

employers late Tuesday afternoon (July 2) with an email inviting all of them to know about what promises to be an annual event.

The Inaugural Dixie County Career and Resource Fair is set for those three hours on July 16 to be at the First District Community Center, 9223 State Road 349, in Old Town, Capps said.

"Letting the 16,486 people in Dixie county know you're hiring is hard," she noted on July 2. "The Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) and CareerSource Florida Crown can help."

These two state agencies are striving to connect as many workers with as many jobs as possible, with that place and time being the focal point for success by employers and employees.

"We know that your business has amazing employment opportunities that need to be shared with the people of Dixie County," Capps told business owners. "We want to give you that opportunity!"

Employers were asked to complete a registration form and return it to Capps by July 10. More instructions included a final request for employers to arrive at the event on July 16 to set up a table, and then "Enjoy the event!"

This fair is not exclusive to people with criminal backgrounds or only the employers willing to help those individuals seek to become members of society who stay within the bounds of law.

"While the Florida Department of Corrections is always working to make partners with those companies that can hire individuals with criminal backgrounds," Capps noted, "we understand that some employers are unable to do so. This event is a whole community event, where anyone can come and see what resources and employment opportunities are available in our area."

With those instructions for employers, Capps asked everyone to share information with people who want jobs.

#### **Job seekers should:**

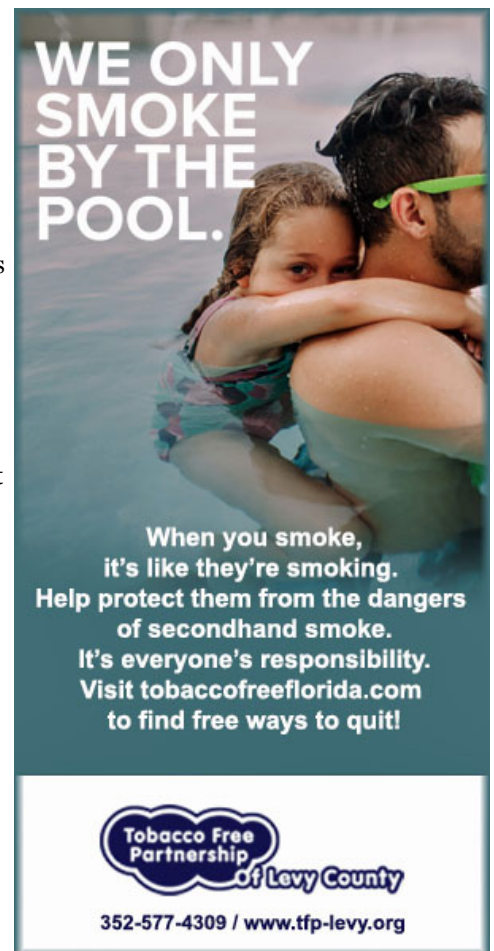
- Bring a valid photo ID;
- Know that employers will be on site for interviews;
- Bring copies of your current résumé; and
- Be "Dressed for Success."

Job seekers are strongly encouraged to register with [employflorida.com](http://employflorida.com) prior to the event.

For employers or job seekers who want additional information, contact CareerSource Florida Crown at 386-755-9026 or Department of Corrections Employment Specialist Melissa Capps at 386-688-0865.

Special resources for individuals who have received services from the Florida Department of Corrections and Community Corrections will be available. For additional information, please contact Florida Department of Correction's Employment Specialist Melissa Capps at [melissa.capps@fdc.myflorida.com](mailto:melissa.capps@fdc.myflorida.com).

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## **Phoenix Rising YouthBuild now recruiting candidates for next project**

**By Laura Byrnes, APR, CPRC**

**Communications Manager**

**CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion**

**Published July 4, 2019 at 10:09 a.m.**

**Ocala** – Recruiting is under way for deserving young adults interested in taking part in Marion County's 10th Phoenix Rising YouthBuild.

The award-winning program helps revitalize economically-challenged neighborhoods while making a positive difference in the lives of 18- to 24-year-old individuals willing to work, in need of a high school diploma and interested in employment and/or postsecondary education or training.

An overview of the program takes place Thursday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to noon and Friday, July 12 from 1-3 p.m. at the CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion career center, 2703 NE 14th St., in Ocala. Because space is limited, those interested in attending

must schedule a session in advance by calling 352-291-9550 extensions 1215 or 2293.

Through Phoenix Rising YouthBuild, students receive hands-on and classroom training designed to develop workforce skills that lead to employment. A key feature of the program involves construction of Habitat for Humanity homes for deserving families. Additionally, students may earn their high school diploma as well as industry-recognized certifications while receiving weekly participation payments.

Program timeline:

- Prospective students will “try out” for enrollment in the program by participating in mental toughness and team-building exercises, July 16-23
- Students will be selected, July 23-24
- The program starts with OSHA training on July 30
- Wall raising tentatively set for August 22 at 350 Emerald Road in Silver Springs Shores

Shores

Phoenix Rising was spearheaded in 2011 by then Ocala Police Chief Sam Williams in collaboration with CareerSource CLM and its youth services provider, Habitat for Humanity of Marion County and other community partners.

To date, a total of 227 have graduated from Phoenix Rising programs in Marion and Citrus counties. Students built 43 homes, have earned 795 industry certifications including forklift and warehouse certifications, OSHA certification, Florida Safe Staff Food Handling, Home Builders Institute PACT Carpentry certification and the National Retail Federation Customer Service and Sales credential. Since it began, 102 have earned high school diplomas, with more in the pipeline, and 199 gained employment and/or enrolled in a postsecondary program.

Major funding for the program comes from a grant obtained by CareerSource CLM from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration. Current year federal funding for Youth Build is \$466,821.

In addition to Habitat and Eckerd Connects Workforce Development, CareerSource CLM's youth services provider, primary partners are the City of Ocala, Marion County Board of County Commissioners, College of Central Florida (Hampton Center), Marion County Sheriff's Office, Neighborhood Housing and Development Corporation, Florida State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) and Equal Housing Opportunity, and Silver River Mentoring & Instruction (SRMI).

Phoenix Rising YouthBuild has become a national model of what communities can build when public and private partners work together. It has earned recognition from the Florida League of Cities, National League of Cities and Harvard's School of Business. Phoenix Rising also received Habitat for Humanity International's highest honor: the Clarence E. Jordan Award for creativity and innovation in building homes and communities.

For more information, call 352-291-9550, ext. 2293.

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## Work Toward Your Own Financial Independence Day

Published July 2, 2019 at 2:49 p.m.

**NEWBERRY** -- Once again, it's time for fireworks, picnics and parades as the nation celebrates Independence Day.

Collectively, we enjoy many liberties, but some freedoms can be elusive – and financial freedom is one of them. What actions can you take to help yourself eventually declare your own financial independence?

For starters, you'll want to determine what financial independence means to you. Is it the liberty to meet all your cash flow needs? The freedom to retire comfortably, at the age you choose? The ability to set up the kind of legacy you'd like to leave? If any or all of these things are important to you, consider the following suggestions:

- Liberate yourself from oppressive debts. The cost of living is certainly not cheap, so it's hardly surprising that so many people incur significant debt. Yet, the higher