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Volusia County FLORIDA

County Line

March/April 2013

Bigger and better

Emergency/communications center to open in April

Staff from the Emergency Management Division and Volusia County Sheriff's Office recently gave the public a sneak peak at the new Emergency Operations and Sheriff's Communications Center, which is set to open April 4.

The 43,000-square-foot, $21 million facility on Tiger Bay Road will serve as the county's consolidated public dispatch center and provides a central location for disaster response officials to make strategic decisions.

The expansive building houses a 4,000-square-foot emergency operations center that can hold 90 support staff during disasters and a 6,500-square-foot 9-1-1 emergency dispatch center that has 60 consoles for dispatchers.

Features include a computerized building management system, state-of-the-art communications and energy systems, a helicopter landing area, citizens information center, news media broadcast room, 80-foot backup radio tower, ham radio center, backup generators, staff offices, kitchen and cafeteria, bunk rooms for emergency workers, and parking for 280 vehicles.

Check out the March 3 Volusia Magazine feature about the new center. Go to volusia.org and click on the News tab, then Volusia Magazine.



WAR ROOM – *Ryan Williams tours the public through the county's new emergency operations center, which will be the hub for disaster planning.*

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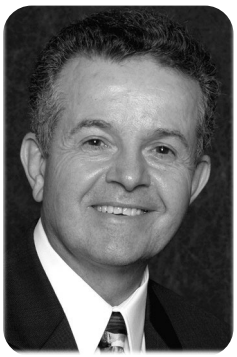
Diversity celebration better than ever!



Jim Dinneen

My hat is off to all of you who participated in this year's diversity celebration. I thought last year's response was phenomenal. This year's was even better. I know the members of our county council were equally as impressed.

I certainly recognize that as we have downsized our organization you are busier than ever, and I realize putting the diversity displays together takes a lot of time and effort. However, I believe the extra effort is well justified. Many of you worked on your display on your own time, and even spent your own money. That speaks volumes about the quality of our employees.

As has been said many times, it's very important the county's workforce mirror the people we serve. As our country's and our community's demographics become even more diverse, so should the county's workforce. We should recognize and embrace the changing complexion of our citizenry.

It's obvious to me, in looking at the diversity displays you created, you all approach diversity in a different way. For some of you, diversity means people of different races; for others, diversity means people from different cultural backgrounds; and for others diversity is the different areas where we were born and raised.

Collectively, our diversity displays are diverse in and of themselves.

Besides celebrating and embracing our differences, our diversity event has many other benefits. This year the teams were composed of employees from different work areas. While at first the pairings might have seemed awkward, the sense I got is that once the ice was broken, as county employees, we all have much in common. Learning to work outside our "comfort zone" is part of being a diverse workforce.

Taking different ideas of the team members and molding them into one themed display is an excellent workplace exercise. The friendly competition and team spirit that exude through the creation of these very creative approaches to diversity is team building at its best.

To the winners of this year's competition, my congratulations. I am not going to single out any one display because in my judgment every display was a winner. I am very proud of our county workforce. Once again, you rose to the challenge. Thanks again. **— Jim Dinneen, County Manager**

County Line

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It's all about us!

We express our feelings for fellow employees and friends by saying "How are you?" or "Have a great day" or "Take care." Believe it or not, most of us use these expressions because we really care.

Taking care means to begin or maintain habits that lead to vitality, zest and good health. A healthy lifestyle is one of our most important guarantees of lifelong heartiness, and we can eliminate many serious chronic diseases by making good preventive health decisions. Living a long time is the goal of most people, but unless we are healthy into our old age, nothing else has meaning.

This means we should have periodic check-ups with a health care professional even when we are young.

Depending on our age, family history and lifestyle, we may have risk factors that will sneak up on us such as diabetes, sickle cell anemia, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and high triglyceride levels. Living in Florida, we should have skin screenings quite often to avoid skin cancers at any age.

As we age, we should have our eyes screened thoroughly by an ophthalmologist to check for cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration and detached retinas. When was the last time we saw our dentist for a cleaning or had our gums checked for periodontal disease? Are we getting enough sleep? When was our last annual physical exam?

If we have a medical problem, we should seek professional care as soon as possible to prevent a condition from becoming worse or to alleviate pain and suffering.

To be healthy, we must take charge of our own destiny. Use the We-attitudes:

- We must include in our diet a rainbow of colors for fruits and vegetables.
- We must be physically active daily, even if we walk or just get up and move around once every 30 minutes.
- We can reduce our stress by taking deep breaths and releasing tension while breathing out.
- We should get seven to 10 hours of sleep each night to help the body repair itself by being relaxed.
- We can stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water daily.
- We can be kind to someone each day because everyone needs kindness.
- We can be kind to ourselves because we are in charge of our body and mind.

Please take care and be well!

— Celene Cone, Wellness Coordinator



Volusia County FLORIDA

Retirements

February

Billy Cagle, Road and Bridge – 13 years
William Coffey, Sheriff's Office – 12 years
Michael Daino, Airport – 21 years
Naymond Fontenot, Corrections – 14 years
Steve Sullivan, Ocean Center – 13 years
Gregory Taylor, Sheriff's Office – 25 years
Douglas Vimmerstedt, Economic Development – 10-plus years

March

Robert Ware, Corrections – 25 years

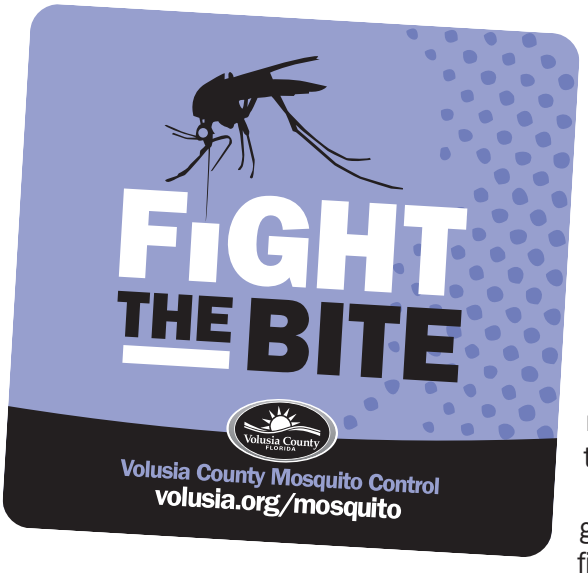


Intern Haley Dawson in the Mosquito Control lab.

Intern program gets students off to a flying start

The Mosquito Control Division's intern program helps college students gain valuable work experience and get a leg up on the competition when they're applying for jobs after college.

"Our interns experience the field and laboratory aspects of integrated mosquito management," explained Mosquito Control Director **Jim McNelly**. "We hope to provide them with 'resume material' and the opportunity to meet other professionals who might provide guidance and assistance down the road."



Last year, all six interns took park in a USDA-funded research project that monitored container mosquito production and control concepts. In addition to setting and collecting traps, interns learned to identify mosquitoes by species and maintain a database. They also analyzed and graphed data.

Haley Dawson, who graduated from the University of Central Florida, was one of those interns. She shared her gratitude with the Mosquito Control staff in this letter:

"While it seems like it was only yesterday that I left Mosquito Control, many great things have happened since then! In January I was hired at a stormwater and drainage engineering firm, Singhoffen & Associates, as an engineering technician. They are wonderful people, and they wish to help me grow in my career from undergrad to fledgling engineer to professional.

"I firmly believe that I would not have gotten this fantastic job without having first worked with you all at Mosquito Control. Thank you so much for having taken us with open arms and being so interested in our success.

"Please know that your efforts in the program have dramatically improved the life of at least one of your interns. There is no doubt that I will always remember my Mosquito Control summer and all the great people who filled it."

The write stuff

Are you feeling all right or alright? Will your work affect or effect the bottom line? Here are some tips to help you avoid some common grammatical errors.

Affect/effect

- *Affect*, as a verb, means to influence. Example: The game will affect the standings.
- *Affect*, as a noun, is only used to describe a psychological state. It's rarely used.
- *Effect*, as a verb, means to cause. Example: We will effect changes in the department.
- *Effect*, as a noun, means, result. Example: The effect was overwhelming.

All right

Never *alright*.

Among/between

Between introduces two items. *Among* introduces three or more items. Examples: The assets were divided between Sharon and Lori. The assets were distributed among Sharon, Lori and Greg.



Capitalization

In general, avoid unnecessary capitals. Capitalize only proper names.

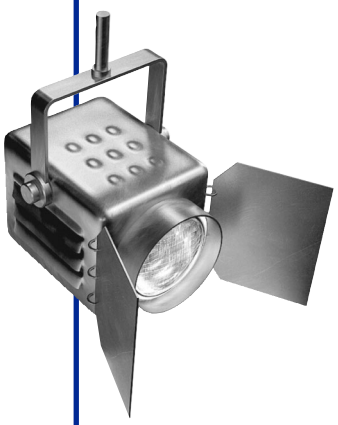
Commas

Use commas to separate elements in a series, but don't put a comma before the conjunction in a simple series. Example: The flag is red, white and blue.

Compose/comprise

Compose means to create or put together. *Comprise* means to contain, include or embrace. Examples: The United States is composed of 50 states. Fifty states comprise the United States.

In the spotlight



Name: Nanci Nolin

Job: As support services manager for the Beach Safety Division, she's responsible for coordinating the division's day-to-day administration functions, ensuring they meet mission, policy and budgetary requirements.

Number of years with the county: 30

Born and raised: Daytona Beach



What she likes about her job: "My job encompasses a little bit of everything Beach Safety is responsible for, which keeps it challenging and exciting," she said. "I also enjoy my interactions with other county divisions and the working relationships formed over the years."

How she spends her spare time: She enjoys boating and fossil hunting with her husband and three dogs.



TOP STAFF *– Sheriff Ben Johnson poses with his employees of the year. Pictured from left to right are William Maxwell, Annette Cazella, Frank Sclafani, Sheriff Johnson, Brian Cobb and Karen Pierce.*

Employees of the year honored

Each year four Sheriff's Office employees and one volunteer are carefully chosen out of an outstanding pool of more than 1,000 people for their exceptional work performance. The five have demonstrated superior work ethics and achievements throughout their careers. Sheriff **Ben Johnson** recently honored these top-performing Employees of the Year 2012 during a ceremony at the Deputy Stephen Saboda Training Center.

Deputy of the year **Karen Pierce** is the school resource deputy at Galaxy Middle School and Deltona High School. The principals of both schools praised her as an effective, professional and caring law enforcement representative to all the students. She's always positive and uplifting and is frequently asked by teachers to talk to their students about character building and making the right choices.

"You've worked hard and you deserve this," said Sheriff Johnson.

Investigator of the year **Brian Cobb** volunteered to take on a tough project that required months to bring to fruition. In addition to his regular case load, he gathered substantial background information concerning illegal activities at two scrap yard businesses that had been causing significant problems for multiple law enforcement agencies due to the owners' refusal to comply with state statutes. Cobb obtained financial records, created organizational charts, did background checks on employees, and conducted surveillance. Finally, he prepared a 22-page search warrant that led to the arrest of two defendants for dealing in stolen property, grand theft and other charges.

"Investigator Cobb is never looking for an excuse on why not to work a case, but rather questions himself on how to solve the case," said Cobb's supervisor, Sergeant Garey MacDowell.

Civilian employee of the year **Annette Cazella** has her hands full with clerical and receptionist duties and data processing for the Sex Crimes and Internet Crimes Against Children units. But she continually takes on more responsibilities to keep the units on the cutting edge.

She sought out training on and access to several analytical databases that enable investigators to send case information across the state and nationwide. This expands their ability to gather intelligence and coordinate with other agencies.

"It's an honor and a pleasure to present you with the annual award," said Sheriff Johnson.

Shortly after midnight on Feb. 20, 2012, telecommunicator of the year **Frank Sclafani** was dispatching for the South Daytona Police Department when a suspicious vehicle incident started. The vehicle fled from officers, and as the incident progressed, the vehicle pursuit passed through four cities, involving several officers from different agencies. Sclafani coordinated the constant flow of information as the direction of travel changed frequently. At one point, the fleeing driver attempted to run over an officer who was deploying stop sticks. Through it all, Sclafani remained calm and accurately documented all the information in a timely manner.

"What a great job," said Sheriff Johnson. "You've always been there for us."

Volunteer of the year **William Maxwell** had to meet some tough requirements to take on a position with the Major Case Unit's Cold Case Homicide Squad. But he exceeded those expectations as he poured 230 hours of volunteer time into helping establish the new squad. Maxwell assisted in the construction of a special storage area for the files and he then handled, read and copied every document to organize them for easy retrieval. Maxwell is a retired Volusia deputy.

"We appreciate you coming back and doing what you're doing for us," said Sheriff Johnson.

— Brandon Haught, Volusia County Sheriff's Office

VCSO unveils plan to publicize unsolved murders

Cold case homicides – or unsolved murders for which the trail of clues has led to a dead-end – are among the most haunting of cases for law enforcement. And the murder of James Aslinger is no different in that regard.

It was in May of 1974 when Aslinger was found murdered inside a home on Benson Junction Road in DeBary. The victim was found dead about a week shy of his 31st birthday, his body exhibiting signs of violent trauma that resulted in the case being declared a homicide. The identity of his killer has never been determined and the trail of clues has long grown cold for sheriff's investigators. But while the case has grown cold, it has been far from forgotten.

In fact, just last year the Sheriff's Office's Major Case Unit established a cold case squad that's dedicated to poring through old case files in an effort to revive unsolved cases and bring killers to justice. And the cold case squad recently tapped into cyberspace to launch a campaign to bring new energy and attention to cases like James Aslinger's. The hope is that the public exposure will jog memories and cause someone with information to come forward and help investigators bring closure to these cases.

"Many of these cases have been out of the public's consciousness for decades," said Sergeant **Pat Thoman**, head of the Sheriff's Office's Major Case Unit. "Still, every single one of them is potentially solvable. Every open case is one clue or one tip away from being solved. It's just a matter of reaching the people who have the information we need, and that's the reason for tapping into the Internet."



As part of the new effort, the Sheriff's Office on Feb. 11 unveiled its first in a series of cold case homicides of the week. The first one out of the box was the Aslinger case. The victim's picture and a brief information box have been posted on the Sheriff's Office's Facebook page and website. Thirty-eight other cases are being published on successive Mondays. The 38 cases represent 39 victims – one of the cases, the oldest dating back to 1957, is a double-murder. Of the victims, 24 are men and 15 are women. For seven of the victims, their identities are unknown – officially classified as four John Does and three Jane Does. The youngest victim was 2 years old. And for each victim, investigators remain hopeful that the trail of clues will heat up again and lead them to the killers.

"Often, public exposure is our biggest ally in solving crime," said Sergeant Thoman. "I've got to believe that someone out there is going to see one of these cases and have that aha moment and pick up the phone. Each and every one of these cases is one phone call away from being solved."

– Gary Davidson, Volusia County Sheriff's Office



Movers and shakers

Recktenwald, Angiulli promoted

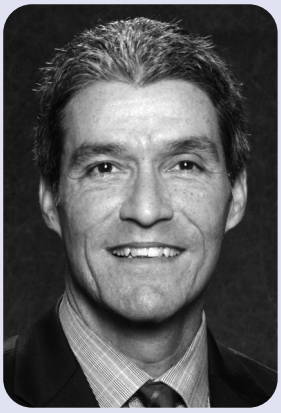
The Volusia County Council recently approved the promotions of two long-time employees who have demonstrated dedication and leadership as they rose through the ranks.



• **George Recktenwald**, who joined the county's staff as operations supervisor for the Road and Bridge Division in 1997, was named director of Public Protection. He has served in a series of senior management positions including Public Works director, acting Ocean Center director, and acting Public Protection director.

The Public Works Association named him director of the year in 2012, and the Florida Association of Counties named him urban engineer of the year in 1999 and 2010.

Recktenwald has a bachelor's degree in industrial technology from the State University of New York at Binghamton.



• **John Angiulli**, a 19-year veteran of Volusia County Government, is the new Public Works director. His county career began in Community Services, where he administered federal grant programs. In 2004, he became the operations manager for Public Works, where he provided oversight for all Public Works divisions and has been instrumental in developing systems to identify operational costs and efficiencies. He has been acting director since December 2011.

Angiulli has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Central Florida.

Do you know a mover and shaker?
Please contact Pat Kuehn in Community Information at pkuehn@volusia.org with the details.



ON THE AIR – *Volusia Magazine anchor Amber Patterson*

Keep up to date with Volusia Magazine

Did you know the county has a television program called Volusia Magazine? It's been on the air every week since the mid-1980s. With each program, you'll learn about the latest county news – from new park openings to library programs and recent County Council initiatives. There also are in-depth stories on health, lifestyle and business and a topical discussion with a department director or community leader.

"We make sure our news stories have a broad appeal to viewers not only countywide, but in neighboring counties as well where WDSC broadcasts," said Community Services Director **Dave Byron**. "The program is an important communications tool. It allows us to promote our county and inform our citizens of what's going on throughout the county."

A new 30-minute television program is produced every week by the Community Information staff in a studio, which is on the second floor of the Information Technology building in DeLand.

Volusia Magazine airs at 5 p.m. every Sunday and 7:30 p.m. every Monday on WDSC, channel 15.

You also can watch Volusia Magazine online! Visit volusia.org/tv. New programs are posted each Tuesday.

If you have any ideas for future news or feature stories, please contact Community Information Manager Joanne Magley at **jmagley@volusia.org**.