Welcome to the Orange Spiel.

In this issue, we feature our Orange County correctional officers in recognition of National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed Proclamation 5187 creating this national week. The first full week in May has been recognized as National Correctional Officer’s week to honor the work of correctional officers and correctional personnel nationwide. In 1996, Congress officially changed the name of the week to National Correctional Officers and Employees Week.

Be sure to see this month’s calendar (back page) to learn about the many exciting upcoming events, including the Second Annual Hot Dogs, Cool Cats Adoption event on Saturday, May 30. Adoption fees are reduced to $15 for dogs and cats.

Save the date for State of the County 2015. This year’s event will be held at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts on June 12. Stay tuned for more details to be announced soon.

Thank you for your service each day that helps make Orange County the best place to work, live and raise a family.

Mayor Teresa Jacobs

A Corrections Career Comes Full Circle

Officer Cornelious Miller, a 27-year member of the Orange County Corrections Department (OCCD) and 31-year military veteran, recently celebrated the conclusion of his career in a unique way—with a victory lap. It was a demonstration that brought his career full circle.

That run was symbolic because of the history behind it. As an officer at OCCD, Miller sought to be a member of the agency’s elite Special Response Team (SRT), who are called upon during times of crisis or instability. Part of the qualification process for the SRT includes a qualifying run through the compound, accompanied by the cheers of colleagues and, yes, sometimes even inmates, took on a meaning beyond a way to test one’s fitness.

“The transition from being a new recruit to an established officer was really a credit to my mentors who made a profound difference,” he recalls. “They encouraged me to put a young ego aside and focus more on trust and relationships with my fellow officers.”

Perhaps that’s why the run represented so much more to Miller, who began to see the event as an annual display of support, encouragement and camaraderie among those responsible for the safety and security of so much, including each other.

Miller, who is the proud father of two, has his travel trailer packed and his roadmap ready as he looks forward to retirement. On March 7, Officer Miller, along with the agency’s Special Response Team, made a final run together, but this time waiting at the finish line were family and loved ones cheering him on. He exited the scaling north perimeter gates one last time. This day, the run down John Young Parkway and through the secure compound wasn’t to qualify for something great, it was to conclude something remarkable.

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Corrections Gives Back to Florida Teen Achievers

Orange County Chief of Corrections Cornita A. Riley and correctional officers, along with medical staff from Corrections Health Services, were proud to personally present the YMCA of Central Florida’s Teen Achievers Program with a monetary donation to benefit local youth this past week.

The Orange County Corrections Department’s (OCCD) Guns and Hoses Basketball Tournament team was awarded a monetary donation to be given to the charity of its choice after placing second in the annual Guns and Hoses Basketball Tournament, a fundraising event that promotes healthy competition among fire and law enforcement personnel. The team, which placed second in the Orlando Magic-sponsored tournament, raised $2,500. The funds were hand delivered to Mina Ford, executive director for the YMCA’s Teen Achievers Program.

The correctional officers and medical staff comprising the OCCD team selected the YMCA as its charitable organization because of its mission to prevent or deter young adults and children from making choices that could bring them to the attention of law enforcement or corrections.

Hot Dogs, Cool Cats Adoption Day

Orange County Animal Services will be hosting the Second Annual “Hot Dogs, Cool Cats” Adoption Event on Saturday, May 30. All cat and dog adoption fees will be reduced to $15 and Animal Services will be extending hours. The shelter will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The adoption fee includes spaying/neutering, vaccinations and microchip identification.

An average of 50 dogs and cats enter Animal Services daily so a variety of pets are always available for adoption. Dogs, cats, puppies, kittens and every pet personality can be found at the shelter too—from mellow pets to active ones, cuddle bugs and more!

Last year, 140 pets were adopted at this event and 1,052 people visited the shelter. Extra staff and volunteers are always on hand to help accommodate the extra crowd. The shelter is hoping for an even larger turn out this year!

Let Animal Services know you’re attending the event on their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/OrangeCountyAnimalServices. You can learn more about this event at www.ocnetpets.com or by calling 407-836-PAWS.

United Way Day of Action Book Drive

Heart of Florida United Way is inviting Orange County employees, family, friends and the community to help fight summer reading loss—or the gradual loss of reading proficiency during summer break—during its upcoming Day of Action volunteer event on Tuesday, June 23.

United Way is seeking all types of books that are suitable for all ages, from birth to high school (fiction and nonfiction, but not school textbooks). Books...
The International Plastics Showcase Brings $129 Million to Orange County

Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs welcomed more than 65,800 delegates from 120 countries recently to the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) for the plastics industry’s largest global convention.

With an economic impact of $129.6 million, NPE2015: The International Plastics Showcase previewed the latest in plastics technology, innovation and equipment during a week-long event.

“We are so proud to welcome NPE and the plastics industry back to Orange County,” Mayor Jacobs said during the opening ceremony. “This is the most important plastics trade show in the world and we are so fortunate to host it right here at our Center of Hospitality, the Orange County Convention Center.”

The Showcase draws recyclers, technology experts and executives who make major manufacturing decisions that impact the world’s economy.

The trade show’s 2,000 exhibitors displayed goods on 2.1 million square feet of space—the entire Convention Center.

Head Start’s Little Green Thumbs

In an effort to bring awareness to going green and sustainability in today’s environment, teachers, students and parents worked together to plant gardens at the John Bridges, Southwood, East Orange and Hal Marston Head Start centers. At each center, garden boxes were constructed and the children planted the seeds that would become real fruits and vegetables. Their crops included tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, avocados, pumpkins, basil, okra, rosemary, parsley, sage, wax beans, green beans and eggplant.

These Head Start community gardens are sponsored by a Nemours program designed to help promote health and nutrition with preschool children.

Head Start teachers and center supervisors attended Nemours’ Healthy Habits five-week training to learn about healthy eating, how to battle childhood obesity and integrating nutrition activities into their curriculum. After the training, the centers received a grant that staff used to plant healthy gardens with their students. Teachers also incorporated gardening into their lesson plans.

“The gardens have been highly beneficial to our young students,” Head Start Division Manager Sonya Hill said. “In addition to learning how to plant, maintain and harvest a garden, they are learning how to work as a team and about science and nutrition, as well as creating art and stories inspired by gardens.”

should be gently used or new. United Way is officially accepting books at its office located at 1940 Traylor Blvd., Orlando, from May 26 to 29.

During the Day of Action volunteer event, United Way will be engaging with numerous local schools and education-based nonprofits to create fun reading and literacy volunteer projects to promote reading in youth.

United Way will also be distributing all of the books directly to the children they interact with in order to curb one of the major causes of summer reading loss—lack of access to age-appropriate reading material. With the assistance of Orange County employees, United Way should again be able to provide each student with at least three books to take home as their own.

The Head Start class enjoys some time in the garden to see the fruit of their labor.
Tina Richards has always had a deep curiosity for the natural world. As a child growing up near the St. Lucie River, Tina would climb and catch whatever she could find. Some things never change.

After earning her bachelor’s degree, Tina landed a job with the UCF Arboretum where she led guided nature trail tours, participated in prescribed burns, taught Ethnobotany, oversaw a community garden and coordinated volunteers and events.

While at the Arboretum, Tina began working on her master’s degree in conservation biology and interned with the Florida Native Plant Society where she contributed plant specimens to the USF Plant ATLAS database and the UCF Herbarium.

In April 2014, Tina was hired as the biologist for the Water Science section for Orange County’s Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Tina has the job of collecting and assessing macroinvertebrates (snails, freshwater mussels, and insects and their larvae) and plants from local streams and lakes, which helps evaluate the health of Central Florida’s numerous water systems (invertebrate and other data can be found at www.orange.wateratlas.org).

Some species are more tolerant of pollution, while others quickly perish. Assessing the quality and quantity of plants on lakeshores helps us understand the lake’s response to storm water inputs, which include pollution and nutrient runoff from lawns, agriculture, erosion, and dog and other animal feces.

“I love studying the amazing creatures and organisms that exist on this planet,” Tina explains. “Working for EPD allows me to explore life on earth, while contributing to its protection.”

Tina also assists in educational and outreach activities to introduce young naturalists to Central Florida’s many ecosystems, i.e. wildlife and plants and where they live.

To learn more about ways you can help keep the environment clean, visit: www.orangecountyfl.net.
Supervisor of Elections Office is Up and Running

Last fall, when the County’s Wellness team issued a walking challenge, several Supervisor of Elections Office (SOE) employees heeded the call. The buzz got around and soon more employees joined in and received pedometers to measure their progress. Once the 2014 elections had passed, even more staff members signed up, and the “Resolution Revolution” challenge—introduced by Orange County Wellness—was born.

With the addition of the theme “New Year, New Things, New YOU,” spirit and participant dedication grew. This team was determined to win the challenge, and they did!

Employees enjoyed the program’s health benefits and camaraderie so much that the wellness initiative was extended through the end of 2015. A wellness committee was established, and with the help of Debra Hodge from Orange County Wellness, the office was connected with CentraCare and Cigna representatives. As a result, interested employees now meet monthly during lunch to learn, share successes and challenges, weigh in and have their blood pressure checked.

Nearly half of the departments’ employees signed up for the Corporate 5K this year, a first-ever experience for many. SOE employee Pat smiled as she crossed the finish line nearly last, saying, “I did it for me!” She discovered the next morning she did it for many when she was greeted by cheering coworkers who were encouraged by her exercise persistence, rain or shine. Another employee, Glenda, beamed as she reported in a wellness meeting that her blood pressure, blood sugar and weight are better than they have been in years, allowing her doctor to discontinue her diabetes medication.

Visit the Supervisor of Elections Office around lunchtime, and you’ll likely find part of the group gearing up for the next challenge. It’s not just a change of routine; it’s a change of mind, heart and life!

For more information about Wellness programs, contact Debra Hodge, OCG Wellness Coordinator, at debra.hodge@ocfl.net.

Do you have an inspiring on- or off-the-clock story to share with our readers? Email: Kelly.McMann@ocfl.net

Mother’s Day Fast Facts

Ancient Greeks & Romans
- Held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, and early Christian’s celebrated “Mothering Sunday.”

Eating Out
- Food is a big part of Mother’s Day. Research shows that 54.7 percent of us take mom out to eat, spending a total $3.1 billion in the U.S.

Say Hello to Mom
- More phone calls are made on Mother’s Day than any other day of the year. These holiday chats with Mom often cause phone traffic to spike by as much as 37 percent.

Celebrate with Flowers
- In the United States, Mother’s Day continues to be celebrated by presenting mothers and other women with gifts and flowers, and it has become one of the biggest holidays for consumer spending.

Feminist Causes
- At times, Mother’s Day has also been a date for launching political or feminist causes. In 1968, Coretta Scott King, wife of Martin Luther King Jr., used Mother’s Day to host a march in support of underprivileged women and children.

Signed Into Law
- President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother’s Day.
Changes to The Orange County Policy Manual

On April 7, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved changes to the Orange County Policy Manual & Organization Regulations. These changes, which were the result of revisions to Florida State Statutes, became effective April 26 and reflect current practices of the organization and correct inconsistencies that affected both bargaining and non-bargaining unit employees. The organizational regulations, which outline how a policy is applied, will be updated accordingly.

The Domestic Violence and Violence in the Workplace Policy has been strengthened to assist in ensuring the safety of all employees and to more clearly define the workplace, emphasize management’s role in assisting victims and support local law enforcement initiatives.

The Salary Administration Policy for both regular employees and executive employees has also been updated. The BCC approves employee salary increases annually and determines the method of implementation. An employee’s movement through the salary ranges, such as promotion and transfer, are outlined in the policy, as well as how an employee may be paid acting pay when assuming full duties of an absent employee over an extended period of time. Additionally, performance evaluation due dates were redefined in the policy revisions.

Shift differential rates will remain the same for non-exempt (hourly) employees, but the zones and payment for time worked within a zone has been more clearly defined with a newly-created shift differential zone for those employees working 12-hour or more shifts. Exempt employee shift differential is now calculated on a per-pay-period basis with a lump sum payment after a specified number of hours. Also, effective April 26, temporary employees will be eligible for shift differential payment.

For most regular non-exempt employees, beginning with the Memorial Day Holiday, any floating holidays taken on or after April 26 will not count toward the calculation of overtime. In reverse of that, the hours an employee works on a County-designated holiday will count toward the calculation of overtime.

Other Leave Types
Earlier, on February 10, the BCC approved a change to the Other Leave Types Policy. This change grants pay to employees who have been subpoenaed to involuntarily participate in a legal proceeding against the County in a state or federal court as the result of an anti-discrimination law, as though they were working.

The Orange County Policy Manual & Operational Regulations can be found on the County Intranet or Internet. If you have any questions regarding a policy, please reach out to a Human Resources representative at any Human Resources Service Center.

A Big Shout Out to the Orange County Corporate 5K team

The Orange County team gears up to head for the start line in downtown Orlando.

Are you on track to graduate from one of The Passport’s learning series or programs? We are so excited to recognize you and celebrate this professional milestone. If you want to be included in the next graduation ceremony scheduled for June 24, you need to get your graduation completion form submitted to Organizational Development and Training by May 22 at 5 p.m. You can submit your forms via email to OD.Training@ocfl.net, fax to 407-836-5845, or via inner office mail, attention Human Resources, OD & Training. All awards submissions received after the closing date will be recognized in the next award ceremony scheduled for fall 2015.

Please note, this is the last graduation ceremony for the retired Leadership and Professional Development series. If you are ready to graduate from one of these programs, this is your final opportunity to submit your paperwork.

Not sure if you have all the credits you need or misplaced your graduation form? Do you have questions about transferring from our retired series to our new ones? No worries. Contact Organizational Development and Training at OD.Training@ocfl.net or call 407-836-2924, and we will be happy to review your training record and provide additional forms as needed.

We look forward to celebrating with you at graduation!
### May Service Awards

#### 5 Years
- Administrative Services: Charlene Walters
- Corrections: Aisha Perez
- Court Administration: Diana C. Steele
- Family Services: Roxana Trujillo
- Public Works: Gene Crawford, Afrodicio Soto

#### 10 Years
- Administrative Services: Rolando Melo
- Convention Center: Ronal Lustig
- Community, Environmental & Development Services: Terri Brinson
- Corrections: Jonathan Martin, William Powell

#### 15 Years
- Administrative Services: Johnny Lugo, Jr.

#### 20 Years
- Community, Environmental & Development Services: Tracey N. Greene

#### 25 Years
- Community, Environmental & Development Services: Andy Christensen

#### 30 Years
- Convention Center: Robert J. Roomsburg
- Corrections: DeAnn Car, Debra Hutcherson
- Utilities: John Williams

#### 35 Years
- Corrections: Lucy Barnes

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**Administrative Services**
- Willie Brookins, Jr.: Service Writer
- Sonia Latore: Senior Fiscal Coordinator
- Zakia Amos: Recreation Specialist
- Anhkhoa Dang: Senior Housing Development Assistant
- Jessica Green: Recreation Specialist
- Ben Griffiths: Code Enforcement Specialist II
- Richard Harmic: Program Manager
- Gilberto Mercado, Jr.: Inspector
- Jeannine Neilson: Site Supervisor I
- Mindi Redditt: Recreation Specialist

**Convention Center**
- Ronal Lustig: Convention Director

**Community, Environmental & Development Services**
- Terri Brinson: Community Services Director
- Jonathan Martin: Corrections & Development Services Director
- William Powell: Public Works Director

**Corrections**
- Aisha Perez: Unit Manager
- Roxana Trujillo: Assistant Unit Manager

**Family Services**
- Diana Arnold: Senior Services Manager
- Gianna Graham: Administration Manager

**Utilities**
- Bryan Shugarts: Senior Manager
- Alejandro Gonzalez: Assistant Manager
- Meghan E. Dahlquist Kelly: Administration Manager

**Development Services**
- Sapho Vatel: Recreation Specialist
- Gordon Tincher: Development Engineering Manager

**Fire Rescue**
- Kevin Topps: Firefighter I
- Hackett Avedeo: Firefighter II

**Health Services**
- Lori Johnson: Chief Executive Officer
- Janette Fleming: Chief Administrative Officer

**Utilities**
- John Joseph Galfo: Assistant Manager
- Dean Muller, Jr.: Manager

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**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**
- Willie Brookins, Jr.: Service Writer
- Sonia Latore: Senior Fiscal Coordinator
- Zakia Amos: Recreation Specialist
- Anhkhao Dang: Senior Housing Development Assistant
- Patricia Dorminey: Recreation Specialist
- Jessica Green: Recreation Specialist
- Ben Griffiths: Code Enforcement Specialist II
- Richard Harmic: Program Manager
- Gilberto Mercado, Jr.: Inspector
- Jeannine Neilson: Site Supervisor I
- Mindi Redditt: Recreation Specialist

**CONVENTION CENTER**
- Ronal Lustig: Convention Director

**COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**
- Terri Brinson: Community Services Director
- Jonathan Martin: Corrections & Development Services Director
- William Powell: Public Works Director

**CORRECTIONS**
- Aisha Perez: Unit Manager
- Roxana Trujillo: Assistant Unit Manager

**FAMILY SERVICES**
- Dianne Arnold: Senior Services Manager
- Gianna Graham: Administration Manager

**FINANCE**
- DeVeLOPME N S
- Recreation Specialist
- Site Supervisor I
- Jeanine Neilson: Inspector
- Ben Griffiths: Recreation Specialist
- Jessica Green: Recreation Specialist
- Anhkhao Dang: Senior Housing Development Assistant
- Patricia Dorminey: Recreation Specialist
- Jessica Green: Recreation Specialist
- Ben Griffiths: Code Enforcement Specialist II
- Richard Harmic: Program Manager
- Gilberto Mercado, Jr.: Inspector
- Jeannine Neilson: Site Supervisor I
- Mindi Redditt: Recreation Specialist

**FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**
- Sapho Vatel: Recreation Specialist
- Gordon Tincher: Development Engineering Manager

**HEALTH SERVICES**
- Lori Johnson: Chief Executive Officer
- Janette Fleming: Chief Administrative Officer

**UTILITIES**
- John Joseph Galfo: Assistant Manager
- Dean Muller, Jr.: Manager

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**ORANGE SPIEL**

May 2015
**May Calendar**

**3-9**

**Drinking Water Week:** Safe, reliable water is critical to every community’s success. Drinking Water Week calls attention to this valuable resource that is vital to Orange County’s economic development, environmental health and people. Everyone can make a difference when it comes to conserving water. For conservation ideas, visit www.occonservewater.net.

**National Correctional Officers Week:** to honor the work of correctional officers nationwide in recognition of the outstanding achievements and dedicated service of the correctional officers and correctional officer supervisors of the state.

**5 & 23**

**Butterflies, Pollinators and Beneficials in the Garden:** This class will teach you how to attract and keep butterflies in your garden year round along with other pollinators and beneficial insects important to a healthy garden. We will talk about key nectar and host plants. For more information and to register, visit gardenflorida.eventbrite.com.

**6**

**Asian & Pacific Islander Month:** Celebrate Asian and Pacific Islander culture with fellow employees. Includes breakfast, youth awards and proclamation. To be held at the County Administration Building. For more information, email hefang.lin@ocfl.net or call 407-836-0309.

**9**

**Clean Sweep Challenge:** Join District 2 Commissioner Bryan Nelson and District 6 Commissioner Victoria P. Siplin at New Church of Faith, 5000 Silver Star Rd., from 8 - 11 a.m. for the Clean Sweep Challenge. Volunteers will receive gloves and trash bags to help cleanup Orange County neighborhoods. Light refreshments and a wrap-up celebration distributing free T-shirts will begin at 11 a.m. For details, call 407-836-5860 or email district6@ocfl.net.

**10**

**Mother’s Day:** All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.
—Abraham Lincoln

**13-26**

**Orlando Fringe Theatre Festival:** Celebrate “Orlando’s most unique cultural experience.” Enjoy a diverse menu of creativity through the arts. Held at Loch Haven Park, 900 E. Princeton St. For tickets, visit www.orlandofringe.org.

**16**

**Coop Tree Giveaway:** Receive two seven-gallon trees per household on a first-come, first-served basis at South Econ Park, 3800 S. Econ Trail, between 8 a.m. and noon (or when all the trees are gone). Register on arrival and provide proof of Orange County residency. For more information, please call 407-254-9200.

**25**

**Memorial Day:** Take time to visit a war memorial or military cemetery to honor the men and women who fought and died for our country.

**26**

**Mini-Gardening – Growing Vegetables in Containers:** Don’t have enough room for a proper vegetable garden site in your landscape? There is no need to give up on growing quality vegetables when you choose the right type and size of container. Held at the Orange County Extension Education Center, 6021 S. Conway Rd., 6:30–8 p.m.

**30**

**Autism 5K Walk & Family Fun Day:** Join the fun for this 8th annual event at the Convention Center South Concourse to support Central Florida families affected by autism, 9 a.m.–noon. Walk starts at 10 a.m. For more information or to register, call 407-855-0235, or visit www.asgo.org.

**30**

**Second Annual Hot Dogs, Cool Cats Adoption:** All Fees are reduced to $15 and shelter hours will be extended from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. at 2769 Conroy Rd., Orlando. Let Animal Services know you’re attending the event on their Facebook page, facebook.com/OrangeCountyAnimalServices. You can learn more about this event at www.ocnetpets.com or by calling 407-836-PAWS.