



Deltona, DeBary, Enterprise and Osteen

Working for you

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Volusia County Council District 5
COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE
February 2014



2014 Goal Statement

Last month I shared with you an annual recap of priorities and projects undertaken in Volusia County. As many of the projects are completed or well on their way to completion, it is time to consider new projects and set some goals for this year. I asked you to tell me what was on your mind; what was important to you for this year. Many of you responded.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!

As a County, Community and as a Region we have been talking about how we will look in the future; what kind of place our County and Central Florida will be for future generations. With that in mind, I offer the goals below as my personal effort in sustaining a Volusia County that we will be proud to hand off to our children and our grandchildren.

Please hold me accountable!

1. JOBS AND THE ECONOMY! Jobs are job one and we need to take advantage of every opportunity we can to put our residents back to work. It appears that we have turned the corner and economic indicators are generally up. This is good for all of us.

Continued investment in our County Economic Development department is critical. Along with our in house efforts, Volusia County committed to another year of funding for the public private partnership organization known as *TEAM VOLUSIA*. This organization's mission is to work with the County in creating good paying jobs.

We are also funding the Volusia County Incubator, located at the Airport and managed by the University of Central Florida (**GO KNIGHTS!**). UCF is a leader in business incubation and manages locations across our region. Their contract will be up for review and renewal this summer. I will look closely at what they have produced and how many clients have been served and how successful the program is. At the same time, we will look at a satellite facility in west Volusia.



We also cannot underestimate the opportunities for improving our economy with SunRail, the commuter rail project, that will be running trains from DeBary to Orlando this Spring. The economic impact in jobs and redevelopment projects, along the corridor, is significant. We must get this one right. Development along the corridor must be of high value and lasting impact. An Alternative Analysis for the extension of the line to Daytona Beach and the Airport is in the works as I write this. We must look at this project as not the end of the line, but for Volusia County, the beginning.

2. Sustainable Volusia: While the County has done much to promote a sustainable Volusia, we can do more. I am committed to taking action on those items that will

increase our energy efficiency in our buildings and our fleet. Working through the office of Sustainability and Energy Management, we have completed an energy audit of key county facilities. Now we must begin the implementation of the energy efficient facility retrofits and improvement measures.

Additionally, it will be important to evaluate the long-term energy sustainability of the county and identify ways and means to promote energy efficiency and conservation. Consideration should be given to the utilization of alternative energy sources, land management, traffic management systems and, back to those jobs, we must encourage the development of green businesses.

It will be important for the County to take the lead in a strategic plan that can provide a framework for partnerships between the county, cities, higher education institutions, local utility companies, businesses, and residents for the implementation of a plan that will benefit the community as a whole. I am committed to the adoption of our plan this year

To follow our efforts I encourage you to check out www.greenvolusia.org for all things sustainable and links to efforts throughout our County government.

3. County Budget: We have set our annual calendar of budget workshops; strategic planning initiatives and workshops for this next year. I will continue to look for ways to reduce the cost of governing. And I will look at other opportunities for consolidating services and/or contracting for services that will save, you the taxpayer, real dollars.

4. Water: Quality and quantity. Much is happening on this front. We need to pay attention to the reports produced by the St. Johns Water Management District that govern how we allocate water and who gets it. The Central Florida plan, which is inclusive of the Counties to the south of us, call for water withdrawal from the St. Johns. It will be important for Volusia County to determine a policy position on that point as this plan moves forward. The River flows north and water withdrawals will most certainly result in impacts to our County and the counties in the lower basin. Meanwhile, West Volusia is being told to



reduce ground water withdrawals in the Blue Spring Basin as part of the plan to promote the health of Blue Spring and the Manatees. We must ensure that any plan is based on science and recognizes that the health of the Manatees are the responsibility of all of us.

5. Trails: As you read last month, we are well on our way to completing the Volusia Showcase Trails system which includes the Statewide *Coast to Coast Connector* and the sections of the *River to Sea Loop* that remain unfinished. We were successful last year in identifying and obtaining funding for the last 10 miles of the ***East Central Rail Trail*** that will link the west side of our county with the city of Edgewater on our eastern edge. We still have some missing links along our Spring to Spring Showcase Trail; and we have to find a way to bring the East Coast Greenway through our densely populated east side cities.

To that end, I am working with the Volusia Transportation Planning Organization (soon to be called the River to Sea TPO) in identifying missing links, potential alignments and of course, funding to build them. My goal is to have construction under way on all funded segments for this calendar year.



6. Ethics reform: As many of you may be aware, the Council has hired outside counsel to investigate campaign contributions and contract issues known as Waverly. Waverly is the company that supplied bus bench advertising. Testimony is being taken and a report will be produced this Spring highlighting any findings of impropriety or concern. Whatever comes out of this investigation, I am committed to the Council instituting ethics reform in our campaign financing and in our contracts, so that the issues that arose out of this contract can never again be an item of concern. We must hold ourselves accountable and to a high standard.

Where you will find me And what I will be doing in 2014!

With each New Year come new roles and responsibilities. I want to be transparent and accountable in my work for you as your Council Member. Below is a list of my Council appointments and my outside interests in other committees, boards and not for profits.

Florida Hospital Fish Memorial: Florida Hospital Fish Memorial is a 139 bed full-service hospital providing inpatient and outpatient services as well as 24-hour emergency and critical care in Southwest Volusia. Fish Memorial is a member of Adventist Health System; the largest Protestant not-for-profit hospital system in the nation. I am proud to serve on the Board of Trustees for the hospital. You can learn about this fine facility by going to: www.fhfishmemorial.org.



Florida State Bicycle Pedestrian Partnership Council: The formation of the Partnership Council is the result of many state leaders aiming to make Florida a national model for Bicycle and pedestrian safety. Appointed by the Florida Department of Transportation, I represent the Florida Association of Counties on this Council. The Council includes representatives from multiple state agencies, local governments, and external stakeholders, including walkers, bicyclists, and trail users. We will make recommendations on design, planning, safety and other programs involving bicycle and pedestrian issues. Go to <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/policy/bikeped> for more information on this Council.



DeBary Deltona Orange City Rotary: We are always looking for a few good people to join with us in serving our community. Our Club meets every Tuesday at 7:45am at The DeBary Golf and Country Club. I have been a Club member since 1994, a past President of the Club and a twice recipient of the Service Above Self award from the Club and the Service Above Self Award from the District Governor. Interested in becoming a Rotarian? Contact me for information at pnorthey@cfl.rr.com

Healthy Start of Flagler & Volusia Counties: The mission of the Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler & Volusia Counties is to promote a system of care that optimizes /maximizes healthy outcomes for pregnant women and young children. A board of directors governs Healthy Start; I serve as the immediate past President of the Organization and was proud to receive the Blaine O'Neal Service Award for Outstanding Leadership Support! You can learn more about the good work of this agency by going to <http://www.healthystartfv.org>



River of Lakes Heritage Corridor: Collectively, the 120-mile River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Scenic Highway and its resources convey the unfolding of western Volusia County's rich cultural heritage along the magnificent and historical St. Johns River. Consisting of representatives from around the corridor, I am honored to serve as a Vice Chair for the Corridor Advocacy Group.

St. Johns River Alliance: The mission of the Alliance is to preserve, protect, promote, restore and celebrate the **St. Johns River** as an American Heritage River in recognition of its ecological, historic, economic, recreational and cultural significance, so that the public may gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the river's importance to the quality of life for current and future generations. Volusia County is a founding member of the Alliance. I serve on the Executive Committee as the Immediate Past Chair of the River Alliance this year. To learn more about the River go to <http://stjohnsriveralliance.com>.



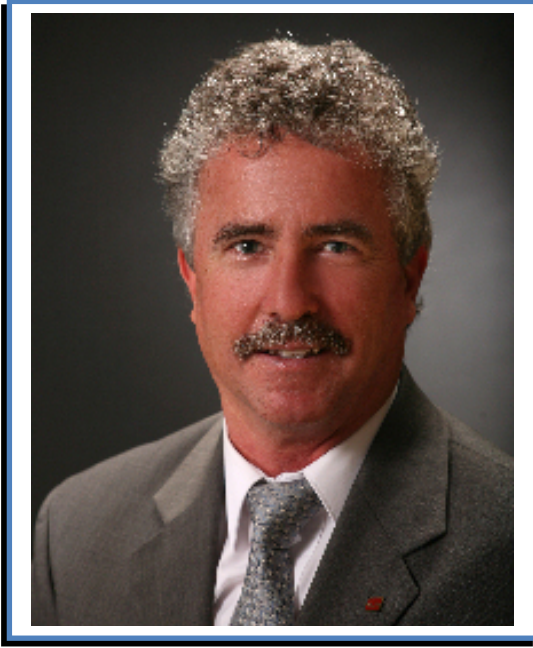
Tourism Development Council: This is a 9 member board, made up of individuals doing business in the Tourism industry. Our role is to provide oversight to the budget for the Ocean Center. I serve as the Chair of the TDC.

Volusia TPO (Transportation Planning Organization): The Volusia TPO is an independent organization responsible for the planning and programming of all Federal and State transportation funds for all of Volusia County and the cities of Flagler Beach and Beverly Beach in Flagler County. I serve as the incoming Chair of the Volusia TPO.

This organization is the primary forum within which member local governments and citizens voice concerns, identify priorities, and plan for transportation improvements for all modes of transportation – roadway, public transportation, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. I am one of 6 County Council Members that represent you on this important board. As part of my role I have been appointed by the Chair of the TPO to serve on the Executive Board and to represent the TPO at the **Central Florida MPO Alliance and as an alternate to the Statewide MPOAC**. You can find out more information about the work of the TPO by going to: www.volusiatpo.org and the work of the CFMPO by going to www.metroplanorlando.com.



In the News



Congratulations to Southwest Volusia community leader and businessman, **John Wanamaker**. John was recently named **Team Volusia's Board Chair for 2014**. Team Volusia is a public private economic development organization funded in part by Volusia County. As Chair, John plans to continue the collaboration between cities, counties and the public and private sectors as he looks forward to a great 2014.

John, Broker, CCIM, LEED AP of the Coldwell Banker Commercial Ai Group in Orange City, also served as the Chair of the Center for Business Excellence, where he was instrumental in relocating the organization's west Volusia offices.

It was my honor to appoint John, as a Council appointment, to the Team Volusia Board

And a big **Thanks for Stepping Up!** to **Maritza Vazquez**. Maritza has agreed to serve on the Volusia County Children and Family Services Advisory Board as the representative for Council District 5. Maritza has been active in our community in Children's issues and caring for families. Many of you know Maritza through her work as founder of HAYGD (Hispanic American Youth Group) where her passion for teaching kids about their ethnicity is legendary.



WORKING FOR YOU IN JANUARY

TPO Executive Board Meeting; Met w/ Vice Mayor Nancy Long to discuss the Hotckiss property in Daytona Beach; Chaired the TDC Meeting ; attended the Central Florida MPO Alliance; Attended the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor:



Ed Noseworthy, CEO Florida Fish, Keynote Speaker Lt. General Mark Hertling and I at the DeLand Chamber Dinner

Attended the Deland Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Installation Dinner; ECO-Tourism interview with Rene Tallavast & Fatima Hussein; Team Volusia Annual meeting; VCARD Water Issues Forum; attended the Deltona Dreamkeepers MLK Breakfast; TPO Board meeting; met with members of the Volusia Poet Society, including Ponce Inlet Councilmember, Joe Perrone; participated in the Ground Breaking Ceremonies for the East Central Rail Trail Pedestrian bridges.; Added my 2 cents to The Volusianaires; celebrated the graduates with the "My Angel with Paws" program.



Bianca, Jordon and Hope (l-r) My wonderful neighbors, the Donald's at MLK Breakfast

PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO!

We are blessed to live here in Volusia County. The weather is perfect this time of year. Now is the time to get out and explore our county. There is so much to do right here at home. Begin by going on line and check out our county web site. Other activities for the next few months include:

NEW LISTING

March 1st: DeLand Dog Parade: this is one you do not want to miss! Always a fun time. 11:00am www.dogparadedeland.com for more information.

NEW LISTING

March 8th, The Gateway Center presents the Youth Celebration of the Arts at beautiful Gemini Springs Park in DeBary. Come and celebrate our young Volusia County artists beginning at 9:30.

NEW LISTING

March 15: DeBary- Deltona Rotary Benefit Golf Tournament: Glenn Abbey; 8:30 am Shotgun Start. Entry Fee: Proceeds collected will be kept locally for the benefit of High School Students, Family Centers, Needy Children, and Young Adult Organizations. \$55.00 a person will get you cart, driving range, green fees, prizes and lunch. All for a good cause! To register contact Joe Alemany at 386-661-7303 or at jalemany@bellsouth.net.

NEW LISTING

March 29: Florida Wildflower & Garden Festival; 9:00am -3:00pm Downtown DeLand: environmentally friendly and sustainable gardening practices featuring speakers, demonstrations & vendors who provide information, products, and arts and crafts related to general gardening, native plant gardening, gardening for birds, butterflies and wildlife, and habitat creation. Bring your reusable bags and fill them up with Volusia grown veggies and plants.

NEW LISTING

March 29: SunRail Celebration; Come tour the trains and hear all about the service between DeBary and Orlando. DeBary Train Station at Ft. Florida Road. 9-11am.

NEW LISTING



April 12: Volusia County's Annual St. Johns River Cleanup. To register and get more information go to www.volusia.org/cleanup . Our River is the only federally designated American Heritage River in Florida. Help us keep it clean!

Please note: This is a monthly newsletter, written and edited by yours truly, updating you on what is happening in District 5 and in the County. This is a public record and it is intended for broad distribution. It may be shared. Please feel free to email me on any issue of concern. My email address for official county business is: pnorthey@volusia.org, and you can reach me at the numbers O) 386-943-7026; F) 386-943-7028 C) 386-717-0505

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