The superhero Iron Man can be counted on to swoop in and save the day when needed. In Orange County, we have our own “Iron Man,” Firefighter/Paramedic Paul Ramirez.

Every May, Orange County Fire Rescue (OCFR) recognizes the Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and Paramedics who go above and beyond. This year they gave a new award, the Iron Man, to the paramedic who transported the most patients to the hospital. In 2012, Ramirez took 761 patients to the hospital. That’s more than any other OCFR paramedic. The next busiest medic had 658. No doubt Ramirez obtained the award through a lot of hard work. He is always the first to pick up an overtime shift. “My longest stretch was working eight days straight, though not all were 24 hour days,” Ramirez says. “I am also assigned to Fire Station 30 in Orlo Vista, one of Orange County’s busier stations.”

Modern fire departments do so much more than fight fires. In fact, over 80% of OCFR’s calls are medical emergencies. Ramirez joined the department five years ago with a passion for medicine and helping people. “I love the medical field and understanding how the human body works,” he explained. “It feels good when you make a difference.”

Ramirez describes himself as “a workaholic since age 12.” He served his country as a Marine prior to joining the fire service. He goes home to a wife and three girls and says, “They are cool with all the extra hours I put in. Every day when I get home, they ask, "whose life did you save today?"

Even though his trophy was for the most patients taken to the hospital, Ramirez tries to set himself apart by quality of patient contact. “I’m always learning to be a better medic,” he says. “I learn to listen more; I make sure my patient is comfortable. If they want to talk, I’m there to listen, if they just want to sleep on the way to the hospital, whatever it takes to get them there.”

Ramirez now has the title around the fire station of “Iron Man.” He’s never late and never calls in sick. He always has a huge smile on his face when he is helping patients. He also trains new medics and gives this advice, “if you don’t enjoy what you do, do something else.” It is very clear that Orange County’s Iron Man Paramedic loves what he does.
The probability a named storm will occur off the Atlantic coast remains “above-average,” as already demonstrated by Tropical Storms Andrea, Barry and Chantal. It’s not too late in the season to prepare for a pending hurricane.

Be Informed: Stay connected with latest updates on the hurricane’s approach and predicted strength. Sign up for the County’s text messaging service, OCALERT, at ocalert.net and download OCFL Alert app to your smartphone.

Make a Plan: Begin by identifying your household needs, communications methods, type of shelter (general, special needs, pet-friendly) and methods of transportation for different age groups (i.e. infant seats). This includes filling medical prescriptions, meeting special dietary needs and purchasing pet supplies. Share the plan with others and have an out-of-area contact in case your family relocates away from the storm.

Build a Kit: Gather important items into one easy to carry container in case of an evacuation. Supplies can be personalized to fit your family's needs. Remember to include fresh batteries for electronic devices, a hand operated can opener and a car cell phone charger.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit www.OCOEM.com or call 407-836-9140.

A Year in the Life
Backstage to Onstage at Universal Orlando Resort

If you haven’t been to the Regional History Center lately, you are missing out on their latest thrilling exhibit, A Year in the Life: Backstage to Onstage at Universal Orlando Resort. Take an exclusive look at the extensive process that goes into bringing the theme park’s iconic annual events to life. The exhibit changes with each Universal Orlando event season: Mardi Gras, Halloween Horror Nights, and the holidays – focusing on The Macy’s Holiday Parade and performances by Mannheim Steamroller. County employees receive free admission. Call 407-836-8580 or visit www.thehistorycenter.org for more information.

Where Am I?

Answer on page 7
Head Start Mural Project

When Head Start children at the Hal P. Marston Community Center hit the playground this summer, they now have a new mural wall to enjoy. With a fun inspired theme of zoo animals, the painted mural is the result of a two-day community project sponsored by the Orlando Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The mural artist was Patty Cloy with the assistance of Walter Glover. Over 100 volunteers helped with tracing, painting, cleaning and monitoring the project, including Commissioner Tiffany Moore Russell, Head Start parents, local community organizations, fraternities and sororities.

The Head Start mural project was a partnership between Orange County Government and the City of Orlando.

In an effort to promote volunteerism and community service throughout Orange County, Mayor Teresa Jacobs reintroduced the Summer of Service program, which offers volunteer service events and opportunities for citizens interested in serving our community.

Now in its second year, the program connects Orange County residents to service projects with various agencies and organizations that are seeking volunteers.

From the Environmental Protection Division’s community clean-up and storm drain labeling event in Winter Park to the house painting project in partnership with “Seniors First” in the Rio Grande Terrace neighborhood, “Citizens continue to do an outstanding job in giving back to Orange County,” says Mayor Jacobs.

If interested in participating, it’s not too late to sign up for the August 12-16 volunteer event, Fixin’ Up The Neighborhood. This Conway area project is an opportunity to assist neighbors in house painting and making small household repairs. Activities will take place during the morning hours, and all the necessary tools and supplies will be provided.

TO VOLUNTEER: Email Tabitha.Wood@ocfl.net with Neighborhood Preservation and Revitalization or call 407-836-5613.

OrangeStats

Dashboard for OC Activities

The County website has a new feature called OrangeStats, a multilayered dashboard that provides key performance indicators for our citizens, the business community, and individuals and organizations interested in relocating to the area. The dashboard highlights three main categories including economic activity, public safety and quality of life. OrangeStats is a dynamic tool that provides OC data on anything from the number of 911 calls received or how many permits were issued in a given time frame to the economic impact of the Convention Center.

LEARN MORE: Orange Stats is located on the homepage at www.ocfl.net.
By JUDI K. KERR, COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

ON THE CLOCK

Mike Seif
Right on Cue

BY JUDI K. KERR, COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

In our fast-paced world, you need a savvy technical guru to keep the rest of us up on the latest trends in information sharing and delivery. Enter—Mike Seif, Operations Manager for Orange TV.

If you’ve ever met Mike, you would know what I mean by fast-paced. He speaks at warp speed in super-techno ease as he mentions video-streaming, codecs and containers, and .iOS and .avi file formats. All of this talk can be quite confusing to non-teckkies, but his end product is always right on cue.

Like Scotty from Star Trek, Mike’s high-tech skills allow him to come up with last-minute solutions. A recent example of his cutting edge gift was at the 2013 Mayor’s State of the County Address at Full Sail LIVE. From the idyllic Orange County visuals on-stage to the well-crafted videos, Mike worked countless hours to engineer a brilliant and well-received end product in record time.

Mike moved to Orange County 11 years ago from Miami, Florida. Once a master of infomercials and music videos in the 1990s, he appeared on the scene to bring OTV up-to-speed on its broadcasting quality. Mike even developed a virtual studio in his home, so he can take care of any problems that could arise on the fly. This is far-far away from the days of ticker tape and jail mug shots on OTV.

“Mike Seif is one of the key reasons why Orange TV has evolved into one of the nation’s best television production studios for government and informational programming. His technical expertise is matched only by his passion for excellence and his ability to spread his sense of fun and enthusiasm throughout the staff,” says Steve Triggs, Orange County Communications Manager.

Lucky for Orange County Mike loves to keep up on the latest in web and video standards. “This has allowed me to merge OTV with new trends in social media and web development,” says Mike. “In most cases you would have somebody who understands only one of those aspects and would either outsource the other to a company or would have to hire two positions to accommodate this evolution in video distribution.”
For the **Love of Puppies**

BY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT STAFF

As a Utilities Field Services Division Manager, Troy Layton is often seen traveling around the county for his job. Over the past year, alongside him has been his faithful partner—an adorable yellow lab/golden retriever crossbred puppy. His name is Dallas, and he is from Canine Companions for Independence (CCI).

Troy and his family are volunteer puppy raisers for CCI, which provides skilled companion dogs to children and adults with disabilities, free of charge. Puppy raisers help train and socialize CCI puppies for 1½ years, teaching them over 40 commands. From there, the puppies enter an advanced training program where they spend another year learning the skills to provide individuals the ability to live independently or restore them to an active life after a serious injury.

So far, the Laytons have raised three dogs for the CCI program. Dallas recently left to go into the advanced training program. Sometime next year, they hope to share the good news that he has been placed into service.

Some OC employees might remember Tillie, the black lab crossbreed that trained with Troy three years ago. She is now in California working with a speech/language pathologist who works with autistic children. “These dogs have the power to change a person’s life,” says Troy. “They can be the bridge to giving a person an independent and engaged life when nothing else can.” “It’s always a tough day when we have to say farewell to our babies because fallen in love with but it’s very sweet in that we know these puppies will go on to do great things,” says Betty Layton, Troy’s wife. Stue, the first puppy the Laytons raised for CCI, was released from advanced training and has been their family pet and mentor to their other CCI puppies for 13 years.

As for their next canine companion, Troy says, “We plan to take on another puppy after the first of the year. We’re looking at working with a corrections dog.

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Dallas in the Boone High School homecoming parade.

Troy Layton and his family with Dallas
Meet Our New HR Wellness Coordinator
Jacquelyn Smith

Tell us about yourself. I graduated from UCF in 2004 with a degree in Health Service Administration and have been a personal trainer since 2006. I was recently the Employee Wellness Coordinator for Orange County Public Schools. Prior to that I was an office manager and wellness facilitator for a family owned chiropractic clinic, so my background is varied with insurance benefits, fitness, and wellness program development.

What are some wellness services you offer to employees? This year we launched a diabetes prevention program. We also have various lunch & learn sessions, weight loss challenges, and free screening events.

How about any wellness programs or events? Last month we hosted our 1st annual Men’s Health Summit. August 30th will be the Women’s Summit. The Wellness Department is also planning to participate in “Walktober” (a walking program) during October as well as the yearly holiday weight loss challenge.

Are you planning any new wellness activities? I want to develop and coordinate programs that employees can seamlessly incorporate into their daily lives. This is so that living healthy doesn’t have to be a struggle, but an ongoing adventure. I also believe education is KEY! Employees must be aware of resources that are beneficial to their health. And if that resource is FREE, like our Wellness Centers and Magic Gyms, that’s even better!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call Jacquelyn Smith at 407-836-5826.

Employee Wall of Fame

Our August 2013 honoree for the Employee Wall of Fame is Lavon Williams for his dedication and commitment to providing the best services for the community.

As an ordained Deacon with the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Eatonville, he answered a challenge from First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! Initiative to create a video highlighting what his church was doing to improve the overall health of the community. The video, Macedonia on the Move, was selected as the best out of hundreds submitted by organizations nationwide. Earlier this year, he accepted the award from First Lady Obama in Washington D.C.

Williams is a fire fighter for Orange County Fire Rescue. When not fighting fires and saving lives, he devotes much of his off-time to promoting healthy activities and programs at his church. Congratulations Lavon Williams!

How to Nominate an Employee for the Wall of Fame
Any employee can nominate an exemplary co-worker or project group for the Wall of Fame. If you know someone who has gone above and beyond at work or made a positive difference in their community, email your nomination to Carol.Clark@ocfl.net. Please include a brief description of why your nominee(s) is a good candidate for the Wall of Fame. Those selected are recognized at a Board of County Commissioners meeting. Plus, their award and portrait will be displayed on the first floor at the County Administration Center. Candidates are chosen quarterly.

Coming Soon FLU SHOTS 2013

Don’t be left in the cold. Mark your calendars and be prepared this fall.

Starting in September, discounted flu shots will be offered to Orange County employees and their families.

More details and locations to be announced. For more information, please email saja.taylor@ocfl.net or call 407-836-5452.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call Jacquelyn Smith at 407-836-5826.
August 2013 • ORANGE SPIEL 7

SERVICE AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

5 Years
Community, Environmental & Development Services
Karen T. Mcguire
Convention Center
Gary D. Parker
Corrections
Jose A. Baez Jr.
Julius E. Buie
Shuntivia S. Bowan
Anthony Cassasquillo
Steven J. Chambers
Giovanni Concepcion
Stevens P. Cuevas
Julio A. Perez Ferrer
Luis A. Ortega Gonzalez
Gidget S. Harmon
Geovanie Hernandez
Darnell Hilbert
Justin T. Key
Franklin Lopez
Ariel Molina
Diana D. Morris
Juan C. Perez
Jovon A. Sanders
Paul A. Schafer
Michael A. Scott
Christopher Sinclair
Edna M. Simon
Family Services
Amy L. Bradnick

jeannine meade-guimaraes
misrac t. tadesse
Aziza Zahi
Office of Accountability
George W. Duncan
Angela R. Sapone
Jamaal J. Tatum
Public Works
Anthony R. Albert II
Duane E. Alvarado
Utilities
Michael Allen
Lynne M. Cuna
Nicole C. Mcmahon
Stevey C. Williams

10 Years
Community, Environmental & Development Services
Alice J. Retherford
Pat A. Romeo
County Administration
William C. Suchy
Corrections
Ronnie Gullo
Efrain Mojica
David Rodriguez
Roberto C. Toyens
Patricia T. Turner

Family Services
Sandra J. Brown
Fire Rescue
David D. Adams
Public Works
Alan R. Selesnick
Utilities
Sandra A. Chamness
Robin B. Hritz
Michael Garlick
Shelley A. Patterson
Jorge A. Reyes
Bennie H. Smith
Henry D. Zamora

15 Years
Community, Environmental & Development Services
Mirra L. Barq
Robert E. Farmer
Ruth M. Hernandez
Elizabeth Rico
Convention Center
Laura E. Giraldo
Jessica M. Williams
County Administration
Cynthia Rios
Corrections
Lavonda Wilder

Family Services
Daisy Flores
Prentiss L. Napper
Office of Accountability
Christopher F. Carr
Timothy A. Falconer
Public Works
Dennis A. Godwin
Utilities
Robert T. Murphy
Larry G. Tunnell

20 Years
Community, Environmental & Development Services
Tajuana W. Collier
Randy J. Mckown
Convention Center
Brian G. Kennedy
Rose M. Brown
Lawanda D. Drummer
Sandra L. Dailey
Corrections
Margaret M. Engram
Carrie L. Wainwright
Office of Accountability
Patti L. Guzman

25 Years
Convention Center
Janice S. Addison
Corrections
Daryl A. Bernard
David E. Gerena
Brenda C. Singleary
Family Services
Kenneth R. Lewis
Office of Accountability
Carl E. Lamp
Public Works
Casey R. Burt
Utilities
Bonny R. Campis
Gary L. Humphreys

30 Years
Convention Center
Jeffrey R. McGowan
Utilities
William A. Lias

35 Years
Community, Environmental & Development Services
Kenneth P. Gillette
Berradine McFarland

FAMILY SERVICES
Blanca E. Giraldo
Administrative Assistant
Victor M. Gonzalez
Equipment Operator IV
Willie Howard Jr.
Plant Specialist II
Tammy K. Ross
Administrative Assistant
Tara L. Troutman
Utilities Supervisor
James W. Flynt Jr.
Chief Engineer

FIRE RESCUE
Diego C. Rodrigues
Engineer 56

Robert M. Wojcik
Engineer Paramedic 56

PUBLIC WORKS
Allen R. Hughes
Drainwell Leader

UTILITIES
Gregory Blaine Jr.
Industrial Mechanic I

The Orange Spiel is a monthly newsletter for Orange County employees. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of Orange County Government. For more information or to submit an article for consideration, send to: Orange Spiel Editor, Communications Division, 201 S. Rosalind Ave. or email judi.kerr@ocfl.net. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length and clarity.

Where Am I?
(Answer to page 3 photo)
The recently opened splash pad at the Bithlo Community Center. Beat the heat on one of five splash pads around the County. For locations, visit Parks and Recreation at www.ocfl.net.

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August Calendar

2-4 Back to School Sales Tax Holiday: No sales tax on sales of clothing.

3 Rock the Block: Live music, extreme sports exhibition, health and wellness services, kids' activities at the former Amway Arena Parking Lot, noon–9 pm, free.

11 Orlando City vs. Seattle Sounders Reserves: Citrus Bowl, 1601 W. Church St., 7:30 pm, $15. For details, visit www.orlandocitysoccer.com.

11-12 Adventure Night at the Museum: Grab your lassoes, dig up your dino-mite gear, and tell your mummies the History Center has another great adventure when you spend a night at the museum! K-5. $25 members; $35 non-members. 7 pm–8 am. 65 E. Central Blvd. Visit www.thehistorycenter.org or call 407-836-8580.

13 Counsel for Caregivers Seminar: "Common Eye Ailments" with Brian Michaels from the Florida Division of Blind Services. West Oaks Library, 1821 E. Silver Star Rd., Ocoee, 10:30 am. Register at officeonaging@ocfl.net or call 407-836-7446.

15 Florida Friendly Landscaping Principles: Orange County Extension Education Center, 6021 S. Conway Rd. 6–7:30 pm. Free, must pre-register. For more information, call 407-254-9200 or visit orange.ifas.ufl.edu.

17 National Homeless Animals’ Day: Reflect and remember homeless animals that do not make it to shelters and do not find a warm, loving home. To find out ways you can help, call Animal Services at 407-254-9140.

17 Streetscape Adopt-A-Tree Program: Receive two 7-gallon trees per household on a first-come, first-served basis. Barnett Park, 4801 W. Colonial Dr., 8 am–noon (or when all the trees are gone). Call 407-254-9200 for more information.

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20 Florida Friendly Lakeshore Landscapes: Orange County Extension Education Center, 6021 S. Conway Rd., 10–11:30 am. Free, must pre-register. For more information, call 407-254-9200 or visit orange.ifas.ufl.edu.

24 A Haunting Look at History: Artists & Authors with the Creative Minds Behind Universal Orlando Resort’s Halloween Horror Nights at the Regional History Center, 65 E. Central Blvd., 6 pm reception; 7 pm dinner, followed by program. $40 members; $55 non-members; discount for table of 8. Call 407-836-7010 to reserve your place.

24-25 Truck & Jeep Fest: Join the nation’s largest off-road show at the OC Convention Center, West Bldg., 9800 International Dr. Saturday, 10 am–4 pm; Sunday, 11 am–4 pm. Free. For details, visit www.occcc.net.

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