



# eCountyLine

A newsletter for Volusia County employees

Summer 2018

## FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER'S DESK

### A time for new beginnings



They say time flies when you're having fun. If so, that explains why the last 12½ years have been fabulous and fleeting.

Volusia County's professional staff is second to none anywhere in the public sector. I have formed many close friendships during my tenure and developed a deep respect for our outstanding workforce.

As with all things, change takes place, creating new opportunities for the organization and for myself. I have always wanted to embark on at least one, if not two, more career opportunities after my tenure as Volusia County Manager.

In the last 12½ years, we've been through good times and some difficult times – definitely more good times! I'm proud I can walk away, leaving the organization better and more fiscally sound than when I found it. And I look forward to watching more great things happen – this time from the sidelines.

I leave knowing you are in good hands because the Volusia County Council has appointed **George Recktenwald** to serve as interim county manager. George is a proven leader and has the best interests of employees and our citizens in mind.

It's never easy to say goodbye, especially to a group of such dedicated employees. But just know I've had a wonderful time being your county manager.

I wish all of you the best of success in the future.

- Jim Dinneen



**BACK IN ACTION** – Library employees pose on the new Rachel Robinson Play Yard at the Daytona Beach Regional Library on reopening day, May 5.

## Daytona Beach Regional Library reopens after renovation

**Lucinda Colee** was stunned when she walked into the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island on Sept. 12, 2017, one day after Hurricane Irma swept through, leaving extensive flooding in its wake. As the library services director waded through ankle-deep water, she wondered, "How are we going to fix this?"

The library's employees arrived, saving the precious books that were above the water line and moving furniture and computers into unflooded areas.

A massive team effort by numerous county divisions ensued. After a mighty eight-month renovation and repair project, the library reopened to thrilled patrons on May 5.

The popular downtown library is back and better than ever, with new flooring, paint, furniture and a welcome addition – the Rachel Robinson Play Yard. The fenced-in play yard offers playground equipment and pavilions where children and their parents can play and relax in a peaceful place along the Halifax River.



Children's librarians **Leanette Gore** and **Debra Robbins** are happy to be back at their home branch.



## On the move



**ON THE JOB** – Tadd Kasbeer is overseeing construction of the Tom Staed Veterans Memorial Bridge, which is expected to open in 2019.

### New county engineer tapped

The Volusia County Council has approved the promotion of **Tadd Kasbeer** to the position of county engineer.

Kasbeer was hired as an assistant county engineer in August 2016 under a succession plan for the replacement of **Gerald Brinton**, who retired in March 2018. Brinton cross-trained him on critical aspects of the county engineer position.

Before joining Volusia County's team, Kasbeer worked in the private sector and for state government. He started his career with the Florida Department of Transportation's District 5 office in DeLand, where he worked as a roadway designer and environmental permit engineer before becoming the district's permit engineer.

Over the next 14 years, he worked as a project engineer for Zev Cohen & Associates before moving up to a project manager and office manager position with Bowyer-Singleton Associates, which merged with Dewberry Engineers.

Kasbeer has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Arizona and has been a professional engineer licensed in Florida since 1999.

He values a customer service oriented approach and has experience in design and management; contract management; federal, state and local permitting; budgeting, scheduling and supervising staff and engineers.

### Tiffany Alvarez promoted



Congratulations to **Tiffany Alvarez**, who has been promoted to accountant.

Alvarez joined the county's Accounting Division in 2016 as an administrative coordinator after having worked as an executive assistant with Sears for seven years. She has a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Central Florida.

In her new position, she prepares fund work papers for land, building and capital assets for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. She also maintains the accounting records of specific funds of the county, such as Mosquito Control and the Volusia County Public Library.

### Christopher Hooper certified



**Chris Hooper**, a code compliance officer in the Building and Zoning Division, recently earned certification in legal issues from the Florida Association of Code Enforcement.

Hooper, who began his career with the county in 2012, is also certified in fundamentals, administrative aspects, and officer safety and field applications. He has a bachelor's degree in public administration from the University of Central Florida and a passion for meteorology.

His job is to enforce the county's Code of Ordinances and Florida Building Codes.



**PROMOTION** – Beach Safety Director Ray Manchester, right, congratulates Marc Rodriguez on his promotion to sergeant.

## Tips to save money on health care costs



**BE A SMART SHOPPER.** You will have lower out-of-pocket costs if you use a pharmacy in Cigna's network.

Savvy shoppers know how to get the best deals when buying a new phone, booking a flight, or using coupons at the store. Health care is another big expense you might target for trimming costs, but it's more complicated. There are multiple layers to peel back to understand the costs and find ways to save money.

**Here are some ways you can get started:**

**Make the most of your health insurance.** Find out what's covered before you need to use it. Also be sure to find doctors in Cigna's network and ask for medications covered on your plan's list of approved drugs. If you're unsure about coverage, please call Cigna at 800-Cigna24 for more information.

**Ask questions in the doctor's office.** Learn more before moving forward with tests or treatments. It's okay to ask your provider if a test is necessary. Let your doctor know if you've had the same test already with another provider. Be sure to ask your provider if there's a generic version of the medication you've been prescribed.

**Compare the cost of care.** Ask how much a specific service, test or treatment will cost.

**Take advantage of preventive care.** See your health care provider for regular health screenings and vaccines. Doing so can help keep illness at bay or catch a problem at its earliest, most treatable and least expensive stage.

**Shop around for prescription drugs.** The prices for certain drugs may be higher or lower at different pharmacies, you will have lower out-of-pocket costs if you use a pharmacy in Cigna's network. Also, using generic medications instead of brand-name drugs (when available) can help you save money.

**Get your care at the right place.** You can save time and money by choosing the right level of care for your situation. For serious medical issues that are not a true emergency (not life-threatening), consider using an urgent care facility. For minor issues, see if your primary care provider is available or consider using a convenience care clinic. As part of your Cigna medical plan, you have access to telehealth services. Telehealth lets you get the care you need, including prescriptions, for a wide range of minor issues. You can connect with a board certified doctor via video chat or phone without leaving your home or office 24/7. For more information, call Cigna at 800-Cigna24 or visit [www.mycigna.com](http://www.mycigna.com).

**Use 24-hour health information services.**

Take advantage of this service by calling 800-Cigna24. You can talk to an experienced nurse who can help you decide whether your condition warrants a trip to the doctor's office or emergency room. If it's something you can take care of yourself, the nurse can give you recommendations over the phone.



This is intended to be general health information and not medical advice. You should consult your doctor for medical advice or services, including seeking advice before undertaking a new diet or exercise program.



*Lisa Somers, R.N., is a Cigna employee who coordinates health programs and promotions to help employees and their dependents lead healthy lifestyles. Employees can contact her at ext. 13249 or [cignaadvocate@volusia.org](mailto:cignaadvocate@volusia.org).*



## Al Hill: His passions are GIS, community service



**'LIBRARIAN OF DATA'** – As the GIS manager, Al Hill collects and stores spatial data, which helps to simplify and improve processes for many departments.

**Al Hill** gets a glimmer in his eye when he talks about GIS (geographic information systems).

GIS, he explains, is the “science of where.” It can be used to collect, manage, analyze and display all types of geographic data. The key word here is geography – this means that parts of the data are geospatial, dealing with locations and mapping.

Hill acquired his love for maps as an Eagle Scout growing up in Massachusetts. This interest was further cemented after he joined the U.S. Army National Guard, where he served in the infantry for 11 years. During this time he took an elective in geography at Fitchburg State College. After receiving a bachelor's degree in geography and geology from the college, he went on to earn a master's degree in geography and remote sensing from the University of Tennessee Knoxville.

He joined Volusia County's Information Technology Division in 1989, when governments were beginning to realize the advantages of digital mapping. Working with **Elaine Whitehead**, then the GIS director, he helped to build the county's GIS activity from the ground up.

Hill soon discovered that GIS was the right fit – it combined his love of government work with his knack for problem solving through digital mapping systems.

Today, there are six employees in the GIS/LIS (land information systems) Section – Hill, **Nancy Church**, **Darren Eddleman**, **Patrick Ricker**, **Jason Olsen** and **Christine Barber**.

How does GIS help the county? “GIS allows us to improve efficiencies, integrate land-based information systems, share data with other jurisdictions and save taxpayer dollars by creating data once and using it multiple times,” Hill explained, adding that the county's interactive maps serve about 1.5 million users a year.

The GIS/LIS team's work is particularly helpful during disasters, when the GIS staff maps road closures, flooding, and sandbag and shelter locations.

The team works closely with the county's municipalities and regional organizations and even offers training to their GIS staffs. “The close working relationships we have with them is priceless,” Hill noted.

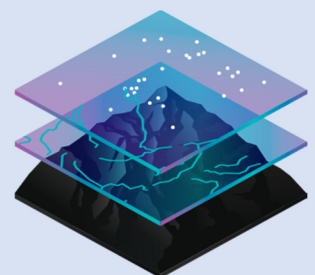
Off the clock, Hill embraces community service as a Meals on Wheels volunteer, college instructor and all-around GIS advocate. He's an adjunct professor at Daytona State College, teaching GIS in Marine and Environmental Science, and heads a user group of county and city GIS professionals that meets monthly.

For the past 12 years, Hill has been the board chair and president of the Central Florida GIS Workshop, a nonprofit group that presents a two-day educational conference every year. This year's workshop will be at the Ocean Center in September and is expected to attract more than 200 GIS professionals from around the state.

Hill is also a member of the Geo Mentor Program, which arranges for GIS professionals to attend career days and conduct STEM training in K-12 schools. Members help teachers with software and serve as judges for the Florida Technological Student Association, a STEM program in middle and high schools.

### What is GIS?

According to ESRI, the largest GIS software company in the world, a geographic information system is a framework for gathering, managing and analyzing data.



Rooted in the science of geography, GIS integrates many types of data. It analyzes spatial location and organizes layers of information into visualizations using maps and 3D scenes. With this unique capability, GIS reveals deeper insights into data, such as patterns and relationships.

# Around the County



**FIRE SAFETY** – Volusia County Fire Rescue recently took part in Vehicle Day at George Marks Elementary School in DeLand. The crew of Engine 42 spoke with more than 400 children about fire safety. Pictured above, Firefighter David Kelly talks about the equipment he uses to extinguish fires.

## Environmental Management wins statewide award

Volusia County's Environmental Management Division recently received the Community Service Award from the Florida Chapter of the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association for its work on the annual St. Johns River Cleanup.



The award, which was presented at the association's conference in May, recognizes a local program that goes beyond hazardous waste inspections to do community outreach.

Volusia County Environmental Management was chosen for this award in competition with the other 66 counties in Florida.

This year's cleanup, which was coordinated by Environmental Specialist **Joan Coil**, attracted 619 volunteers who picked up 5,300 pounds of trash from the water and riverbanks.

## Wellness program recognized



The Fun Coast Worksite Wellness Council has awarded its highest Healthiest Companies Award, the platinum award, to Volusia County for its employee wellness program.

"For the past three years, the county had received the bronze award," noted Human

Resources Manager **David Merrill**. "We were able to go from bronze to platinum by teaming with Cigna."

Employers qualify for the awards by meeting criteria that demonstrate a commitment to improving and maintaining the quality of employee health in the workplace.

The council applauded the Volusia County/Cigna partnership, which includes an on-site health advocate registered nurse, a 24/7 telehealth program, and an online health assessment questionnaire that allows employees to better understand their health risks and participate in healthy lifestyle coaching from Cigna.

Judges also recognized the county's wellness centers, lunch-and-learn educational programs, benefits app, after-hours wellness classes, full-time onsite physical activity routines, and the annual health and benefits fair.



**COQUINA CUP** – Volusia County's Beach Safety Division placed second in the inaugural Coquina Cup competition, held from May 17 to 19 in Flagler Beach. Pictured above are Clayton Dubrule and Cameron Goss. Other members of Volusia County's team were Alan Holt, A.J. Miller, Levi Parsons and Madi Young.



# Around the County

## Retirements

### March

Brian Sauter, Coastal, 36 years  
Gloria "Lynn" Page, County Attorney's Office, 12 years  
Donna Peterson, Management and Budget, 28 years  
Robert Nickell, Central Services, 17 years  
Hugh Williams, Corrections, 29 years  
Debra Secunda, Library Services, 28 years  
Deborah Sapp, Mosquito Control, 17 years  
Gerald Brinton, Engineering and Construction, 14 years

### April

Richard Mather, Airport, 11 years  
Lorri Bush, Library Services, 30 years  
Thomas Brooks, Planning and Development, 28 years  
Michael Brothers, Environmental Management, 13 years  
William Fyfe, Elections, 36 years  
Josephine Dede, Sheriff's Office, 12 years  
John Calogero, Central Services, 28 years  
Lynn Clemmons, Corrections, 24 years

### May

David Dyer, Corrections, 14 years  
Mark Fitton, Corrections, 25 years  
Inez Jeffers, Library Services, 33 years  
Deborah Ivie, Sheriff's Office, 21 years  
Willie-Mae Mitchell, Sheriff's Office, 15 years  
Sharon Lamb, Sheriff's Office, 17 years  
Carmella Raven, Sheriff's Office, 29 years  
Linda Rogers, Sheriff's Office, 20 years  
Jeffrey Taylor, Sheriff's Office, 14 years

### June

Dominick Amendolare Jr., Sheriff's Office, 31 years  
Michael Brasol, Fire Services, 27 years  
Sandra Moore, Revenue, 11 years  
Suzanne Reinhardt, Information Technology, 10 years  
Kathy Blawn, Library Services, 24 years  
Dale Hammond, Sheriff's Office, 20 years  
Jim Dinneen, County Manager, 12 years



## Employee spotlight: Jen Adams

**Job:** As the event services manager for the Ocean Center, Jen Adams is the liaison between clients and the convention center. She handles onsite event management and coordinates all logistics, including building schedules, room setups and staffing.

**Hire date:** She began her career with the county in November 2014.

**What she likes about her job:** "I enjoy the relationships I have with our repeat clients and working on the details to make events happen."

**Personal:** An "Army brat," she was born in Paris, France, and moved frequently. She spent most of her childhood in northern Virginia and moved to Volusia County in 1988.

**Off the clock:** She's the president and founder of the nonprofit organization Hush Puppy Haven, which temporarily fosters pets of domestic violence survivors. The group is working on a large project to build kennels at a local domestic violence shelter so families don't have to be separated from their pets while they are getting help. Her organization is always looking for short-term foster homes for pets.

**Did you know?** During the last fiscal year, the Ocean Center hosted 123 events that attracted more than 286,000 attendees. The events included 29 conferences and conventions and 31 sporting events. The convention center also hosted numerous community shows and social events, including the ever-popular high school and college graduations.



# In the News



**UNDERWATER CLEANUP** – This award-winning video shows an underwater cleanup in Ponce Inlet, where county employees remove and recycle fishing line from the rocks around the jetty. Pictured above is Jennifer Winters.

## Volusia Magazine honored



Video Production Coordinator **Gary Daniels** received two honors from the 39th annual Telly Awards, a national competition that recognizes excellence in video and television.

Daniels – who shoots video for the county's weekly television show, Volusia Magazine – won a silver award in the nature/wildlife division for a feature on Surfers for Autism and a bronze award in the general cause marketing division for an underwater cleanup video. Volusia Magazine was the only local television show to win in the two categories; the other winners were national television shows.

The 2018 Telly Awards received more than 12,000 entries from all 50 states and five continents. Entries were judged by more than 200 industry experts, including representatives from advertising agencies, production companies and major television networks.

Watch the videos at <https://youtu.be/Ni54inaTOOg> and <https://youtu.be/REq7ldRcTWs>.

Volusia Magazine airs at 5 p.m. Sundays and 7:30 p.m. Mondays on WDSC-TV15.

## Share the news!

Did you recently earn a college degree, receive an award or certification, perform valuable community service, or come up with a great idea to reduce costs or improve service in your department? Is your division doing something new and exciting?

If so, please send your story to Community Information Specialist **Pat Kuehn** at [pkuehn@volusia.org](mailto:pkuehn@volusia.org).

## Employees make the grade



**Robert Brown**, an analyst in Criminal Justice Information Services, recently earned a bachelor's degree in supervision and management from Daytona State College.

In his final class, he was part of a team that helped establish the Daytona Beach satellite branch of the Project Management Institute. He's now pursuing designation as a certified associate in project management.

Brown worked as a system analyst for the City of Daytona Beach for 13 years before joining the county's IT Division in January 2017.

As a CJIS analyst, he facilitates the flow of information among multiple criminal justice agencies in Volusia County. This includes databases, software applications, hardware installation and support, and the reporting of critical data to thousands of county users.



**Rose Whitehorn**, a library assistant at the Library Support Center, graduated from Daytona State College in May with an associate degree in computer science.

She has worked for the Volusia County Public Library for more than 17 years. As part of the Tech Services team, she works behind the scenes to keep the library system's catalog system and databases running smoothly.



## Volusia County Council

**Ed Kelley**, County Chair  
**Joyce Cusack**, At-large  
**Deb Denys**, Vice Chair, District 3  
**Pat Patterson**, District 1  
**Billie Wheeler**, District 2  
**Heather Post**, District 4  
**Dr. Fred Lowry**, District 5