



September 2007

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Rebecca Foley-Kearney
rkearney@lakecountyfl.gov
352.742.6520

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 ELCLC PVP Birthday Party *
2	3  Labor Day <i>County Offices Closed</i>	4 Regular BCC Meeting 9:00 a.m.	5	6	7	8
9	10 Haven of Lake-Sumter Board Meeting @ 5:45-7:00 pm Kelly Smallridge 365.0232 Safe Climate Coalition Meeting Debi MacIntyre 408.2009 * Youth Reach, SAFE Series Starts Angela Thomas 787-2030 *	11 Understanding Today's Teens—Julie Laipply *	12 LCSSN Steering Committee Meeting 8:45-10:00 a.m. Lori Humphrey 742.6941 HEART Mtg. 11:30 am Florida Hospital Waterman Bonnie Reidy 728.6661 or 6666	13	14 Devereux Kids. The Front Porch Project@ 9:00 am-4:00 pm Colleen Talpa 793-0801*	15
		Grant Writing USA Workshop *				
16	17	18 Regular BCC Meeting 9:00 a.m. HEART Mtg. 11:30 am Bonnie Reidy 728.6661 or 6666	19 Regular CSC Meeting 9:00 a.m. Rebecca Foley-Kearney 742.6520 *	20	21 Lake County Library Services 25th Anniversary *	22
23	24 Family Day, check website for participating restaurants: www.safeclimatecoalition.org	25 Kids Central Regional Kinship Care Advisory Board Meeting Call 352-873-3452 *	26 Leesburg Center for the Arts Board Meeting 12:00-1:00 pm Amy Griffin 365.0232	27 Kids Central Inc. Board of Directors Meeting Call: 352-873-6332 x3452 *	28 Devereux Kids. The Front Porch Project@ 9:00 am-4:00 pm Colleen Talpa 793-0801*	29 Central Florida Kidfest & Family Expo, Clermont 9:00 a.m.—2:00 P.M. *
30						



Contact: Lesha Coffield
Phone: (352) 435-0566
Email: lcoffield@elclc.org

For Immediate Release

LEESBURG/LAKE COUNTY/FLORIDA: PARENTS, TEACHERS AND CHILDREN SALUTE STATEWIDE SCHOOL READINESS AND EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

The second anniversary of the state's Voluntary Prekindergarten Program helps to shed light on the importance of early education in Florida.

Leesburg, Florida August 27, 2007– As the school year begins, The Early Learning Coalition of Lake County, Florida, joins coalitions around the state to salute Florida's early learning programs and commemorate the 2nd anniversary of Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK). This week, parents, teachers and children will emphasize the importance of school readiness and early learning with a birthday party for VPK. At the event on Saturday, September 1, 2007, children will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of fun activities, including art and science. There will also be some free early learning materials and books available for the children and parents to take home.

The statewide celebration began with a kick-off press conference in Tallahassee, hosted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), where Governor Charlie Crist and AWI Director Monesia T. Brown announced program milestones, highlighted accomplishments and indicated plans for the future of school readiness and early learning programs. This local event is just one of many being held throughout Florida at which state and local officials are touting the merits of early education.

Early learning programs prepare students for future success in school and the state's VPK program helps 4-year-olds learn critical skills prior to entering kindergarten. Both can be a vital part of fostering children's growth and development. During program year 2006-07 (which included school year and summer sessions), more than 1500 children participated in VPK in Lake County and more than 2500 children took advantage of school readiness programs.

Research shows children who participate in high-quality early childhood development programs tend to have higher scores on math and reading achievement tests, have greater language skills, are better prepared to enter elementary school and are more likely to pursue secondary education. In fact, the Florida Department of Education released the Kindergarten Readiness Rates in June of this year, which indicated that children who participated in Florida's VPK program were better prepared for kindergarten than those who did not. Last year, VPK services were delivered to 105,896 (47.7 percent) of the State's 4-year-olds—an impressive feat as

compared to first-year implementation in other states. For the current year, 124,284 (54.8 percent) of 4-year-olds have already been served and this number is likely to increase once final summer enrollment numbers have been submitted.

“We’ve seen the success that VPK and our other school readiness and early learning programs have had on local children,” says Lesha Coffield, Director of Early Learning Coalition of Lake County. “With numerous programs in operation -- one to fit every need -- parents can consider us a resource for preparing their children for future achievement in school.”

The public is welcome to join the celebration on September 1, 2007 from 10:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m. at the Boundless Playground at Lake Idamere Park in Tavares. This is just one of many events being held throughout Florida at which state and local officials are celebrating school readiness and early learning programs.

The Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) is Florida’s lead state workforce agency and directly administers the state’s Labor Market Statistics program, Unemployment Compensation, Early Learning and Workforce Services programs. Florida’s Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program is jointly administered by the Agency for Workforce Innovation, the Department of Education (DOE), and the Department of Children and Families (DCF). AWI administers the day-to-day operations of the program, including policy development, financial management and oversight of the 31 Early Learning Coalitions; DOE oversees standards, curricula and professional development; and DCF provides oversight of child care licensing, regulation, Florida’s Gold Seal Quality Care program and issues credentials for child care personnel.

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PLEASE POST!

Important Meeting Reminder

PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

Safe Climate Coalition Meeting

"A Shared Services Network Initiative"



Your community substance abuse coalition!

<http://safeclimatecoalition.org/>

Bullying & Lake County Schools

Please join us as *Donna Coates*, Program Specialist in the Safe Schools Department of Lake County Schools, brings us up to date on the new bullying policy and the Student Code of Conduct for the 2007-08 school year.

Monday, September 10, 2007

4:45 PM - 5:45 PM

Lake Tech/Institute of Public Safety

1565 Lane Park Cutoff, Tavares, FL

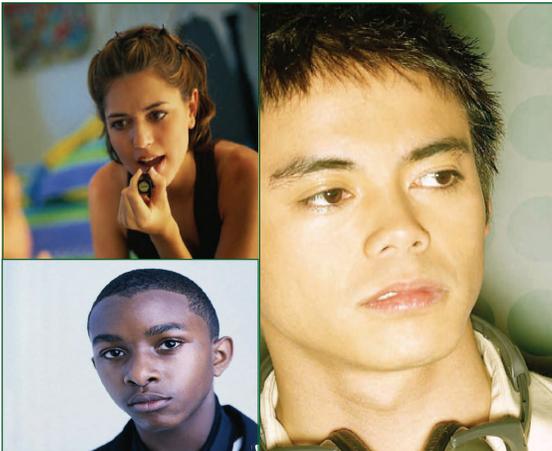
Room 302

The public is invited to attend. For more information, contact Debi MacIntyre at 352.408.2009 or debi@safeclimatecoalition.org



SAFE

*School-Aged Families
Education*



**SAFE has 8 weekly
work-shops for youth and
adults on topics like:**

- RULES & BOUNDARIES
- COMMUNICATIONS
- ANGER MANAGEMENT
- ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES
- EMOTIONS & FEELINGS
- ABSTINENCE
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE
- PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER/
GRADUATION

*Dinner is provided. Nursery Care
for children ages 0-6 provided.*

ALL FREE!



New SAFE series starts

Monday, 6-8 pm

September 10

**Refer youth and parents
for life-changing help!**

***For at-risk youth (age 7-15)
and their family:***

- ◆ Improves family functioning
- ◆ Redirects youth in positive directions
- ◆ Builds parenting capacity
- ◆ Strengthens relationships

Call for Info/Referral Form:

**(352) 787-2030—Angela Thomas
or download forms: www.yrfl.org**

Fax Completed Referral Form:

(352) 326-3208

Email Completed Referral Form:

angelathomas@yrfl.org

**Grant Writing
Workshop in Orlando,
FL
September 10-11,
2007**

Grant Writing USA and the University of Central Florida would like to invite you to a Grant Writing Workshop on September 10-11, 2007 in Orlando, FL. If you attend you'll learn how to write winning grant proposals and how to find and track relevant grant opportunities. This course is open to both beginning and experienced grant writers and it is the perfect way for you and your organization to get on the road to funding success! See the official training announcement below or click for all the details on "Register Here".

Regards,

Winston Cook
winston@grantwritingusa.com
888-290-6237

Grant Writing Workshop in
Orlando, FL on September
10-11, 2007

University of Central Florida,
in partnership with Grant
Writing USA, is pleased to



**REGISTER
NOW**

"It's a happy holiday season for The Arc of Sedgwick County. Today we received news that we are the recipient of a \$50,000 grant from the Wichita Community Foundation. Thank YOU for teaching me the skills to make it happen!"

- Michael Webb, 1st Vice President of the Board, The Arc of Sedgwick County

"Wow. I just completed your grant writing workshop, and I'm so grateful for the incredible experience. I learned more in that 2-day period than I can recall ever learning in a workshop, and I've been to some very good ones."

- Robin Camacho, American Heart Association, Las Vegas, NV

"Just a note to thank you for one of the best seminars I've ever attended in my career. Not only did you over-deliver on your agenda, but you were entertaining and truly inspirational. The CD-ROM is the absolute best tool of this nature that I have ever seen . . ."

- John P. Fullingim, Managing Director, Applied Behavioral Sciences, Dallas, TX

Insert the content you wish to appear.

FREE! • FREE! • FREE!

JULIE LAIPPLY

MISS VIRGINIA USA 2002

national speaker on successful choices for young people

Graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Ohio State University in Leadership Studies
Senior Management Consultant for the Pentagon
Florida Department of Health Abstinence Educator Trainer
Rotary Ambassador Scholar to England
Miss Virginia USA 2002



PARENTS: DON'T MISS THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY

- Would you like a greater understanding of how your teenager makes decisions and how to help them make the best ones?
- Would you like a greater understanding of the teen culture and how to help your teen cope with the media themes pushing sex, drugs and alcohol?
- Would you like to communicate more effectively with your teen?

Refreshments • Door Prizes

“Understanding Today’s Teens” Tuesday, September 11th

Christian Home and Bible School Auditorium

301 W 13th Avenue, Mount Dora

Doors open at 6:30 PM – program starts at 7 PM

OR

Wednesday, September 12th

First Baptist Church of Clermont

Corner of 5th and Montrose, Downtown Clermont

Doors open at 6:30 PM – program starts at 7 PM

Call
352-314-8733
for more
information.

Endorsed and sponsored by: ABC for Teens, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Golden Triangle Kiwanis, Neighborhood Accountability Boards, FBC Clermont, CCC, FBC Leesburg, MICAH Mentoring Program, Lake County Children's Service Council and Minneola Kiwanis.



Devereux Kids

We have all been there! In our parks, grocery stores, and in our neighborhoods, we see situations where parents are struggling with a child. We have neighbors who are single mothers just trying to make the best home possible for their children. We know hard working parents who find it hard to make ends meet. We see children playing unsupervised in sometimes dangerous situations. We read headlines of terrible things happening to children. The question is – how can we help?

Through awareness building and skill development, our training programs help people discover ways they can act in their daily lives that will help keep children safer and families more supported. They become the eyes and ears for children in their community and have new skills and confidence in their ability to make a difference for children and families.

Supporting families makes a difference!

The Front Porch Project®

"A Training in Partnership with American Humane Association"

Date: **September 14, 2007 (Day One)**
 September 28, 2007 (Day Two)
 Both days need to be attended to receive a certificate

Time: **9:00 am - 4:00 pm (Brown Bag Lunch)**

Location: **Goodwill Self-Sufficiency Job Center**
 10601 US Highway 441 Leesburg, FL 34788

Cost: **None!!**

E-mail ctalpa@devereux.org or call Colleen Talpa, Devereux Kids, at (352) 793-0801 to register. Pre-registration is **REQUIRED** to reserve your seat.

If you need special accommodations, please call 10 days prior to training.



Funded by:



**SEPTEMBER 19TH
REGULAR CSC MEETING
9:00 A.M.**

**1951 WOODLEA ROAD
LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL
CENTER AUDITORIUM**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL
REBECCA FOLEY-KEARNEY @
352.742.6520.**

**MANKIND OWES TO THE CHILD THE
BEST IT HAS TO GIVE.
~ UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ~**



**LAKE COUNTY
FLORIDA**

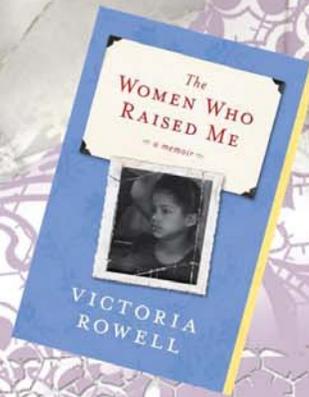
Celebrating **25** years
of Excellence in Library Services



With Acclaimed Actress & Author
Victoria Rowell

Friday, September 21st
6 pm
Author Dinner & Celebration at
Lake Receptions, Mount Dora

Ticket Price: \$50/person
For tickets and information,
check the library desk or call 352-253-6153



Victoria Rowell has published her first book, "The Women Who Raised Me". The story of a remarkable woman's rise out of the foster-care system to attain the American dream—and of the unlikely series of women who lifted her up in marvelous and distinctive ways.

Please Volunteer!

Become a mentor, foster parent and/or purchase a ticket for a foster child to attend this inspiring event.
VolunteerLAKE

HARVARD JOLLY

DE LUCA
HOMES

Cagan
MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.



MAHOGANY
SQUARED

THOMSON
GALE

Prestige Ford



Kids Central Regional Kinship Care Advisory Board

Tuesday, September 25th at 9:30 a.m.

Conference room

2002 at DCF Headquarters

1601 West Gulf Atlantic Highway

Wildwood, FL 34785.

For info: 352-873-3452

Kids Central Inc. Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, September 27th at 1:30 p.m.

Kids Central's All-Purpose Room

2123 SW Highway 484

Ocala, FL 34473.

For info: 352-873-6332 x3452.

For Immediate Release

Central Florida KIDFEST & FAMILY EXPO

Central Florida's Largest Child Safety Day to be held on September 30th.

For all the joy that parenthood brings, an equal measure of worry is present. The job of caring for a child and raising them to adulthood is full of challenges designed to test the mettle and knowledge of a caretaker. Daily choices and routine activities raise questions: Is this the best choice for my child? Am I doing the best for them?

On Saturday, September 29, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., **Central Florida Kidfest & Family Expo** will take place at the spacious campus of Celebration of Praise Church in Clermont. **Central Florida Kidfest & Family Expo** provides a venue where families and participating community and non-profit organizations can come together for the mutual objective of keeping children safe. Now in it's 7th year, this informative and fun day highlights an extensive range of information on a variety of issues – whether safety in the car, out on the street, on bicycles, at home or while at play – is available to attending families. Through interactive displays and one-on-one discussions, parents and caregivers are able to access information that is relevant to them. Kids also benefit from receiving messages that show them how they can take responsibility for their own well being. Last year's Kidfest was a huge success with thousands of people dropping in throughout the event. There is no admission charge to this community-wide event.

If knowledge is power, then **Central Florida Kidfest & Family Expo** is an event not to be missed by any concerned parent or caregiver. Since its inception, **Kidfest** has grown in scope and size and continues to attract a diverse cross section of groups whose primary concern is to ensure the safety of children. **Kidfest** was founded on the belief that child safety should be a proactive community endeavor. "Our goal has always been to assure that the families of Central Florida have access to the resources they need in order to ensure they avoid becoming an unfortunate statistic", says Jimmy Williams, **Central Florida Kidfest & Family Expo** Coordinator. "The number of families that don't know where to get appropriate information is alarming, and completely avoidable."

According to the United States Department of Justice, over one million children are reported missing in our country each year. Increasing awareness about missing children and children's safety has never been more critical.

The **Central Florida Kidfest & Family Expo** program includes child fingerprinting, drug awareness, car seat safety, swimming and pool safety, fire safety, bicycle safety, as well as many other safety demonstrations, interactive displays and booths. Attendees will have the chance to meet law enforcement officers from various agencies, fire fighters, paramedics, forest rangers, each with their vehicles.

"We're very privileged to have such overwhelming support from the participating community groups. Many of them return yearly with the latest information in their specific areas", says Williams. "They tell us that Kidfest is the one event where they can have the most impact because of the number of families that come and visit for the day. That's certainly a great way to measure our success!"

In addition to the many safety demonstrations and serious aspects, families will be able to take part in some fun activities. There will be inflatable games galore, clowns, puppets, balloons, food, refreshments, face painting and more.

Also, everyone will be able to meet Smokey the Bear, Larry and Vince - the Crash Test Dummies, Trooper Fuzz, Eddie Eagle and many other lovable characters. Kidfest is fun entertainment for the whole family.

Featured again this year at **Central Florida Kidfest & Family Expo** will be the "Celebrity Reading Room" where children's stories will be read by various local TV News personalities from WKMG Channel 6. WKMG is this year's official Central Florida Kidfest & Family Expo TV station.

Orlando radio station "Z88.3" will also be on hand doing a live remote from the event with some of the station's personalities.

Celebration of Praise Church of God is located at 3700 South U.S. Highway 27 in Clermont.