusia County Extension website, volusia.org/extension.

(See *Green*, page 5)

Are you resting or relaxing?

Just because you rest doesn't mean you relax. For many of us, sleep isn't a restful state. Here are some basic definitions.

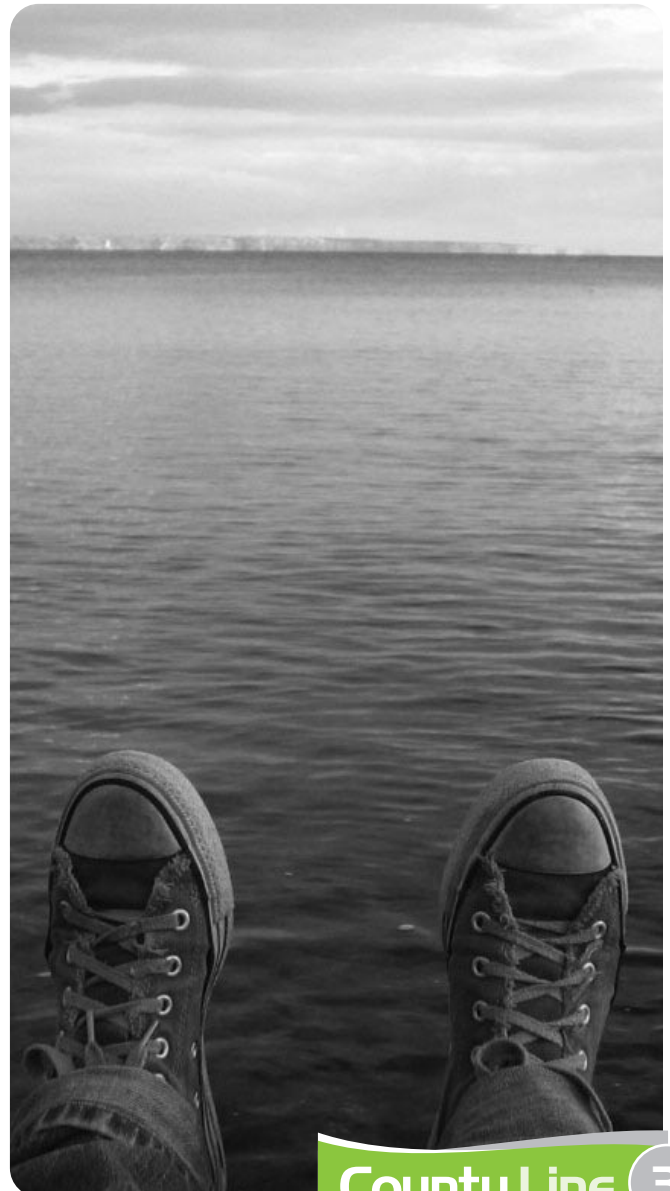
When we rest, we place our entire body in motionless movement. You can rest by sitting or lying down. For example, after you come home from work, you sit in a comfortable chair and rest for 15 minutes, allowing your body to wind down from on-the-job tasks and noises. Resting this way can be very refreshing and, if you can make time for it, a good way to rejuvenate yourself so you can continue with your evening chores.

Relaxation is how you release tension, and it's an important way to counterbalance the "fight or flight response" that is part of our parasympathetic nervous system. During relaxation, blood pressure and cholesterol drop, your blood vessels widen, and your heartbeat slows and stabilizes. Here's a good way to relax – take a 20- to 30-minute walk after dinner. Relaxation is a "stop and smell the roses" way of reducing stress in your mind and body.

When you sleep, you stop all normal daily activities and slowing the mind, heart and body. Try to release any stressful thoughts and concentrate on calmness and tranquility as you lie in a comfortable bed. Sleep is supposed to be a peaceful state for the entire body.

Meditation helps us to relax by reflecting on thoughts in a positive manner. Sit in a chair with your eyes closed and let your muscles relax progressively, starting with your head and ending at your feet. At the same time, quiet your mind. The idea is not to fall asleep, but to release the tension in your muscles and your mind.

The most important part of rest, relaxation, meditation and sleep is slow, quiet breathing. Start by taking a deep breath, counting to 10 as you inhale and then counting to 10 again as you gently exhale. — **Celene Cone, wellness coordinator**



Around the County

Employees show their dark side in ‘Sweeney Todd’

Two employees recently helped to bring the musical thriller “Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street” to life at the Athens Theater in DeLand. Procurement Manager David Santiago portrayed the lecherous Judge Turpin, while Webmaster Tyler Wehmeier played Jonas Fogg, the odious owner of an insane asylum.

The play tells the macabre tale of a barber’s vengeance against the judge who unjustly imprisoned him and kidnapped his wife. Santiago played that judge, who came to an untimely end in the mad barber’s chair. As the curtain fell, Fogg was scrambling to round up his escaped inmates.

“Sweeney Todd” is well known as a complex, musically challenging play, even for professionals, but Santiago and Wehmeier delivered commanding, insightful performances and wowed the audiences with their singing talents.

Santiago, who has been performing in community theaters for 10 years, said he enjoys playing “creepy characters” and finds himself typecast as the bad guy. His favorite role was that of Judd in “Oklahoma,” which appeared at Lake Helen’s Shoestring Theater in 2008. He’s also played the king in “The King and I,” Bill Sykes in “Oliver” and Captain von Trapp in “The Sound of Music.”

“Sweeney Todd was a great show with excellent music,” Santiago said. “It was by far the most complicated play I’ve appeared in, in terms of harmony, timing and characterization.”

Santiago’s next role was that of brothel owner Marcus Lykcus in “A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum,” which opened at the Little Theatre of New Smyrna Beach in February.

Wehmeier surprised friends and coworkers with his bass singing voice and insightful, dark portrayal. Unknown to many, he is a singer and amateur actor off the clock, having sung with bands and been an extra in several films.

“I’ve never really been interested in theater, but when the casting call went out, I thought, ‘This will be perfect – the characters are older and scruffy looking, there’s no dancing, and most parts were in my range.’”

Although he enjoyed the experience, Wehmeier said this was his “first and last stage appearance.” He plans on devoting his off-time to his micro indie record label, where he produces, arranges, records and composes music and shoots and edits videos for bands.

– Pat Kuehn, Community Information



CREEPY CHARACTER – **Tyler Wehmeier**, Community Information, as the nasty Jonas Fogg in “Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street.”

Green *(Continued from page 3)*

This is also a great time to construct a few rain barrels to capture the coming rains. Rain barrels and other rainwater harvesting systems supply you with a steady supply of free water for use in your yard. To find easy ways to build rain barrels, do a web search for “build a rain barrel,” and you’ll find plenty of options.

If you have an outdoor irrigation system, check to make sure you don’t have leaks and that you are watering only within the specified times. With the return of daylight savings time, Volusia County residents may water their lawn more often – two days a week, to be exact. People who live at odd-numbered addresses may water Wednesdays and Saturdays, and people at even-numbered addresses may water Thursdays and Sundays. Each zone of your lawn may be watered for no more than one hour and three-quarters of an inch a day. Watering is not permitted between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. — **Ginger Adair, natural resources director**



In the spotlight



Name: Randy Long

Job: Trades Worker Supervisor for Parks, Recreation and Culture Division

Number of years with the County: 21

Hometown: Central Florida

What you might not know: When Randy was younger, he rodeo'd (bareback bronc riding) and worked on a cattle ranch. He's also part Cherokee Indian.

How he spends his free time: Randy likes to air boat, fish, and hunt. He has two children and three grandchildren.



Around the County

Glenn Scorza leads effort for alternative fuels



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD – Glenn Scorza, projects coordinator for Volusia County's Fleet Management Division, with one of the county's hybrid vehicles.

Glenn Scorza, projects coordinator for Volusia County's Fleet Management Division, has been elected chairman of the Board of Directors of the Space Coast Clean Cities Coalition.

The volunteer coalition represents nine Central Florida counties including Volusia County. It's one of 87 chapters of the Clean Cities Program, a public-private partnership developed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to promote the use of alternative fuels and reduce petroleum consumption.

According to Scorza, coalition members provide public education, help organizations complete DOE grant applications, and benefit from networking opportunities. One of the projects on the board's agenda this year is the development of two public workshops that will provide insight into the current and future uses of alternative fuels.

Scorza, who previously worked as an air traffic controller for the U.S. Air Force, has managed the county's seven fuel sites for the last seven years. Each site offers biodiesel, one of 10 alternative fuels identified by the U.S. Clean Air Act, and may offer charging stations for electric vehicles in the future.

"I believe it's important for local governments to look into alternative fuels as a matter of sustainability," he said.

"Alternative fuels make sense on economic, environmental and social fronts. For example, using biodiesel in place of diesel fuel reduces greenhouse gases and particulate pollutants, while promoting energy independence and domestic industry. Effectively managed, this is also a more cost-effective fueling option."

Scorza and his division director, George Baker, along with the county's Office of Sustainability and Energy Management committee, are researching the feasibility of adding electric vehicles to the county's fleet. According to Scorza, federal tax credits make them comparably priced in relation to gasoline-powered vehicles, and they create nearly zero emissions.

"The organization and leadership of Volusia County's Fleet Management Division is tremendous," he noted. "Our division is very forward-thinking, and we're known nationally as leaders in our field."

In fact, the county's fleet was named the No. 1 public fleet in North America by Fleet Magazine in 2007.

In the last few years, Volusia County's fleet has grown to include 21 hybrid-electric and 184 flex-fuel vehicles, dramatically increasing fuel efficiency and reducing greenhouse emissions. GPS units installed on county vehicles have cut engine idling time in half, saving about \$78,000 a year in reduced fuel and maintenance costs.

16-year Sheriff's veteran promoted to captain

The Sheriff's Office has a new captain, and DeBary has a new law enforcement commander.

Sheriff Ben Johnson presented captain's bars to Eric Dietrich during a recent promotion ceremony in Daytona Beach. A 16-year law enforcement veteran and Volusia County native, Dietrich began his career with the Sheriff's Office in July 1994 and was promoted to sergeant in 2003 and lieutenant in 2005.

"I'm proud of you, and I expect a lot out of you," Sheriff Johnson told Dietrich in front of a large crowd of coworkers and family. "Promotions are earned, and you've definitely earned this."

While the promotion took effect on Dec. 25, Sheriff Johnson made it official during the ceremony in January at the Deputy Stephen Saboda Training Center. A 2009 graduate of the prestigious FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va., the 39-year-old Dietrich also has a bachelor's degree in criminology from the University of Florida. His previous assignments have included patrol, investigations and narcotics. He also heads the Sheriff's Office's SWAT Team and previously served as assistant district commander of the Sheriff's Office's DeLand law enforcement operations.

"It's an honor and a pleasure to present you with your badge," said Sheriff Johnson.

In his new assignment, Dietrich heads the Sheriff's Office's law enforcement operations in District 6, which includes all patrol and investigations in DeBary and some outlying areas. Dietrich supervises a staff of 50 that includes 27 deputies,



WELL-EARNED PROMOTION – **Sheriff Johnson**, left, poses with **Eric Dietrich** after formally promoting Dietrich to the rank of captain during a recent ceremony in Daytona Beach.

21 school crossing guards, one school crossing guard supervisor and an office assistant.

Dietrich, who is married with two children, said he's excited about his new assignment.

"The community has welcomed me with open arms, and I look forward to continuing the excellent relationship the Sheriff's Office has with the city and its residents," he said.

— **Gary Davidson, Sheriff's Office**

Deputies commended for kindness to crime victim



KUDOS – Flanked by crime victim **Mildred Murray**, left, and **Sheriff Johnson**, right, four deputies proudly display their citations. The deputies who were commended are, from left: **Mike Telegdy**, **Amy Smith**, **Nicholas Yackel** and **Mike Morgan**.

After 19 years as a deputy, you would think that he had seen it all. But this was a first, thought Deputy Mike Telegdy as he was dispatched to a report of someone stealing an American flag belonging to the widow of a war veteran. With her flag pole stripped bare, 78-year-old Mildred Murray went

to the Sheriff's Office's district headquarters in DeBary Jan. 2 to report the theft.

"I was taken aback," said Telegdy.

(See *Kindness*, page 8)

Around the County

Kindness *(Continued from page 7)*

Mrs. Murray proceeded to tell the deputy how her now deceased husband, a World War II SeaBee, had started the tradition of flying the flag in their front yard more than a decade ago to honor military veterans – like many in her own family – who had served their country in time of war. After dusting for fingerprints and canvassing the neighborhood for clues, Deputy Telegdy couldn't find any leads. But still this story stuck in the craw of this first-generation Hungarian-American.

He related the story to his fellow deputies – Amy Smith, a member of the Sheriff's Office Honor Guard; Mike Morgan, a Marine Corps veteran; and Nick Yackel, whose father served in the Air Force. They agreed it was their patriotic duty to replace the stolen stars and stripes. That afternoon, the deputies pooled their money, bought Mrs. Murray a new American flag and brought it to her home to surprise her. And surprised she was. She also was extremely grateful the deputies would take the time to replace her flag and moved by their kindness and patriotism.

Not content to just hand the flag to Mrs. Murray, the deputies asked for her permission to present the colors and hoist the flag in a ceremony. And she said she felt honored. To capture the moment, the deputies lent Mrs. Murray a digital camera and went to the store to make prints as a

memento for her collection.

"It would have been an injustice not to have done something – just to have left her there with a bare flag pole," said Deputy Telegdy. And his fellow deputies agreed. Meanwhile, an extremely appreciative Mrs. Murray wrote a note of thanks to Sheriff Ben Johnson. "You'll never know (how) grateful I am for my new flag," she wrote. "You have the best people working for you... I'm so proud of these guys and gals."

And so is Sheriff Johnson, who presented the four deputies with a unit commendation during a recent ceremony at the Deputy Stephen Saboda Training Center in Daytona Beach. Mrs. Murray was on hand to witness the awards presentation and add her words of thanks and praise.

"The exceptional kindness and compassion exhibited by Deputy Michael Morgan, Deputy Amy Smith, Deputy Michael Telegdy and Deputy Nicholas Yackel embody the philosophy of going above and beyond the call of duty in service to the community," Sheriff Johnson wrote in the citation that accompanied the commendation. "Their actions helped to lift the spirits of a crime victim and bring honor to themselves and the Volusia County Sheriff's Office." — **Gary Davidson, Sheriff's Office**

Movers and shakers

- **Brent Schlapper, D.O.**, recently passed the examination for added qualifications in occupational medicine. Dr. Schlapper has been practicing in DeLand for more than 31 years and has been employed by the county for the last 10 years. He is one of the few board certified occupational medicine physicians in Central Florida.
- **Network Services Manager Brian Whiting** recently

received recertification as a Cisco certified network professional. Whiting has worked in the Information Technology Division since January 2008.

Do you know a mover and shaker?

Please contact Joanne Magley in Community Information at JMagley@co.volusia.fl.us with the details.

Marine Science Center's Turtle Day - April 30

APRIL 30: TURTLE DAY

This fun festival will celebrate sea turtle and seabird rehabilitation with free admission to Marine Science Center all day. Watch rehabilitated turtles and birds return to the wild at 3 p.m. at the Beach Street ramp (subject to weather and animals).

When: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, April 30

Where: Marine Science Center, 100 Lighthouse Drive, Ponce Inlet

