

# SUNCOAST AREA NEWS

VOLUME II

ISSUE 1

## From the Desk of Carl Littlefield...

### Bumps

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***“Life presents so many bumps ...”***

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You know... they are just a part of life. They are especially numerous during transitions.

The crawling infant learning to take the first steps...bumps. Learning to ride a bicycle for the first time...bumps. Becoming a teenager...bumps... lots of bumps... bumps on the face... bumps of development... bumps, bumps and more bumps. I remember waking one morning as a thirteen year old only to find what looked like a pre-erupted Mt. Vesuvius swelling on my nose. I thought it was over . . . I would never survive the embarrassment. I did.

First loves...bumps. Learning to drive...bumps. The first ten years of marriage... The last ten years of marriage...

Life presents so many bumps. Each comes during times of growth and development. Without them...little growth happens, skills are underdeveloped and maturity is placed in check. With them... we grow, mature, develop and become skillful navigators through whatever life hands us.

The economy is certainly causing some bumps for all us at APD. Hiring freezes, raise freezes, new litigation, and the many and varied ways that APD is dealing with a shrinking budget has caused some significant bumps.

We can choose our attitude about the bumps. We can become bitter, or we can see this as a time when a fledgling agency can come into its own as a mature and skilled conduit for meeting real need. I guess it's all just attitude.





## Tijuanda Glenn

### \*New Employee Welcome\*

Please take a moment to Welcome Tijuanda Glenn to our APD family. Glenn is our new receptionist located at the St. Petersburg Office. She is a former Police Officer who has served in the Air Force and the proud mother of five-month-old Jailan. Welcome aboard!

## IT Corner

By Deborah Decker

The big news this month is that Zixmail is up and running. Most of the Liaisons have gotten it set up on their computers and had some training on how to use it. Everyone else will have it installed as time allows, based on need. It is very easy to set up and very easy to use, thanks to the great work of APD IT Tallahassee. They made it very user friendly.



For the Waiver Support Coordinators and Providers: they can go out to the APD website at <http://apd.myflorida.com/> and click on the 'Secure E-Mail' Icon on the right side of the page. This gives them access to Zixmail to send encrypted emails to APD staff. There are both instructions and an installation download at this site. The instructions are very helpful and the installation is very simple. Our WSCs should have no problems but if they do – as always they can email the APD IT Support Services Team at [apd\\_help@apd.state.fl.us](mailto:apd_help@apd.state.fl.us)

What is coming up? APD is currently working on setting up concepts for our new network (Active Directory). It is a huge project for the state and will take lots of effort and some of my time as well but as always, if you have any problems or questions – give me a call.

## 2008 Legislative Wrap-Up

Governor Charlie Crist signed two bills into law that will benefit individuals with disabilities:

### Senate Bill 856

Requires school districts to designate "Disability History and Awareness Weeks" during the first two weeks in October each year; providing for students in all K-12 public schools to be provided disability history and awareness instruction; providing the content and goals of such instruction; encouraging state postsecondary institutions to conduct and promote activities related to disability history and awareness.

### House Bill 739

Requires court to conduct determination of incapacity of persons with developmental disabilities & appointment of guardian advocates in separate proceedings; revises conditions relating to venue for appointment of guardian advocates; provides that guardian advocate need not be represented by attorney unless required by court or guardian advocate is delegated certain rights regarding property; limits applicability to certain proceedings relating to appointment & supervision of guardian advocates; requires petition to include relationship of proposed guardian advocate to certain providers; adds persons to whom notice of filing of petition must be given; provides conditions for court to appoint attorneys; requires consideration of advance directives for health care & durable powers of attorney in certain orders & proceedings; provides process for restoration of rights for person with developmental disability; provides for petitioner to submit evidentiary support to court; provides for hearing if no evidentiary support is available.

Please click on the following link to review the 2008 Legislative Wrap-up report:

<http://apd.myflorida.com/legislative/2008-legislative-wrap-up.pdf>



## July Birthdays

Anne Barrow	2
Pauli Young	4
Denise Oetinger	8
Svjetlana Rakovic	10
Millie Melendez	17
Jeannie Majerick	19
Joann Gepfert	21
CeCe Sandy Blair	22
Mary Ecklund	22
Carl Littlefield	25
Hilda Robertson	28
Laurie Harlow	28
Joann Rouse	30



## Announcements & Upcoming Events

### July 26

**18th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act**

### July 26

**Road to Access**

4801 E. Fowler Avenue  
 Tampa, FL  
 10a.m. to 2 p.m.

JULY 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST 2008						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**Links of Interest & Resources:**

- [www.apd.myflorida.com](http://www.apd.myflorida.com)
- [www.apd.myflorida.com/champion](http://www.apd.myflorida.com/champion)
- [www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com)
- <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=38161>