

Orange County Employee Magazine

# Orange Spiel

Dec. 2010 - Jan. 2011  
Vol. 41 • No. 1

## Animal Services

## *Holiday Gift Program*

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Alert 2010 Targets Cooking Fires  
PAGE 8

Meet County Employees That Say,  
"Shelter Pets Rock!"  
PAGES 13-15





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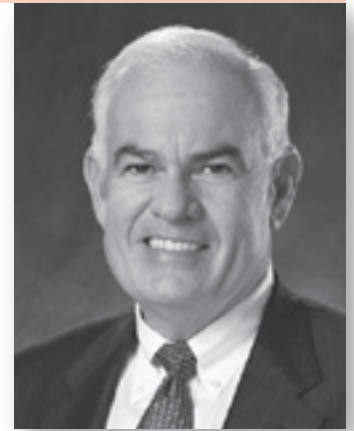
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## Mayor's Letter



Dear County Employee,

It is with a great sense of pride that I write this, my final letter for the *Orange Spiel* as your Mayor. I appreciate all that you have done over the years to make this a "Decade of Success" for Orange County.

In this issue of the *Spiel*, we are featuring Animal Services' Holiday Gift Certificate promotion. Many Orange County employees have opened their hearts and homes to rescue needy animals. Over the years, my family has adopted shelter pets that have enriched our lives beyond measure. This new Animal Services program offers discounts for pet adoptions so I encourage you to get the facts and consider pet adoption. The details are on pages 12-15.

Beginning in January, you will have tax free funds available to help pay for qualified health expenses for yourself and your covered dependents. Turn to page 16 for more information about this health savings account benefit with OptumHealth Bank.

If you're looking for fun ways to celebrate the holiday season, check out the events calendar on page 23 for a variety of community activities that your family will enjoy. And remember; make this a safe holiday season! Take time to test your smoke alarms and change the batteries. Turn to page 8 for other fire safety tips.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with you serving the citizens of Orange County for the past ten years. I pray for your continued success and I know the future of Orange County is in capable hands.

God Bless and Happy Holidays!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard T. Crotty".

Richard T. Crotty

Orange County Mayor





**ON THE COVER**

Animal Services Holiday Gift Certificate Promotion Encourages Lifelong Adoptions  
 Orange County employees pictured: Barbara Faris, Daniel Kilponen (center); Timothy Alcuri, Jennifer Santana, Cathie Rising-Clarke (top - left to right)  
 Cover photo by Mike Davies, Corrections Department

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School closed? The History Center is open!

**HISTORY HOLIDAY CAMPS**

Each day features different activities!

December 20, 21, & 22  
**Holidays Around the World:**

Learn about the traditions of many cultures.

December 27, 28, & 29

**Under the Sea:** Discover the diversity of life underwater.

**DISCOVERY DAY**

Friday, January 21

**Life on the Range:** Gallop through the lives of early Florida cowmen.

Youth and Family Programs sponsored by  
 Orlando Federal CREDIT UNION

ARNOLD PALMER HOSPITAL For Children

Discovery Days Supported by Arnold Palmer Hospital For Children

Grades K-5 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m. • Early drop-off starts 7:30 a.m.  
 Orange County Employees enjoy the Member rate - \$25 per child, per day.  
 10% discount for sibling or multiple-day enrollment. • Extended day until 6 p.m. for \$10 per child, per day.



Call (407) 836-8580 to register now!  
 Visit [thehistorycenter.org](http://thehistorycenter.org) for more information





# PMA Exhibitors Donate Produce to

## Second Harvest Food Bank

BY GWEN WILSON, ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER

**P**roduce and floral suppliers from across the United States and around the world donated an estimated 266,330 pounds of fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida. The donation made by companies exhibiting at the Produce Marketing Association's (PMA) Fresh Summit International Convention and Exposition at the Orange County Convention Center is the largest fresh produce donation received to date by the food bank.

The food and flowers were collected from the convention center on October 18 by more than 100 local food bank volunteers, and will be distributed to needy residents in six Central Florida counties by more than 600 non-profit agencies that feed the hungry. These include emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and meal sites for low-income seniors and more.

"This donation is such an important contribution we make to the community here, especially given the hard economic times that have plagued our country and this state," said Bryan Silberman, PMA president & CEO. "I can't think of a better way to wrap up Fresh Summit than to offer our fresh produce to those who could use it most, and I'm so pleased we were able to work with such a capable and connected organization as Second Harvest Food Bank."

"We're very proud that the exhibitors at the PMA convention chose to make a donation to one of our local charities," said Kathie Canning, the convention center's deputy general manager. "It's great to see our visitors are providing a positive economic impact to our community not only by spending locally, but also giving locally."

**The PMA Fresh Summit International Convention and Exposition is one of the largest international events solely dedicated to fruit, vegetables and floral. Visit [www.pma.com](http://www.pma.com) to learn more.**

### About Second Harvest Food Bank

Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida is a private, nonprofit organization that collects, stores and distributes donated food to more than 600 partner agencies in six Central Florida counties: Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia. For more information, visit [www.foodbankcentralflorida.org](http://www.foodbankcentralflorida.org).



**The October 15-18, 2010 summit drew a record-breaking audience of 18,284 attendees to the Orange County Convention Center.**





The recently upgraded Housing and Community Development Division building on South Street.

## Housing Aims to **Reduce Energy Consumption**

BY **PATRICIA REDMAN**, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

**E**nergy costs consume a large portion of our budgets at every level. Any sustained effort to reduce energy consumption would free up much needed dollars and contribute to reducing our carbon footprint. In recent years high oil prices, combined with a difficult economy, have played a role in redoubling efforts to use less energy and use it more efficiently. Not only do high power bills get our attention, but inserts in these bills that give us energy saving tips are no longer junk mail, but materials that prompt us to act.

We get the sense that collectively we must all be stakeholders in a partnership that shares the common goal of using less energy in our homes, our vehicles and at our workplace. While there are a range of options available, the actions ultimately taken in our work environment are dependent on a number of factors, including the cost of those changes and the willingness of staff to adapt to a new era of constraints as we train ourselves to consciously think about conserving energy.

In keeping with the renewed focus on energy savings, the county recently decided to conduct a number of changes at the Housing and Community Development Division's main office at South Street and Eola Drive to enhance energy efficiency. There had been small fixes made periodically, such as weather stripping of doors that allowed moisture in when it rained and leaked cool air out of the building during the summer. The roof had also undergone extensive work, and a sealant had been

applied to the porous exterior stucco finish. However, broader changes were needed to make a serious impact on energy usage and improve the physical work environment.

The decision to conduct an energy related refurbishment of the two story building during the spring and summer of 2010 resulted in some inconveniences such as the boarding up of windows with plywood, even as business as usual was conducted with the public. However, the "unveiling" of the changes weeks later offered results that were well worth the wait.

The most noticeable change was the removal of the old, single-pane windows, and the installation of double-paned tinted windows that significantly reduced the sound of nearby traffic. These windows would also reduce heat generated from direct sunlight for part of the day. New motion detection light switches were also installed to automatically turn lights off in empty rooms, a helpful feature in meeting and break rooms. Other adjustments made included changes to lighting, using light bulbs that provided better lighting at lower wattage. Installation of a new, quieter, more efficient air conditioning system topped off the changes.

Work is now complete on the Housing and Community Development building. It stands proudly on South Street, seemingly invigorated by improvements that enhance its air quality and energy efficiency. It is a building that has been around for a long time and, with the recent energy upgrades, it will likely be around for many more years.



12th Annual

# Charity Golf Tournament

## Raises \$25,000 for Heart of Florida United Way

BY VICKI DALTON, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

**W**ith golf clubs in hand and a “Live United” spirit in their hearts, employees recently helped raise over \$25,000 for local community service agencies during last month’s 12th Annual Orange County Government Golf Tournament. Held at the Orange County National Golf Course and Lodge, there was an excellent turnout, including participation by six corporate sponsors. With 127 registered golfers – seven foursomes from Orange County – there was plenty of fun to keep the tournament both lively and competitive with awards being given for closest to the pin and longest drive for both men and women.

“During these trying economic times, we want to thank all of our sponsors and players



Golfers Al Jemieson, Scott Lloyd and Josa Rosa show their support for Orange County’s United Way campaign. Scott and Josa work at Parks and Recreation.

for their efforts in helping us raise money for United Way,” said Scott Hellewell, Program Manager for Parks & Recreation who chaired this year’s event. Committee members were Jerry Crandall, Convention Center; Clay Baker, Parks & Recreation; Lauren Buckner, County Administration; Sharon



United Way Golf Committee (left to right): Clay Baker, Scott Hellewell – tournament chairman, Joe Kunkel, Cornita Riley, Dennis Burns of the United Way, Jerry Crandall, Sharon Huston, Lauren Buckner, Laura Shemanski, and Jennifer McMahon of the United Way.

Huston, County Administration; Lt. Vincent Abato, Corrections Department; and Jennifer McMahon from the Heart of Florida United Way.

Corporate sponsors were Black & Veatch Corp., Turner Construction, Sea World, Universal Orlando, Wackent Security, and American Maintenance Inc. Sponsors were recognized in a variety of ways with signs and banners strategically placed at various holes, on the driving range, beverage carts, printed materials, advertising on golf carts, embroidered shirts and a variety of other creative visibility. “This was truly a win-win event,” said Joe Kunkel, 2010 Chairperson for Orange County’s United Way campaign. “This kind of event offers a nice opportunity for folks to get out and have a great day of golf. Our corporate sponsors get some wonderful recognition while creating an atmosphere of community support and care. We all benefit and United Way comes out the greatest winner by being able to help provide services all year long to those in need,” Kunkel said.

Winning the overall event were Ben Bathke, Dan Bathke, Trent Collins and Seth Moorhead, all on the Petroleum Equipment Construction team.

Administrative Services’

## BBQ & Creeper Race Event A Success!

BY LAURA SHEMANSKI, FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION



And the winner is...“Traffic Jamz” from Public Works Traffic Engineering Division with team driver, Cathy Evangelo, taking it to the finish line.

**O**n Friday October 22, 2010, Administrative Services hosted their 8th Annual BBQ and Creeper Race. For a \$5 donation, you could enjoy a pulled pork sandwich or chicken leg quarter with baked beans, chips, and a drink – while listening to awesome music donated by DJ Services of Orlando and watching eleven teams race their homemade creepers.

The creeper race is a heads-up, double elimination bracket race between push vehicles that use a mechanic’s creeper as part of the construction. Operated by a pusher and driver, the

creeper is pushed for 8-10 yards and then let go to coast over a 200-foot course, “drag race” style, to the finish line. Teams also compete for “Best of Show,” which considers rule compliance, technical construction, and curb appeal.

The judges were David Roussel, Manager, and Bryan Lucas, Fleet Management; Wayne Arguin, Risk Management; Dave Wing, Sam Shine, Tim Groth, and Faz Ali, Capital Projects.

The race winner was “Traffic Jamz” from Public Works, Traffic Engineering. Their team consisted of Jamie Furbush (Team Captain/Pusher), Cathy Evangelo (Driver), Gary Rodgers, John Trento, Andy Dermer, and David Rodriguez. Not only did their lightning fast creeper unseat reigning champions “The Jailbirds” from Facilities Management 33rd St District, they also won a trophy and \$500 toward their United Way fundraising!

The “Best of Show” trophy went to “Menzi Muts” of Fleet Management. Additional teams were Facilities Management’s “West District” and Central District’s, “Hangin’ & Bangin;” Fleet Management’s “The Fast One” and “Better Late than Never;” the Convention Center’s “Grease Lighting,” “Upsetters,” and “Air Cool;” and Real Estate/Capital Projects’ “Real Capital.” Imagine how hard it must have been to concentrate on racing when the smell of grilled chicken and BBQ pork filled the air!

The Fleet Management BBQ Cook Team, George Goodman, Robert Smith, and William Smith, fired up their giant smoker in the wee hours Friday morning to cook around 130 pounds of slow cooked super tasty barbeque pork. Making their cooking debut, the Facilities Management Chicken Cook Team, Laura Shemanski and John Slayton, had their grill rockin’ and rollin’



Team member Tom Sidley checks on Facilities Management’s Chicken Cook Team, Laura Shemanski and John Slayton.

before the sun came up as well. Armed with a homemade rub, they cooked 105 pieces of mouth-watering chicken.

At the end of the day, Administrative Services raised \$1,750 and had approximately 250 attendees. Our event would not have been a success without the hard work of the Administrative Services United Way Team and volunteers. Thank you! Special thanks to LIUNA, Harvest Meat Company, Olde Hearth Bread Company, Central Florida Vending Services, Sonny’s BBQ, Honeybaked Ham Company, Subway, BJ’s Warehouse, Wal-Mart, Sam’s Gas, DJ Services of Orlando, and a number of other vendors who donated to our event.



Mike Hicks (left) awarded James Scott (right) with a medal for being the highest-scoring male bowler.



Administrative Services was the Orange County Department with the most registered bowlers at the 2010 Bowling Party.



Mike Hicks (right) with the highest-scoring female bowler, Christine Doan (left).

## 2010 Bowling Party Fundraiser Gets Lots of Support!

BY TRACY NEWSOME, UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

On Saturday, August 21, 122 employees, family members, and friends spent their afternoon at Orange County Government’s 2010 Bowling Party. Eight Orange County departments participated in the fundraiser, which raised almost \$950 for Heart of Florida United Way!

At the event, the Administrative Services Department was recognized with a trophy for having the most registered bowlers (30 in all!). The Fire Rescue Department and the Utilities Department followed closely behind with 26 bowlers and

25 bowlers, respectively. Also recognized at the event were Christine Doan of the Utilities Department, who was the highest-scoring female bowler (176), and James Scott of the Administrative Services Department, who was the highest-scoring male bowler (265).

The bowling party attracted people of all ages and skill levels, which made for a very fun and successful fundraiser! Thank you to everyone who supported this event!



# Orange County Fire Rescue: Alert 2010 Targets Cooking Fires

BY MARK SMOTHERS, FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

**T**his past October, Orange County Fire Rescue kicked off "Fire Prevention Week" with the campaign slogan "ALERT 2010 (Alarms Let Everyone React Timely)." Alert 2010 aggressively targets cooking fires in residential and particularly retirement manufactured home communities.

Statistics from the U.S. Fire Administration confirm that adults over the age 65 are twice as likely to die in a fire as any other age group. Given the large number of retirement communities in Central Florida, and that many of these retirees are unable to self evacuate quickly in the event of a fire, Orange County Fire Chief Carl Plaughter wants to educate our senior citizens on fire safety. From now until March, Firefighters will be installing free smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, discussing fire safety, and pre-planning fire escape routes in 9 major adult manufactured home communities. Special emphasis will concentrate on what to do in the event of a stovetop fire.

Stovetop fires are the number one cause of home fires and a leading cause of fire deaths and injuries according to the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA). An impor-



**Stovetop FireStop works automatically to address the leading cause of cooking fires—unattended cooking.**



tant feature of the Alert 2010 program is the stovetop automatic fire extinguisher. About the size of a small can of tuna, it attaches magnetically, under the vent hood over the stovetop.

When a cooking fire occurs and the flames reach the stovetop fire extinguisher, the fire suppressing powder is automatically discharged onto the fire.

Many people panic at the onset of a stovetop fire and attempt to move the burning pan, which often leads to burns and major injury. Additionally, pouring water onto a grease fire can cause the fire to spread. Automatic fire suppression is an affordable, first line of defense against stovetop fires, protecting residents from injuries. Unlike traditional hand held fire extinguishers, the *Stovetop FireStop* works automatically, addressing the leading cause of cooking fires—unattended cooking.

Recently in Orange County, when fire units responding to an apartment fire arrived on the scene, they discovered that a cooking fire had been extinguished by the *Stovetop FireStop* canister that had been installed by the Apartment complex. Lt. John Peters, stated that upon arrival fire damage was minimal and fire fighters located an occupant who was sleeping in his bedroom, completely unaware of the danger.

For more information, email Lieutenant Mark Smothers, Orange County Fire Rescue Department, at: [mark.smothers@ocfl.net](mailto:mark.smothers@ocfl.net) or call 407-836-9074.



**Fire Inspector Charlie Bracewell installs an automatic fire extinguisher above the stove.**



# New Technology Improves Outreach

BY **CHERIE BOYCE**, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**T**he “Orange County Citizen Corps provides a means for individuals to volunteer and coordinate efforts to make communities safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to all types of disasters.” To accomplish their mission, the Citizen Corps Council attends many planning meetings, hurricane conferences, volunteer training events, and community preparedness presentations. Yet with all of this activity, they did not feel adequate in their com-



**Public Safety Chief Michael McCoy encouraging citizens to raise their hands and join Citizen Corps on their new fan page.**

munity outreach. What was needed was a new image with increased visibility and convenient access to potential volunteers.

## **So why not begin the New Year with both?**

Orange County ISS and the Orange County Social Media Committee provided a solution for the Council with the roll out of a new fan page on Facebook for the Citizen Corps Council. This new technology increases the visibility of the Council and further eases the Council's workload.

This workload involves promoting preparedness events and recruiting volunteers. The outreach can be limitless

with a fan page. Citizens can voluntarily and securely share with their friends the information regarding date, time, place and purpose of any and all Citizen Corps preparedness events.

## **Did I also mention that it is an inexpensive, quick and secure method of reaching more of the public?**

The introduction of this new technology not only aids in getting the “Preparedness Message” out to the community. It also provides a venue for clarifying the four distinctions among the volunteer training programs comprising Citizen Corps. The trainings are designed to unify communities through education and rescue skills

## **Local faith-based leaders discuss preparedness ideas with Citizen Corps members.**

practice. Communities that train and volunteer together have a better chance of surviving a mass disaster.

This social media tool provides free access for citizens to the council mission, by-laws and public events. The Council's visibility will become even more prominent in 2011 when links are added to other disaster preparedness sites such as [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org) and [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). The Council agrees this new look and new access to the public is a great way to begin the New Year. Check it out, next time you are on Facebook.

## **THE FOUR CITIZEN CORPS TRAINING PROGRAMS ARE:**

- **Community Emergency Response Teams as coordinated through the Office of Emergency Management**
- **Medical Reserve Corps** (specific to medical professionals)
- **Neighborhood Watch and Citizens on Patrol as coordinated through the Sheriff's Office**

Ideally, volunteers can become trained in multiple disciplines of emergency management functions. They can learn search and rescue techniques in CERT, medical assistance in MRC, situation awareness in Neighborhood Watch, and crime prevention in COPs.

# LAKE DIVOT

## *Restoration*

BY RICK BAIRD, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION



LAKE DIVOT IN 2010 - AFTER

**L**ake Divot is a small one-acre lake located in the heart of Pine Hills, just west of Lake Lawne. For many years, Lake Divot has received stormwater runoff from neighboring streets; and nuisance aquatic vegetation had become prevalent throughout the lake. Accumulated sediment and trash from the runoff and the nuisance vegetation made the once fishable and swimmable lake unusable. In years past, residents had contacted the Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for assistance to clean up the lake, but without specific funding, the restoration of Lake Divot was not possible—until now.

In 2004, Lake Divot's downstream neighbor, Lake Lawne, was designated as an impaired waterbody by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) through the Federal Clean Water Act Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program. Because of this designation, state grant money became available to help improve the water quality in Lake Lawne. In 2009, Orange County began a project using grant funds to turn the nearby C-7 canal into a stormwater treatment pond. Construction costs to retrofit the canal came in below original estimates, allowing for additional water quality

projects. Since Lake Divot is part of the Lake Lawne's watershed, EPD was able to use some of the additional funds to restore Lake Divot's ability to pre-treat stormwater that enters Lake Lawne.

During a five week period, more than 5,000 cubic yards of accumulated nuisance vegetation and muck was removed. The lake is not very deep, even the middle it is not more than four feet at the deepest point. In many areas, removal of heavy vegetation revealed a natural sand bottom. However, in other areas it was not feasible to remove all the muck.



LAKE DIVOT IN 2007 - BEFORE

Native plants have been planted along the shoreline, providing a diverse habitat to shelter a wide range of wildlife. Recently, wading birds and turtles have been observed returning to the lake and more wildlife is expected to return to the revived lake ecosystem.

EPD is working with the residents to initiate a permanent funding source to assist with long term maintenance needed to keep Lake Divot healthy and free of nuisance vegetation.



To better serve the citizens and departments of Orange County, Orange TV (OTV) launched a brand new, state-of-the-art video on-demand website—[www.orangetvfl.net](http://www.orangetvfl.net)! Visitors can watch, download, and even embed featured videos on OTV's cable channel and its sister station Vision TV.

While this new website has been in the planning stages for quite some time, it was not until recently that technology, combined with a lower cost of operation, has made this new site practical and cost effective for OTV to implement.

Maintaining a website and encoding the files for web viewing can be a very time consuming process, but since internet video has become mainstream, the pieces of the puzzle have finally come together. The first hurdle was the ability to purchase a high quality transcoder at a low cost that can take video files and convert them into high quality, internet ready video files faster than real time. The other hurdle was the ability to automatically upload them to our website. This is now possible and affordable.

Because OTV files are high resolution, yet allow for quick downloading, they are extremely versatile and can be viewed by any device on the market today. This also ensures compatibility with upcoming devices, so the video files can be viewed by everybody, anytime, anywhere. There are so many formats out there and each device has its own preferred format. OTV staff tested several types at various compressions and the format we are using appears to play well with everybody. Whether you are watching on a computer, iPhone, iPad, or even television, you will be able to view the videos whenever you want.

Another important aspect was compatibility with the various social media sites. OTV General Manager Bill Suchy explains, "Since the county has embraced the social media market, we felt it was important to integrate our programs into these sites to help make receiving Orange County information available to a larger audience. By visitors being able to incor-



porate our programs into their Facebook and Twitter pages, we are able to reach audiences that before were impossible, so our videos are now going viral."

A recent example of OTV's website going viral was when Orange County Scrapbook producer Ericka Cotton published her video of Muppet creator, Jim Henson's exhibit at the Regional History Center. When Henson's family heard the video was available online, they announced it on their Twitter account and the website was immediately bombarded with hundreds of hits. An hour after the announcement of the Henson video, our hosting provider took OTV's site down. They said we were getting so many hits that it was interfering with other client sites. "We weren't happy about being taken down, but we were flattered the site has become so popular so fast. It's a good problem to have," Suchy concedes.

Another great feature of the website is the ability to embed videos. Each video has a text box that allows

visitors to copy and paste the reference code and place it on their own webpage for viewing. Other features include news postings, public hearing announcements, and emergency alerts. Also, visitors can sign up to become members. This allows them to leave comments and vote for their favorite videos.

While the website is still in its infancy with a lot of other features yet to implement, it has already proven to be a huge success with thousands of views and downloads in its first month alone. OTV staff understands the impact and power of video and want to get Orange County's message out to as many people as cost-efficiently as possible. This new website allows us to do that.

# Orange TV Launches *New Video* *On-Demand Website*

[www.orangetvfl.net](http://www.orangetvfl.net)

BY MICHAEL SEIF, COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION



**Check out OTV's  
new website!  
[www.OrangeTVFL.net](http://www.OrangeTVFL.net)**



# Holiday Gift Certificate Promotion

## Encourages Lifelong Adoptions



BY KATHLEEN KENNEDY, ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION

Every year, we hear about animals being given as “gifts” during the holiday season. At Orange County Animal Services, we advocate that adopters be a part of the selection process of their new family member. Caring for a pet is a lifelong commitment that people must be prepared for in many ways to ensure both a happy pet and a satisfied adopter. When dealing with animals’ lives, a little planning goes much farther than a surprise. We understand the “wow” factor of a great holiday present though, so this year we’re giving citizens a terrific new option.

For the first time, Animal Services will offer holiday gift certificates during December to promote adoptions while enabling responsible pet ownership. The certificates will be available for purchase at the shelter for \$55 for dog adoptions and \$40 for cat adoptions. Gift certificate recipients will have six months to redeem their certificate and choose the perfect pet for them.

Throughout the year, Animal Services conducts monthly promotions ranging from adoption specials to education campaigns to donation drives. The proactive and positive marketing strategy overarching goal is to save more lives than ever. In addition, promotions will focus on raising much-needed funds for animal enrichment, equipment upgrades and veterinary care for neglected and critical-care pets.

A key aspect of the new marketing efforts is a new web site look and feel for [www.ocnetpets.com](http://www.ocnetpets.com). The design—which launched this month—emphasizes adoptions, news, promotions and services for the community. Similar to the Division’s foray into social media, several new dynamic features of the new web site are the first of their kind in Orange County Government. The site’s evolution is reflec-

tive of the division’s evolution, as it

continues to develop progressive programs and innovative approaches to decades-old issues faced by communities across the country like pet overpopulation, spay/neuter and feral cats.

In addition to the new web page, Animal Services stays connected with adopters, fans and friends through its presences on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, which rolled out nearly two years ago. Animal Service’s Facebook page boasts over 1,000 fans, its Twitter page has 1,400 followers and its videos have been viewed nearly 15,000 times.

From adoption stories to upcoming events, Facebook has emerged as a fantastic tool in which the public and the division communicate daily. Foster parents spread the word about their up-and-coming adoption candidates, supporters of the division give shout-outs to employees who have helped them, new adoptive families share their pet photos and updates, and Animal Services relays information about event, news and pets in need.

The focus on saving animals’ lives and finding forever families is one interest everyone at Animal Services shares. That common goal resulted in 8,217 animals saved during the last fiscal year through adoptions, rescues, relocating and reuniting pets with their owners. With the ongoing support of citizens and commissioners, we look forward to another lively year that will result in growth of its network of supporters, creative programs that serve the community’s needs, and shelter pets finding loving homes like never before.

**Don’t breed  
or buy ...  
save a life,  
adopt  
today!**



**Connect with Orange County Animal Services on Facebook/Twitter/YouTube:**  
[facebook.com/orangecountyanimalservices](http://facebook.com/orangecountyanimalservices) • [twitter.com/ocnetpets](http://twitter.com/ocnetpets) • [youtube.com/animalservices](http://youtube.com/animalservices)  
**We look forward to meeting you!**



# Shelter Pets Adopt OC Employees

*Shelter pets rock! Just ask Orange County employees like these who saved a life by adopting from Animal Services and gained new best friends. Here are just a few of the happy families that found loving pet companions at Animal Services. And they were more than willing to share their adoption stories...*



**OMAR BASTERRECHEA**

*Community & Environmental Services  
Malu – Mixed Breed*

“I felt like I had to adopt Malu, since I worked on her cruelty investigation. Her previous owner had confessed he threw the dog into the shed and broke all of her toes and leg. I fostered her with the intention of adopting her after the investigation was complete, because I did not want her to be abused ever again.

Our bond is special one. She wakes me every morning when my alarm goes off to make sure I get up. She follows me everywhere I go and I take her everywhere I can possibly get away with taking her. There is nothing like the love your animals can give you, truly unconditional.”



**CATHIE RISING-CLARKE**

*Family Services*

*Padme - Labrador Mix*

“Padme is such a sweet dog—and she takes her job as ‘homeland security chief’ very seriously. She follows us around the house, sleeps wherever we are, and makes sure all the other animals are taken care of, including the cat who doesn’t like dogs! She is totally attached to us, and to our other dog.

The most important part of adopting is that we’ve saved the life of a defenseless animal that had no choice—they are our responsibility when their owners can’t or won’t care for them—and if not us, then who? Hope everyone who can will come out and get a pet and save a life!”



**RANDY LEWIS**

*Health Services*

*Shy-Ann - Shepherd/Chow Mix*

“OC Animal Services was very easy to work with. We were allowed to see and play with animals individually to see how they would react to the children. They spay and neuter pets there and only charge a nominal adoption fee. Our kids came home not only with the newest member of our family, but they also came away with the satisfaction of knowing they helped save a life. It is hard to imagine our family without Shy-Ann! She is the center of attention and freely gives love and attention to her family.”



**LINDA BRYANT-RICHARD**

*Public Safety*

*Gracie, JR, Munch, Mini Me, Funny*

“There’s never a dull moment with Gracie, JR, Munch, Mini Me, and Funny.”



**TIMOTHY ALCURI**

*Community & Environmental Services*  
**Peanut - Rat Terrier**



**BARBARA FARIS**

*Public Works*

**Gretta - Norwegian Elkhound Mix**

"Gretta loves to climb and be up high. Her nickname is Goat! We built her a dog house on stilts—which she loves. She has a little balcony on the front of her stilt house, so she can survey the surrounding area. Her openness and interest are contagious and I find myself appreciating the little things more because of her.

There are many deserving animals that through a variety of circumstances end up at the shelter. My husband and I wanted to give a shelter dog a second chance. The shelter has a wide variety of adoptable animals; there really is a best friend there for everyone. You may be saving a life along with gaining a new family member."



**DANIEL KILPONEN**

*Public Works*

**Abby - Labrador Mix**

"My friend, Barbara Faris, knew I was considering getting a dog. She worked at Animal Services at that time, and invited me to her office one day to look at a puppy she thought I might like, and sure enough, I did. I feel proud of Abby for being a sweet calm and (usually) well-behaved dog. Adopting her is one of the best decisions I have made in my life."



**ANN CASWELL**

*Administrative Services*

**Boone & Crockett - Dobermans**

"The best and most loving dogs...when ever people meet Boone and Crockett and fall in love with them, I tell them where they came from and encourage them to adopt too! AS pets need you to save them and give them a forever home. In return, they will reward you the rest of their life with love. I can't imagine life without them.

Both are registered AKC and have earned 'Canine Good Citizen' status. Boone recently won 1st place in 'Novice Obedience' and is working toward a 'Companion Dog' title. What makes these accomplishments special for Boone is that he was abused by his previous owner. He was in the medical unit with back wounds and the minute I saw him, I knew I had to adopt. Fearful at first, through much love, training and socialization, he is no longer afraid and, in fact, loves everyone."



**DAVID CAVALIERE**

*Administrative Services*

**Takera**

"I adopted Takera in 2005 after fostering her a few weeks. She is our third adoption from Animal Services and a good addition to our family."



**MARLENE SUROWITZ**

*Corrections Health Services*

**Bucky - Shih Tzu**

"I adopted Bucky from Animal Services in December of 2008. It was love at first sight. After I put in my application, I had to wait 7 days to bring him home and during that time I went to visit him everyday at Animal Services. He is a big mush and loves to sit out in the sun."





**CHARLENE "C.C." COCHRANE**

*Convention Center*

*Rosey the Riveter - Shetland Mix*

"Rosey has a great personality, loves being a part of the family, and has an adorable Mohawk on the top of her head. When looking for a pet, check out OCAS. You'll find a lot of variety and plenty of pals who could use a second chance at life."



**LISA DAMERST**

*Communications*

*Reese - Chihuahua Mix*

"Reese couldn't be more perfect for our family. Not only is he smart and affectionate, but he's the only small dog I've ever met who rarely barks! My 16 year old daughter, Katherine, has had some health problems recently, and she wanted a dog who could be a buddy and give her something positive to focus on. When we saw him at the shelter, it was love at first sight!"



**MARK DREIBELBIS**

*Growth Management*

*Aretha and Mofeta*

"I rescued my cats during the adoption campaign, 'Feline Frenzy'. Not only did I get affectionate companions, they came with free spay/neuter, immunizations, food, toy and helpful tips on how to make their new home introduction successful. My first came right up to me...making sure I rescued her, so I named her Are (short for Aretha Franklin after the song 'Rescue Me') Next, I adopted a companion for Are and named her Mo (short for the Spanish word Mofeta, skunk in English) because she looks like a skunk."



**DAVID HAWLEY**

*Health Services*

*Roxie & Kelsie - Mixed Breeds*

"We adopted at OCAS before and had a tremendous dog for several years. Roxie is partially deaf and blind, but fiercely protective of our family. Kelsie thinks she is a cat and loves to wrap around your neck. We are three for three fabulous dogs from Animal Services!"



**BETH JACKSON**

*Administrative Services*

*Chance, Zorro, and Xena*

"Chance, a very mellow companion cat, came to me in April 2005 as a pan-leuk survivor. Zorro, a survivor of life threatening illness and surgeries, was adopted in December 2005. He sleeps on top of me almost every night and is in my lap whenever I sit down. Xena picked me in March 2007 when my office was touring Animal Services. I started to move away—her front paw came out, grabbed my arm and pulled me back to her, not once, but twice! Animal Services cats are the best!"



**CHARLES COVINGTON**

*Growth Management*

*Kiwi - Mix Breed*

"Animal Services' website made it so convenient and easy to find a pet. The process is fast and rewarding. I have a good pet and even better companion. It's so nice to come home and see the excitement from my dog that I'm back."

— continued on page 22

**Join the pack! Adopt today!**

For more information, visit:

[ocnetpets.com](http://ocnetpets.com) or call 407-254-9140



# Get to know OptumHealth Bank

BY JACLYN WALKER, HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

**S**tarting in January, as Orange County changes over to the new health plan, many employees will begin to use their new Health Savings Accounts (HSA). This is new benefit that will allow employees to set aside pre-tax dollars for their healthcare expenses with no “use it or lose it rule.” Plus, for those that completed the Wellness for Life Screening and online health assessment, the county will also be making a contribution around January 14, 2011. All the funds deposited into the HSA belong to the employee and the account is FDIC insured.

An HSA puts you in charge of saving and paying for health care costs. You decide how much to contribute and how to use the funds. If you have an HSA with OptumHealth Bank, you have several options to pay for eligible medical expenses:

#### Debit MasterCard®:

##### Use the OptumHealth Bank Health Savings Account Debit MasterCard to:

- Pay on-the-spot at a doctor’s office, pharmacy or other health care facility.
- Pay a bill you receive from a doctor or other provider.



## OptumHealthBank<sup>SM</sup>

■ Withdraw funds from an ATM to reimburse yourself for expenses you paid out-of-pocket (Please note: \$1.50 ATM withdrawal and access fees may also be charged by the ATM owner).

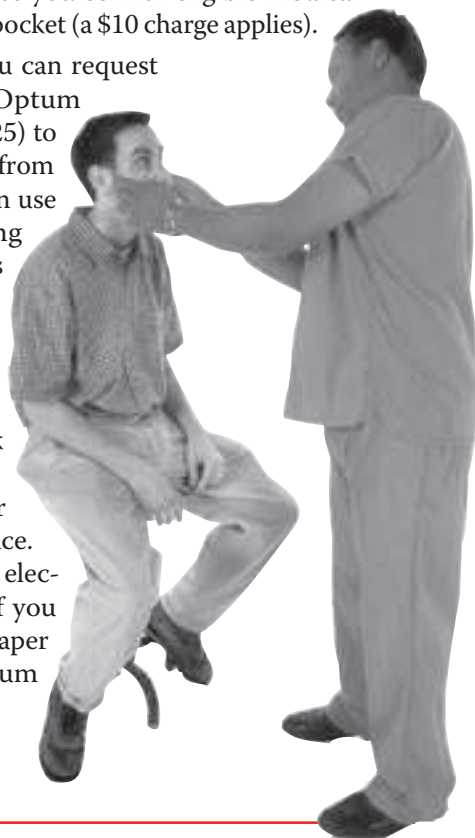
**Online bill payment:** At OptumHealthBank.com, you can pay bills online, access your monthly statements and track your account balance and activity. You can also use online bill payment to reimburse yourself for eligible medical expenses you paid for out of pocket by simply directing a payment to yourself.

**Disbursement:** You can request a disbursement from

your account to reimburse yourself for eligible medical expenses paid for out-of-pocket (a \$10 charge applies).

**Checks:** If you prefer, you can request checks directly from Optum Bank (\$10 for a book of 25) to pay for medical expenses from your account. Or, you can use any other check printing company to order checks for your Optum Account (just like you would with any other of your personal bank accounts).

**Track your account:** Check your monthly statements to keep track of your spending and your balance. You will receive monthly electronic statements, but if you want an old-fashioned paper statement, just call Optum at 1-800-791-9361.





SUBMITTED BY KATHLEEN MORGAN, HR WELLNESS R.N.

# TOP PICKS FOR *Gift Giving* this holiday season!

• **A box of high quality dark chocolate:** Good dark chocolate (with at least 70 percent cocoa) really is a healthy treat you could consider; especially for the women on your list (chocolate consistently ranks as the number one craving among women). Chocolate is a source of polyphenols, the same kinds of antioxidants found in red wine and green tea. The fat it contains is mostly stearic acid, which doesn't raise cholesterol levels. And the flavonoids in dark chocolate are good for the heart.

• **Flowers:** A beautiful bouquet or a long-lasting flowering plant is a traditional gift for women, but it is recommended that both men and women keep fresh flowers in the home for their beauty, fragrance, and to lift our spirits. They also refresh indoor air.

• **A massage:** A gift certificate for a soothing massage does wonders physically and mentally.

• **Music:** We're all affected by music. It has the power to inspire and uplift our moods. Almost anyone would welcome a CD or two, and for special people on your list, tickets to a concert would be a memorable treat. If you are unsure of the recipient's musical taste, give a gift certificate for MP3 downloads.

• **A session with a personal trainer:** This would be a great gift for someone who wants to get more exercise in the New Year.

• **Extra virgin olive oil:** A bottle of high quality extra virgin olive oil is sure to please the health-conscious cooks on your list. Make sure it is "cold pressed" and the label shows that it comes from only one area (not multiple countries).

• **Nuts:** Walnuts, almonds, pistachios and cashews contain healthy monounsaturated fats that can lower your risk of heart disease and heart attack. Many local discount stores have raw and unsalted varieties that are high quality at a reasonable price.

• **Green tea:** A gift tin of green tea (or white, black, oolong and herbal teas) will provide many cups of healthy soothing and antioxidant rich hot or cold refreshment.

• **Activity:** Toys that encourage physical movement and safe sports are great gifts for the kids of all ages on your list. Take a look at all of the fun things on the market to get active. You may find some items that you'll want on your list!

Finally, in this age of far-flung family members and challenging economics, consider telling your loved ones that their presence is a gift in itself. I know that personally, there is nothing I appreciate more than close friends and loved ones who have spent time and effort, and sometimes traveled great distances, to be with me during the holidays. Renewing and strengthening our human connections may be the best gifts we can give others—and ourselves.

From "Healthy Gift Ideas" by Andrew Weil, M.D. (found in *The Huntington Post*, October 28, 2010) Dr. Weil is the founder and director of the Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine and the editorial director of

[www.DrWeil.com](http://www.DrWeil.com).



# Service Awards

NOVEMBER 2010

## 5 YEARS

### Administrative Services

Tony Persaud

### Community & Environmental Services

Scott B. Lloyd

### Convention Center

Joseph C. Thalheimer

Fredric Velez

### Corrections

Deron C. Parson

Bobby J. McDonald

Michael N. Theodorou

Marilyn E. Paul-Wright

Adsudalah A. Brooks

Evelyn M. Camacho

Gary Howard

Rebecca Diaz

Julio A. Cartagena

Tamika D. Joiner

Christina Mitchell

### County Administration

Roberta Alfonso Dozier

### Family Services

Rambhawatie Lal

Robert D. Froats

Carmen Rivera Concepcion

Clarissa F. Carrillo

### Health Services

Tevelie Pierrette

### Public Works

Ricci S. Todd, Jr.

### Utilities

Maria L. McCoy

Jairo A. Castro

Toni L. Jarrett

## 10 YEARS

### Administrative Services

Marlenis Curi

James P. Middleton

Scott H. Wilburn

### Community & Environmental Services

Douglas J. Lewis

Eric D. Brooks

Martha S. Worland

### Corrections

Karen T. White

### County Administration

Lila I. McHenry

Frederick M. Winterkamp

### Family Services

Margarita Ramos

Violet B. Roofe

### Fire Rescue

Karen S. Peters

Troy D. Broadaway

Eric M. Siena

John T. Sitnik

Brian K. Fornoles

Javier Cotto

Larry S. Rowe

Yasir A. Uddin

Ralph J. Astarita

Anthony L. Laporto

William A. Steele, Jr.

Misael Rivera, Jr.

Steven D. Parkes

John E. Perez

### Growth Management

Carla Bell Johnson

Magdalena Feliciano Rivera

### Health Services

Erika T. Neal

### Public Works

Elibimael Rosario

### Utilities

Jerome Barnes

Heriberto Collado-Lopez

## 15 YEARS

### Community & Environmental Services

Ilka I. Bundy

### Convention Center

Wayne L. Furry

### Corrections

Richard Interrante, Jr.

### Fire Rescue

Lisa M. Mills

Peter J. Zell

### Growth Management

Ashley S. Devore

## 20 YEARS

### Administrative Services

Valerie N. Marrow

### Corrections

Evelyn D. Fredrick

Odetta E. Daniels

Shanqueta Y. Ashley

William Porter, Jr.

Ellen L. Ritten

### Family Services

Michelle T. Sever

### Public Works

Andre L. Price

### Utilities

U Kin

## 25 YEARS

### Administrative Services

Mark R. Tompkins

### Corrections

Rella A. McNeil

Daniel Faison, Jr.

Rickey L. Dumas

Isidro J. Iglesias

Douglas O. Thomas

William J. Bund

James T. Roach

Robert Reese, Jr.

Michael J. Benzer

### Growth Management

Lisa M. O'Neil

### Public Works

Ruby D. Rozier

### Utilities

Darryl A. Lattimore

Carmen V. Ross

## 30 YEARS

### Community & Environmental Services

David R. Linck

### Corrections

Jimmy Echols, Jr.

### Public Works

Jon S. Perkins

Carl M. Broxton

### Utilities

Edna Zayas

Earline T. Carwise

DECEMBER 2010

## 5 YEARS

### Community & Environmental Services

Luis De Los Santos

Karen Ward Bourgeois

Monica D. Spires

Randy W. Gosa

### Convention Center

Desmond D. Kellyman

### Corrections

Roberto Fuentes

Lashonda S. Hawkins

Christopher D. Lipka

David Maldonado

Latoya Paul Foster

Anitra M. Pace

Melvin E. Hymes

Luis O. Almodovar

Christian T. Greifenstein

Isaac J. Dowdy

Farling Rivera

Conchita D. Holloman

### County Administration

Jenny P. Sukhraj

Melinda A. Sparks

### Family Services

Margarita Sotomayor

Salgado

Nora A. Sanchez

Amany Younes

Paula D. Bissonette

Lynette Santiago

Akemie Laguerre

### Fire Rescue

Matthew W. Adams

Scott C. Carlisle

Troy Provenzano

Jamal J. Afrifa

Jose A. Caamano

Joseph L. Spainhoward

Pedro O. Cruzado, Jr.

Daris J. Stephens

Jonathan F. Holton

Billy Cezalien

Luiz G. Ferreira

Artis Robinson, Jr.

Joseph M. Rodden

### Public Works

Michael S. Ellington

### Utilities

Marc P. Nassoij

Edgar I. Cuartas

Veronica L. Varnedoe

Denis J. Bailey

Valerie George Christy

James R. Long

Tom A. Hayes

## 10 YEARS

### Community & Environmental Services

Pamela A. Dennison

### Convention Center

Manuel G. Rustia

Frank J. Hall, Jr.

### Corrections

Isabelle Klier-Graham

Carlos E. Pardo

Thomas L. Gowen III

Anitra A. Jones

Sharla Cobb-Jones

### County Administration

Kathryn Gurrola

Maria Ventura Ortiz

### Family Services

Kimberly J. Richards

### Fire Rescue

Felix Padilla-Rivera

Carl L. Plaugher

### Growth Management

Wanda D. Space

### Public Works

Nolene F. Brinson

Richard Mobley, Jr.

### Utilities

Jose E. Hernandez

## 15 YEARS

### Administrative Services

Joel E. Baugh, Jr.

### Community & Environmental Services

Wilbert A. Ventura, Jr.

### Convention Center

Ronald E. Donahue

Robert J. Williams

David D. Boykin

Norbert A. Wiltshire

George F. Woods

Elizabeth R. Gordon

### Corrections

Angela F. Washington

### County Administration

Nancy M. McKinnon

### Family Services

Calvin R. Windom

### Health Services

Craig Kaminsky

## 20 YEARS

### Community & Environmental Services

Norman Spiwak

### Corrections

Christopher L. Holmes

Sherry A. Johnson

Cynthia E. Hodge

Pedro H. Perez

### Court Administration

Penny L. Sutton

### Family Services

Donna M. Dellarocco

### Health Services

Vivienne S. Taggart

### Utilities

Louise T. Arnes

## 25 YEARS

### Administrative Services

Natalie Z. Williams



## SEPTEMBER 8

### **Debra K. Antonio**

Sr. Account Executive  
Convention Center

### **Johnny A. Arnaldi**

Utilities Maintenance  
Coordinator, Utilities

### **Jacqueline A. Cobbett**

Correctional Sergeant  
Corrections

### **Stephanie R. DeJesus**

Correctional Corporal  
Corrections

### **Isaac J. Dowdy**

Correctional Corporal  
Corrections

### **Stephen W. Dunn**

Correctional Sergeant  
Corrections

### **Stephanie P. Elkins**

Dispatcher I, Fire Rescue

### **Mary E. Galanty**

Dispatcher II, Fire Rescue

### **David Maldonado**

Correctional Corporal  
Corrections

### **Christine A. Murphy**

Sr. HR Administrative Analyst  
County Administration

### **Vicki L. Nedd**

Correctional Sergeant  
Corrections

### **Sherri D. Nikitenko**

Correctional Sergeant  
Corrections

### **Yalanda N. Powell**

Correctional Corporal  
Corrections

### **Tajwattie**

### **Rampersadsingh**

HR Technician, Utilities

### **Sonja Robinson**

Correctional Sergeant  
Corrections

### **Paul W. Rowley**

Correctional Sergeant  
Corrections

### **Christopher A. Simmons**

Correctional Corporal  
Corrections

### **Jason T. Smith**

Correctional Sergeant  
Corrections

### **Jamaal J. Tatum**

HR Analyst  
County Administration

### **Tamika L. Tinsley**

Correctional Corporal  
Corrections

### **Michele L. Velazquez**

Dispatcher I, Fire Rescue

### **Patrick L. Whitehead**

Correctional Corporal  
Corrections

### **Jarnac M. Williams**

Center Supervisor  
Family Services

## SEPTEMBER 19

### **Gian C. Arismendi**

Engineer 56, Fire Rescue

### **James C. Berry**

Lieutenant 56 QP  
Fire Rescue

### **Stephanie D. Carter**

Engineer 56, Fire Rescue

### **Jose G. Cruz**

Captain Preceptor 40  
Fire Rescue

### **Josh J. Densberger**

Engineer 56 QP, Fire Rescue

### **Andrew L. Dermer**

Foreman, Public Works

### **Brandon C. Halaychik**

Corr Investigator  
ICorrections

### **Edward Negron**

Lieutenant 56 QP  
Fire Rescue

### **Randall S. Parrish**

Buyer, County Administration

### **Christopher J. Powell**

Lieutenant 56 QP  
Fire Rescue

### **Leslie D. Reed, Jr.**

Battalion Chief 56 Hr  
Fire Rescue

## SEPTEMBER 20

### **Jennifer L. Hamilton**

Dispatcher I, Fire Rescue

### **Michele D. Tuck**

Dispatcher I, Fire Rescue

## OCTOBER 3

### **Richard Welch**

Equipment Operator III  
Public Works

### **Janet P. Mason**

Nursing Unit Supervisor  
Health Services

### **John A. Goodrich**

Financial Administrator  
Health Services

### **Carlton R. Davidson**

Foreman, Public Works

### **Craig W. Brubaker**

Plant Specialist II  
Utilities

### **James M. Barcal**

Equipment Operator III  
Public Works

### **Lucila Gonzalez**

Information Services Spec.  
County Administration

### **Cordney V. Battle**

Unit Supervisor SRK  
Corrections

### **Raymon Suarez**

Equipment Operator III  
Public Works

## OCTOBER 11

### **Henry V. Preston**

Division Chief, Fire Rescue

### **Kenneth V. Adkins**

Mgr. Correctional Facility  
Corrections

### **Glenn H. Kramer**

Mgr. Utilities Fiscal & Admin.  
Support, Utilities

### **Marcel J. Neumann**

Division Chief  
Communications, Fire Rescue

## OCTOBER 17

### **Dallas H. Smith**

Plant Specialist I, Utilities

### **Joneshia N. Bethea**

Recreation Specialist  
Community &  
Environmental Services

### **Alejandro Gonzalez**

Service Center Spec. III  
County Administration

### **Becky Bowman**

Correctional Release  
Specialist, Corrections

### **Arland M. Simmons**

Engineer 56 QP, Fire Rescue

### **Tabith R. Hightower**

Municipal Fire Inspector  
Fire Rescue

### **Brett A. Wasmund**

Battalion Chief 56 Hr  
Fire Rescue

### **Ryan M. Rankin**

Field Specialist I, Utilities

### **Arnold F. Noorlander**

Lieutenant Paramedic 56  
Fire Rescue

### **Afrodcio S. Soto**

Equipment Operator II  
Public Works

### **Charles T. Orme**

Lieutenant Paramedic 56  
Fire Rescue

### **Brittany C. Hardy**

Correctional Release  
Specialist, Corrections

### **Kathleen A. Kennedy**

Program Coordinator  
Community &  
Environmental Services

### **Sidney K. Isaac**

Sr. Event Setup Worker  
Convention Center

### **Stanley Weston**

Sr. Community Services  
Worker, Family Services

### **William C. Bower**

Animal Services Officer  
Community &  
Environmental Services

### **Michelle R. Deazley**

Engineer Preceptor 56 QP  
Fire Rescue

### **Charlie R. Smith**

Field Specialist I, Utilities

## OCTOBER 31

### **Kimberly J. Catrett**

Development Coordinator  
Growth Management

### **Nicholas J. Laster**

Field Specialist I, Utilities



### **Edane C. Johnson**

Sr. Fiscal Coordinator  
Utilities

### **John S. Cabarga**

Engineer 56 QP, Fire Rescue

### **Matthew S. Carter**

Field Specialist I, Utilities

### **Greg A. Kroh**

Nursing Unit Supervisor  
Health Services

### **Ronald B. Plummer**

Asst. Mgr. Emergency  
Management, Fire Rescue

### **Seth J. Eckroth**

Equipment Operator I  
Public Works

### **Kathleen P. Gauthier**

Sr. Chemist  
Utilities

### **Daniel Pineiro**

Meter Reader II  
Utilities

— *Service Awards continued from Page 18*

### **Corrections**

Spencer C. Nielsen  
Kenneth V. Adkins  
Mary Lois Rivers

### **Fire Rescue**

Charles W. Argabright  
Phil A. Roberts, Jr.

Susan A. Davison  
Mike L. McDowell

### **Health Services**

Columbus Holland III

### **Public Works**

Gary H. Batchelor

### **Utilities**

Iris Y. Valdes  
David A. Lyman

### **30 YEARS**

### **Administrative Services**

Pedro N. Vazquez

### **County Administration**

Bell Bronson

### **Fire Rescue**

Daniel J. McCarthy

### **Growth Management**

Rikki N. Hartung

## Service Awards

# In Memory of...



## Kathy Gill – “A True Gem!”

BY GROWTH MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Many Orange County staff and customers were very sad to hear about the passing of fellow coworker Kathy Gill. She was a very sweet lady and a pleasure to work with. Coworkers decided to hold a Remembrance Ceremony and plant a tree on her behalf.

Kathy was born in Kentucky and graduated from East Hardin High School. She attended Business College in Louisville, Ky. She spent time in Portland, Maine, Syracuse, NY and Charlotte, NC. She joined the US Army and served in Ft. Hood, Texas and Germany where she was a Protocol and Deputy Training Officer. After serving her

term in the US Army, Kathy moved to Dothan, Al and from Alabama she moved to Florida.

Kathy joined the Orange County Zoning Division staff in June 2001. She was a Zoning Code Specialist and waffle making expert! Kathy passed away peacefully at home on October 4, 2010. On October 19, 2010 a Remembrance Ceremony and Tree Dedication

were held in loving memory of Kathy. Many co-workers and customers attended the dedication in her honor. Her smile, sense of humor and kind words will be missed by all who had the privilege to know her.



Kathy's tree marker under a special tree planted on her behalf at the Orange County Administration Building.

*Kathryn Starks Miller Gill*  
1-27-54 to 10-4-10

## Joe Brooks – A Heart of Gold

BY GROWTH MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Division of Building Safety staff was very saddened to hear about the passing of fellow coworker Joseph E. Brooks, who died of complications from leukemia recently. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Linda, and sons Joe and Matt. A beloved husband, father, brother, uncle and coworker, he will be greatly missed.

Joe was raised in Tallahassee, made his home in Rockledge, and worked as a Building Inspector and Plans Examiner for Orange County. Joe started with the county in 1994 and left in 1997. He returned in June of 1999, so collectively we share some great memories.

To those whose lives he touched, Joe will always be remembered for his big heart, warm smile and easy going manner; a gentle soul with a heart of gold. Rest in peace Joey.



*Joseph E. Brooks*  
12-28-59 to 10-13-10

## Remembering and Missing Sandra Browne

BY LORENZO WILLIAMS, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION/311



Sandra, your 311 family misses you!

Ms. Sandra, as she was affectionately known at Orange County 311, responded to constituents' concerns for almost six years helping to facilitate a simple, reliable, and convenient way for citizens to access information, referral, and problem-solving functions of their local government. Anyone calling 311 probably “melted like butter” when they heard her answer, “Hello, this is Sandra. How may I help?”

Prior to her career at Orange County 311, she worked in the Traffic Engineering Division. That wealth of knowledge was instrumental in restructuring and adjusting service delivery. During her time at Orange County 311, Ms. Sandra demonstrated a positive influence and a standard for other employees to follow.

Orange County Government places the highest importance on providing valuable service to its citizens through the ethical performance of job duties. Sandra greeted each 311 employee with a smile, and she also had one for the callers. Although most of the citizens she helped have never seen her face, they can bear witness to the smile they heard in her voice.



## Isle of Pine Reserve Grand Opening

On Friday November 12, Commissioner Linda Stewart joined the Environmental Protection Division to cut the ribbon leading into the Isle of Pine Preserve, part of a 3,000 acre ecological corridor in the Southeastern portion of District 4. Visitors to Isle of Pines will be able to enjoy hiking, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing while possibly catching glimpses of white tailed deer, turkeys, sand hill cranes, bobwhite quail and gopher tortoises in their native habitat. The Isle of Pine Preserve, formerly known as Hampton Bay, was acquired through the Green PLACE Program in 2007.

The mission of Green PLACE is to preserve and manage environmentally sensitive lands, and to protect water resource lands to provide quality passive recreational experience for future generations. Public meetings were held to seek input from residents about the types of recreational uses that they would like to see established on the Preserve, as well as voice concerns on security, hours of operation, and parking.

Commissioner Stewart, known as the "GREEN COMMISSIONER," has been an advocate for wildlife corridors and environmental protection throughout her eight years in Orange County, making the extra effort to keep our lakes and water

bodies clean and pristine. Over 7,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land have been preserved since Commissioner Stewart's election in 2002.

The Isle of Pine Preserve, open daily from sunrise to sunset, is located at 14032 Lacebark Pine Road in Orlando, FL.



(Left to Right) Beth Jackson, Peter Betterman, Rick Boyd, Suzanne Arnold, District 4 Commissioner Linda Stewart, Lori Cuniff and Liz Johnson

## CLASSIFIEDS

### FOR SALE

**Three Epson Printer**

**Color Cartridges:** Fits CX6400 model & others. Call David at 321-299-2265.

**Beval Children's English**

**Saddle:** Leather, very good condition with stirrups and stand, \$275. Call Dana at 407-575-9125.

**2001 Honda Insight:** Why drive a Vespa scooter when

you can be out of the rain, drive at interstate speeds and get 53 miles per gallon. Great commuter car. Reliable. Silver. AT. Low miles - 65,500. \$7,100. Call Brian at 407-293-9533.

**Miscellaneous Items:** 4 custom wheels & rims, \$600. Call 321-662-6352.

**Set of silver 18 inch rims:** Paid over \$1,000, will accept \$300. Good condition.

Call Sharla at 321-663-9971.

**8 pc Leather living room**

**set:** Sofa/Loveseat/ Recliner/2 end tables/2 lamps/coffee table, camel color \$1500/OBO. 6 pc bedroom set: Queen/box spring mattress/Dresser with mirror/Gentleman's bureau/end table, brown wood \$900/OBO. 1 curio cabinet lighted \$75/OBO. Photos available by request.

Call Kimberly at 407-383-4753.

**Bedroom Suite:** Luxury Thomasville 4-poster queen size contemporary bedroom suite. Solid wood, light in color, \$990. High-end classic dining set with 6 chairs and china cabinet - dark cherry wood, \$1,490. Call 407-256-7497.

### FOR RENT

**Room:** Furnished for a female. \$550/mo. Located in Ocoee, off Clark Rd., close to Clarcona-Ocoee, and 5 minutes from West Oaks Mall. For more information, call 407-721-8068.

**Wanted:** Apartment/Small Home to rent, located in the Delaney and Audubon Park corridor. Professional, UF employee, up to \$700 mo. Call Sue at 407-488-6227.

**Wanted:** Adult 3 wheel bike. Call Laura at 407-257-4781.

The ORANGE SPIEL provides space free of charge to employees who want to sell or trade personal items to other employees.

1. Space is limited and will be granted first-come-first-served.

2. Only home numbers can be published. No work phone or e-mail, however we must have your work number and location on file.

3. No personal ads accepted.

4. Only one ad per employee

per issue.

5. No ads for weapons, firearms or liquor.

6. SPIEL reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

7. The deadline to submit

classified ads for the Feb. - Mar. 2011 issue is Dec. 30, 2010.

8. Mail or Inter-office to: Spiel c/o Communication Div., 201 S. Rosalind Ave. 3rd Floor, FAX: 407-836-5377 or Email: judi.kerr@ocfl.net

—Continued from page 15



**JENNIFER SANTANA**  
Animal Services  
*Tweety*



**MEGAN SMULSKI**  
Animal Services  
*Kit Kat*



**LAURA TUTTLE**  
Animal Services  
*Shy*

**MEET OUR SHELTER GUESTS!** Visit [cnetpets.com](http://cnetpets.com) or stop by Animal Services located at: 2769 Conroy Road, Orlando, FL.

# Crossword Puzzle

**DEC-JAN**



**ACROSS**

- 3.) Cracker Christmas Weekend takes place at this type of public venue.
- 4.) Lake Divot is a part of what other lake's watershed?
- 5.) Orange County employees say "Shelter Pets \_\_\_\_\_!"
- 7.) Food and flowers collected from the convention center on October 18 will be distributed to needy residents in how many Central Florida counties.
- 8.) Any sustained effort to reduce energy consumption would free up much needed dollars and contribute to reducing our carbon \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11.) This holiday gift has the power to inspire and uplift our moods.
- 14.) Name of the bank that county employees will use to manage their HSA.
- 15.) Maintaining a website and encoding the files for this type of viewing can be a very time consuming process.
- 16.) Fleet Management's BBQ Cook Team fired up their giant smoker in the wee hours of the morning to slow cook 130 pounds of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 17.) Animal Services invites you to connect with them on this social media site.
- 19.) According to the NFPA, this type of fire is the number one cause of home fires and a leading cause of fire deaths and injuries.

**DOWN**

- 1.) For the first time, Animal Services will offer gift \_\_\_\_\_ to promote pet adoption and responsible ownership during the month of December.
- 2.) At the 8th Annual BBQ and Creeper Race, this Public Works team won the creeper race.
- 3.) Citizens on \_\_\_\_\_ is coordinated through the Orange County Sheriff's Office.
- 6.) This holiday favorite contains polyphenols, the same kinds of antioxidants found in red wine and green tea.
- 7.) Prior to its recent restoration, Lake Divot was once unusable due to accumulated trash, nuisance vegetation and what?

- 9.) At the 2010 United Way Bowling Party, which raised almost \$950, Administrative Services won this for having the most registered bowlers.
- 10.) Children grades K-5 can experience "Life on the Range" on this day at the Regional History Center.
- 12.) She follows Omar everywhere he goes and he takes her everywhere he can possibly get away with taking her.
- 13.) "C.C." Cochrane's dog Rosie has this on the top of her head.
- 16.) The Citizen Corps Council established a new \_\_\_\_\_ page on Facebook to increase visibility.
- 17.) This Orange County unit launched a brand new, state-of-the-art video on-demand website.

Answers: (Down) 1.) certificates 2.) Traffic Jamz 3.) Patrol 6.) chocolate 7.) sediment 9.) trophy 10.) Discovery 12.) Malu 13.) mohawk 16.) fan 17.) OTV (Across) 3.) park 4.) Lawrence 5.) Rock 7.) six 8.) footprint 11.) music 14.) OptumHealth 15.) web 16.) pork 17.) Facebook 19.) stove top



# DECEMBER

## DECEMBER 1

### Holiday at Heritage

**Square:** Bring friends and family for a festive holiday celebration. See Mayor Crotty flip the switch to light the square at sundown. Explore the museum, enjoy musical performances, visit Santa, create holiday crafts, and more. **When:** 5:30 - 8 pm.

**Where:** History Center, 65 E. Central Blvd. **Cost:** free. Call 407-836-7010 for more information.

## DECEMBER 4-5

### Cracker Christmas

**Weekend:** Bring the family out and enjoy a weekend of Florida Cracker demonstrations, large craft fair, exhibits, and great food, and much more.

Learn the art of broom making, spinning and weaving, black-smithing, wood carving, and much more! **When:** 10 am - 4 pm. **Where:** Fort Christmas Park, 1300 Fort Christmas Rd., Orlando. **Cost:** free. For more information, call 407-568-4149.

## DECEMBER 4

### Holiday Plant Care - Use, Reuse, & Recycle:

Learn how to use holiday plants, care for them, and reuse or recycle them after the holiday season is over. **When:** 10:30 am. **Where:** Orange County Cooperative Extension, 6021 S. Conway Rd. **Cost:** free (registration required). To register, call 407-254-9200.

## DECEMBER 6-10

### Cypress Grove Park Festival of Lights:

Drive through and enjoy thousands of twinkling lights and holiday displays at Cypress Grove Park and its estate house. **When:** 6:30-9:30 pm. **Where:** Cypress Grove Park, 290 Holden Ave. **Cost:** \$2 per car/per night. Call 407-254-6770, for event details.

## DECEMBER 11

**Adopt-a-Tree:** Receive two FREE 7-gallon trees per household on a first-come, first-served basis. **When:** 8 am - noon (or when all the trees are gone). **Where:** Jay Blanchard Park 2451 N. Dean Rd. Must be Orange County resident, register upon arrival and provide proof of residency. For more information, call 407-254-9200.

## DECEMBER 11

### A Taste of Orlando Main Street - A Walking Tour:

Listen to Main Street managers explain how work, play, and community thrive in harmony. Then, take a walking tour of downtown College Park, a community that fuses urban setting with a small town atmosphere.

**When:** 10 am - noon. **Where:** Neighborhood Services, 450 E. South St. **Cost:** free (registration required). To register, call 407-836-5606.

## DECEMBER 11

### An Afternoon with

**Santa:** Enjoy a visit from Santa, games, Christmas craft, Moonwalk, and more! Prizes and refreshments while supplies last. **When:** 1 - 3 pm. **Where:** Lakeside Pavilion, Magnolia Park, 2929 S. Binion Rd., Apopka. For children 10 and under. **Cost:** \$3 per child/adults free. Call 407-886-4231, for more information.

## DECEMBER 18

### Jingle Bell Run-Walk

**5K:** This is festive way to kick off your holidays by helping others! Wear a holiday themed costume. Tie jingle bells to your shoelaces. Run or walk a 5 kilometer route with your team members and celebrate the season by giving. **When:** 7:30 - 10 am. **Where:** Lake Baldwin in Baldwin Park, 4982 New Broad St. **Cost:** \$20 registration. Please call 407-208-1766, for more information.

## DECEMBER 30

### Orlando Citrus Parade:

Watch this National broadcast event for FREE along the route through Downtown Orlando on Rosalind Ave. **When:** 11 am - 1 pm. **Cost:** \$23 for grandstand seats. For details, call 407-423-2476.

## DECEMBER 23-24

### Christmas Holidays

**Observed:** Most Orange County facilities are closed.

## DECEMBER 31

### New Year's Day

**Holiday Observed:** Most Orange County facilities are closed.

# JANUARY

## JANUARY 15

### MLK Parade, Festival & Battle of the Bands:

**When:** parade 10 am -noon, concert 2 - 6 pm. **Where:** Downtown Orlando & Lake Eola. For more information, call 407-702-2101

## JANUARY 15

### Great Toy Build Off:

Using LEGO bricks, Tinker Toys, Erector Sets, or Lincoln Logs, teams will compete in a "Build Off". Designs will be judged on originality, resourcefulness, and practicality. Teams can enter in Amateur or High School categories. **When:** 12 - 2 pm. **Where:** History Center, 65 E. Central Blvd. Call 407-836-7010 for details.

## JANUARY 21

### Discovery Day-Life on the Range:

School is out and the History Center is open! Gallop through the lives of early Florida cow hunters and cowmen. Discover their adventures, lifestyle, and hobbies! **When:** 9 am - 3 pm. **Where:** History Center, 65 E. Central Blvd. **Cost:** Grades K-5 - Members \$25 per child, per day/Non-members



\$35 per child, per day. For more information, call 407-836-8580.

## JANUARY 17

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday:

Most Orange County facilities are closed.

## JANUARY 28

### Retro Game Night:

Good old-fashioned fun with an array of classic board and video games throughout the museum! **When:** 7 pm - midnight. **Where:** History Center, 65 E. Central Blvd. **Cost:** Members free/Non-members \$5 at door. Must be ages 18 and up. For more information, call 407-836-8580.

### We Welcome Your Feedback!

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact the Orange Spiel Editor, Judi Kerr, at judi.kerr@ocfl.net, call 407-836-5356 or send a letter by interoffice mail to: Orange County Communications Division, County Administration Building, 3rd Floor. Please be sure to include your name, department, and a contact number.

Information for the Calendar is gathered from other sources and agencies. Please call the number listed with the event to verify time, date, pre-registration requirement, etc., before attending an event.

33<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
**Cracker Christmas**

**December 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> • 10 am - 4 pm**

at Fort Christmas Historical Park

1300 Fort Christmas Road, Christmas, FL 32709

Come out and enjoy a weekend filled with Florida Cracker/Pioneer demonstrations and ways of life.

The Christmas Post Office will be here to accept your holiday cards for mailing.

- Visit with Santa at 1pm on both days
- Pioneer demonstrators will show techniques for spinning, weaving, quilting, lace making, wood carving, blacksmithing, broom making, hide tanning, soap making, smoke house and more!
- More than 150 crafters with hand-made items
- Community booths and clubs

For information, call 407-568-4149  
or visit [www.OrangeCountyParks.net](http://www.OrangeCountyParks.net).

Orange County Parks and Recreation



Cypress Grove's

**Festival of LIGHTS**

at  
**Cypress Grove Park**  
290 Holden Ave., Orlando, FL 32839

Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> -  
Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

Come and enjoy Cypress Grove Park adorned with festive lights and holiday displays. Drive thru and view the park in the warmth and comfort of your own vehicle. Then, be sure and come out on Friday, December 10th to share in our fun holiday activities!

We embrace the power of diversity. Orange County Parks and Recreation does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of age, race, gender, national origin or disability. ANY SPECIAL NEEDS PLEASE CALL.



**\$2**  
per vehicle  
per night

**Event Schedule**

**December 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>**  
6:30pm - 9:30pm

Drive-thru Viewing \$2 per vehicle, per night

**Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> • 7pm - 9pm**

Commissioner Linda Stewart  
presents

**Holiday Under the Stars**



For more information, call  
407-254-6770 or visit  
[www.OrangeCountyParks.net](http://www.OrangeCountyParks.net)



\*Like\* our page:  
Orange County  
Government Parks  
and Recreation!