



DISCOVER SOMETHING NEW EVERY TIME YOU VISIT

FLORIDA RESIDENTS SAVE \$30 ON SELECT MULTI-DAY TICKETS *RESTRICTIONS AND FEES APPLY

THE WIZARDING WORLD OF HARRY POTTER ONLY AT UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT GET DETAILS

The Official Newspaper of Daytona International Speedway®

NEWS BUSINESS SPORTS RACING FLAGLER OPINION LIFESTYLE ENTERTAINMENT Jobs Homes Autos Classifieds Brides

Breaking News Local Florida Nation/World Elections News of Record Obits Send Us Your News Search for stories

DeLand sees insurance savings with employee health clinic

BY VALERIE WHITNEY, STAFF WRITER

August 10, 2012 10:15 AM

Posted in: West Volusia | Tagged: DeLand employees health clinic

DELAND -- Bobby Ward has been a lot more conscientious about his health since his employer, the city of DeLand, opened a health clinic for employees in 2010.

The clinic, at 151 Victoria Commons Blvd., offers basic health care services, lab work and generic prescriptions to city government retirees, current employees and their dependents at no cost.

"It's free and also a good way to get checked out," said Ward, a foreman in the city's Public Works Department.

"I think it is a good deal," he said Thursday during a visit to the clinic.

Beginning with the next fiscal year in October, the facility will be open 20 hours, four additional hours, a week.

DeLand decided to open the clinic to help contain employee health care costs. The city pays a third-party administrator, Tennessee-based CareHere, a flat rate to administer the program. The firm handles hiring, paperwork and scheduling visits.

Michael Pleus, DeLand city manager, said the clinic costs \$454,909 annually to operate. Besides basic health care for employees, that amount now includes pre-employment screenings. The city no longer has to pay an outside doctor for that service, Pleus said.

"The savings is essentially measured by the increase in premiums for medical insurance to the city and the employees. Previously, the city was faced with insurance increases that ranged from 12 percent to 28 percent," he said.

As a result of the clinic, he said, the city has been able to avoid these huge increases.

The clinic is open from 8 a.m. to noon Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays and from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, according to Mark Hayward, human resources director for the city. Hayward said the city could assess the savings from the clinic after this year.

Barb Murray, a certified medical assistant at the clinic, said the office stays busy. "We can see between 14 and 20 patients a day. Those four extra hours will be so welcomed," Murray said.

Participation in the program is voluntary for the city's 352 employees. Workers always have the option of using the providers in the city's medical insurance plan.



Barb Murray, a certified medical assistant at the health clinic for DeLand city employees, talks Thursday with public works employee Bobby Ward. (NJ | Valerie Whitney)

Medical Practices: Watch the Practice Management Software Demo Video Online

Watch Demo Video

From Our Readers

Photos Letters to the Editor

Photo By: Patti Photo By: Patti Photo By: BigRag
Photo By: aintshort700 Photo By: Rock Photo By: Rock
Photo By: Rock Photo By: Rock Photo By: Rock

More Reader Photos | Submit a Photo

TOP Properties
New Smyrna
PALM COAST - TIDELANDS
Ormond Beach - Riverfront
Ormond Beach
Click here to view all TOP PROPERTIES

TOP Jobs
2 SALES POSITIONS -
RETAIL POSITION -
SERVICE MANAGER, SERVICE TECHS
Coastal Health and Rehab is cu
Click here to view all TOP JOBS

1 0 0 0 0 0 0

Email Digg Tweet Share Tumblr +1 Like