





## Spotlight on... Lee County

Lee County was created in 1887 from Monroe County; it was named for Robert E. Lee, Confederate general in the American Civil War. .Incorporated in 1886, Fort Myers is the center of a popular tourist area in Southwest Florida and the seat of Lee County. It is located about 120 miles south of Tampa at the meeting point of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caloosahatchee River. Fort Myers was the frequent winter home of Thomas Edison, as well as Henry Ford. Lee County has been the host to several major league baseball teams for spring training, over the past several decades. Currently, it is the spring home of the Boston RedSox, as well as the Minnesota Twins.

Today, the vital statistics staff of Lee County consists of five members who include Brenda McGee, Chief Deputy Registrar and Deputy Registrars Linda Vega, Sharon "Candy" Johnson, Maria Borek, Myriam Diaz. Together they have more than 46 years of experience. Last year was a busy year for Lee County who issued over 18 thousand birth certificates and almost 46 thousand death certificates for their 23 funeral homes.

"For those of us working in Vital Statistics in the "City of Palms", EBRs has been by far the greatest thing to happen in the state of Florida in a long time. It has alleviated the need to fax those "error sheets" to Jacksonville. But even on a better note, we look forward to the implementation of the EDRS. I have come to the sad conclusion that EDRS will not happen before I retire at the end of November", states CDR, Brenda McGee, "even so, I am grateful to have the opportunity to end my tenure of 35+ years with the state, in such a rewarding and ever-changing department. The knowledge that I have gained and the friends that I have made via phone conversations will never be forgotten. I appreciate the ladies that I work with and wish them all the best. So keep giving the public what they need, Lee County."



L to R: Linda Vega, Myriam Diaz, Brenda McGee, Maria Borek and Candy Johnson.

## Changes in Latitude



After almost 7-1/2 years, Kevin Wright, has resigned his position as Operations Manager over the Vital Records Section. Kevin came on board with the office in March 2004 and served as a Quality Assurance Representative before being promoted to the Operations Manager position.

The state office staff, as well as our county registrars, will certainly miss Kevin and all he brought to the position. Kevin has moved to St. Louis, Missouri and looks to new endeavors in the snowy Midwest. I know all of you join us in wishing Kevin and his family well. Stepping in as Acting

Operations Manager is Kathleen Dunkley Stephens. She will serve in the position until a new manager is hired and Kathy can be reached at (904) 359-6900, ext. 1150.

We are also losing Eric Mays, who is leaving us to join the Clay County Health Department as their IT Administrator. Eric started out in customer service about 16 years ago, but his talents led him in a different direction and he has been a key component in our IT unit for more than 11 years. It will be hard to see him go, but we are excited for his new opportunity and what Eric will be able to do for our neighboring county. Best of luck, Eric!!



## Coming Soon! Mark your Calendars

ATTENTION: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virgin Islands, and Virginia

### NAPHSIS Southern Regional Meeting

October 20 – 21, 2011  
Jacksonville, Florida  
Hosted by Florida Bureau of Vital Statistics

For more information, contact:  
Cindy Russ  
904-359-6900, x1136  
or  
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## Vital Statistic Quiz — True or False

1. For any fetal death in this state, the department shall, within 60 days, issue a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth upon the request of a parent named on the fetal death certificate.
2. In Florida, a non-married couple must use the mother's current surname for the child.
3. A valid photo identification is required for all applicants requesting a certification of a birth record.
4. Only the informant can obtain a copy of a Florida death record with cause of death information.
5. There is a link on the DOH VS website, where to write for vital records in other states.
6. A hospital must file a birth record within five calendar days after the date of birth.
7. A death certificate does not have to be registered for unidentified human remains.
8. Marriage licenses from 1927 may be ordered from the Bureau of Vital Statistics.
9. Past volumes of the newsletter, *Vital News*, may be found at the Department of Health (DOH) Vital Statistics (VS) website: [www.floridavitalstatisticsonline.com](http://www.floridavitalstatisticsonline.com).
10. Applications for birth records may be found on the DOH VS website and are available in English, Spanish, Creole, and now Italian.

Answers to Quiz: 1. T; 2.F; 3.T; 4.F; 5.T; 6.T; 7.F; 8.T; 9.T; 10.F

## DCF COPIES

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) participates in an electronic data exchange, Enterprise Client Index (ECI), with the Bureau of Vital Statistics. The index allows DCF to view the birth information needed for protective services custody actions. Because of this access, they will no longer need to request the two free copies of birth certificates from the county vital statistics offices, as outlined in Deputy Secretary's memo of October 2002.

The state office and DCF have been working together to ensure all DCF and vital statistics staff are clear on the new process. DCF distributed an initial memo to their regional directors, dated January 28, 2011. A subsequent memo was sent July 26, 2011 to eliminate the two free copies. The state office sent a memo to vital statistics staff dated August 16, 2011.

If any DCF agent is unaware of the policy rescission they should contact their DCF coordinator for clarification. Should county vitals staff continue to be presented copies of these previously issued "file copies", contact one of the quality assurance field representatives.

Questions regarding this agreement should be directed to Quality Assurance.

## BITS ' n PIECES

EBR Birth Registrars:

- When you are creating a birth record, **the apartment number now has its own field**. Do not include the apartment number in the address line field, and do not include the number sign (#). If the address indicates lot, condo, unit, etc., include in the address field, but with no number sign (#).
- If you have an **en route birth** and are not sure how you should complete the birth record, consult the EBRs manual (hard copy or electronic copy on the help tab), or contact registration support at 904-359-6900, ext 9009. Our helpful staff will walk you through entering the information in the correct format.

## Welcome Aboard

The following appointments have been made to the position of registrar in the county health department:

Local Registrar.....Karlette Peck, MPH, Martin County

County Deputy Registrar  
.....Michelle Cleveland, Okaloosa County  
.....Karina Quinn, Gilchrist County

Enthusiasm spells the difference between mediocrity and accomplishment. ~ Norman Vincent Peale