



Deltona, DeBary, Enterprise and Osteen

Working for you



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Volusia County Council District 5
COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE

February 2013



Welcome to the new members of the Volusia County Council. As with any new group, we will be learning to work together in a productive manner that will move our County forward. If we are successful as a council, our County will be successful as well.

I look forward to working with each member, new and returning in insuring our county's success.

2013 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. While I am hearing some encouraging news from our small business community, the recovery still feels fragile.

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.

In addition, our investment in the UCF Incubator appears to be paying off with real job creation. I will continue to support this award winning program and press for expansion of the program to the west side as we have the capacity for expansion.



We also cannot underestimate the opportunities for improving our economy with SunRail, the commuter rail project, now anticipated to be running trains from DeBary to Orlando by 2014 and to DeLand by 2016. The economic impact in jobs and redevelopment projects, along the corridor, is significant. Ground has been broken and the DeBary

station is coming out of the ground. See a recent photo of the work below:



Located along 17-92 and Ft Florida Road the station development here and along the corridor is on time. While SunRail is a commuter line, I believe we are well positioned in West Volusia to take advantage of inbound traffic and to introduce our visitors to the natural side of the County. Our ECHO assets, trails, historic resources and our outdoor venues are within walking and biking distance of this station. Future potential connections include an alignment to Daytona Beach and the Airport.

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. We are already seeing reduced energy costs as a result of the energy efficient facility retrofits and improvement measures that have been put in place.

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 Council to accept our Sustainability Action Plan, now complete. This SAP will provide a framework for partnerships between the county, cities, higher education institutions, local utility companies, businesses, and residents in the implementation of a plan that will benefit our community as a whole.

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: As I reported last month, we brought our budget in under for the prior year and continue to downsize your government. Our employees continue to take on more roles and responsibilities, increasing their personal productivity. Your County government is certainly a leaner organization than before. To continue our budget reductions we have adopted our annual calendar of budget 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. Volusia ECHO: In addition to the very popular Volusia Forever, we also tax ourselves for the program called Volusia **ECHO** (Environmental, Cultural, Historical, and Outdoors). It is very successful and administered fairly throughout the County and within each of the elements.



We have built art centers, beachfront parks, and added miles to our showcase trails system. We have restored historical buildings and developed Environment Learning Centers. **ECHO** has enriched all of our lives.

As we are now a little more than halfway through the 20-year funding cycle, it is important that we evaluate the program and ensure that the promises of ECHO has been fulfilled before we consider new funding ventures. I continue to believe and will push

for a county wide strategic plan that links our resources already built with a program to meet those needs yet unfulfilled. That will be my #1 objective as this program moves forward.

And a gentle reminder, dear readers, that county projects are everyone's projects. We all get to use the countywide ECHO resources built and maintained by the County, just as we celebrate and enjoy projects that are driven by the Not For Profits or featured by the cities.

5. Trails: I am committed to completing the Volusia Showcase Trails system and those sections of the *River to Sea Loop* that remain unfinished. I am particularly focused on identifying funding for the remaining 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 are also on target for closing the gaps on several other sections of the Spring- to- Spring Trail. When completed we will have close to 100 miles of off road paved trails for your recreation use, including the new segment that is coming out of the ground along State Road 415 in Osteen. A project of the Florida Department of Transportation, this trail will link Seminole County to our system.



415-road construction with the multi-use trail on the right.

Not only will these local trails provide recreation for our community, they will help to get us healthy as everyone at every level of ability for exercise can use them. Finally, it is the **annual economic impact** of cyclists that is estimated to be almost nine times greater than the one time expenditure of public funds to construct the bicycle facilities (NCDOT) that makes sense of our efforts to promote trails.



FIND ME ON FACEBOOK.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Patricia-Northey-Volusia-County-Council-Member-District-5/183463818343054>

I am regularly posting content on County Council issues to this page. Like the page to get the most recent Council News.



The **PHILADELPHIA UNION** Pro Soccer Team is coming to Deltona for Spring Training. You are invited to come out to Dewey O'Boster Park and meet the players and watch them train. They will be holding youth clinics for all their young followers this month. Follow me on Facebook for information on the team and the community workout schedule.

Meanwhile you can view some Union news at this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrEjUNkE5uY&feature=youtu.be>

Meeting and Greeting in January



Introduced new Team Volusia President **Keith Norden** to the DeBary City Council; Discussed Health Care with **Ross Dickenson**, Chair of the WVHA Community Board; Attended the ECHO Advisory Board Meeting; Breakfast with Team Volusia Vice Chair **John Wanamaker**; Attended Central Florida MPO Alliance; Toured Tiger Bay Forest; Attended grand opening of the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge

#2536; Participated as a Juror in the mock trial "**PONCE DE LEON LANDED HERE**"; Attended the Volusia Transportation Planning Organization Executive Director Search and Reapportionment Committee Meetings and monthly meeting; Filmed a video tribute to outgoing Team Volusia Chair **Daryl Tol**;



Hosted a Table at the Deltona Dreamkeepers MLK Breakfast Celebration; Attended the Historic

Preservation Board meeting; Attended **Congressman Mica's** SW Volusia Office Open House; Appeared on the **Marc Bernier** VolusiaNaires Radio program; Attended the draft presentation on the long anticipated Tourism study; Attended annual Team Volusia Board of Directors meeting; And my favorite event of the month was enjoying the 15th Annual Mardi Gras Wizard of Paws Parade.



OUR SW VOLUSIA COMMUNITIES LOST TWO GREAT LEADERS RECENTLY

We said goodbye to the beloved **Johana Knox** of Orange City and to **Don Smith**, the city of DeBary's first Mayor.

A community is enriched by those who give of themselves to make their home a better place. Both of these wonderful leaders gave of themselves and their time.



Johana was well known for her volunteer work with families in need, the Manatee Festival and every other program or festival that our community hosted. Florida Hospital Fish named an annual event after her –

“Johana Knox Award for Community Service Excellence”

for her lifetime of selfless devotion to the betterment of our community.

Don was an inspirational leader who guided his community through the transition to City hood status. He served the maximum terms allowed by the city charter ensuring that DeBary would be well managed and low taxed. A well-liked leader in our corner of the County, Don was known for his sense of humor, his sense of duty and fairness.

On behalf of the Volusia County Council we extend our condolences to the family of Johana and Don. Their leadership will be missed.

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. www.volusia.org

Other activities for the next few months include:

New Listing!

February 16th is just around the corner and that means its CHILI tasting time . Come on out to Mariner's Cove Park in Enterprise for some Chili tasting and homemade desserts. The fun begins at 11:00 and goes to 3:00. In between it is food, fun and entertainment.

New Listing!

Mark your calendars for **February 23rd** and a Steamboat Spectacular at Gateway Center for the Arts — **A Grand Tour Upriver with Jacob Brock and Commodore Rose**. It is the story of a trip up the St. Johns River on the



steamboat *Darlington* after the Civil War based on the writings of **Harriet Beecher Stowe**, travel writer **Ledyard Bill**, and British author **James Stirling** who made the trip before the war. But it also highlights the beginning of settlement and development in the state, and the loss of wildlife and environmental degradation that followed.

The production, written and directed by local historian **Lani Friend**, celebrates **Commodore Rose**, a former slave and stewardess on the steamboat *Darlington* who gained her rank

and her freedom by saving **Capt. Brock's** life in a steamboat accident. Known as "the real hand on the wheel of the *Darlington*," Rose was second in charge and responsible for all aspects of running the boat. "She knew every inch of the river, each plantation and its occupants. Her word was law, and her voice could be heard ringing out loud and clear at every landing. No one could get the best of her in a negotiation."

Commodore Rose is a unique figure in Florida history ~ an African-American businesswoman responsible for the successful running of a major vessel on the St. Johns River at a time when this was unheard of. February is Black History month, and a perfect time to tell her story.

Come learn about our community's history. Come out from 2:-3:30 and enjoy the show. Future performance dates to be announced. Only \$5.00 at the door.

New Listing!

March 9th, 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. This is always a fun family event. And it is free!

New Listing!

March 16: DeBary- Deltona Rotary Benefit Golf Tournament: Glenn Abbey; 8:30 am Shotgun Start. Entry Fee: \$55.00 per player; Proceeds collected will be kept locally for the benefit of programs promoting anti-child obesity and anti-bullying, and other youth organizations. Register by faxing Frank Morrison @ 386-574-2100 or email to fmorriso27@gmail.com. Interested in sponsoring a hole? We can handle that too! For just \$100 your business will be recognized as a designated hole sponsor. Good way to get the word out about your business.

New Listing!

March 23: Florida Wildflower & Garden Festival: 9:00am -4:00pm 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!

April 18th: Florida Hospital Fish presents the **2013 Johana Knox Award for Community Service Excellence Award Dinner**. The event will be held at the Club at Victoria Gardens beginning at 6:30. More info to come on where you can purchase your ticket. Meanwhile if you know someone whom you would like to nominate for the award you can email Deborah.mcnabb@fhfm.org for the application. Nominations are due by February 25.

New Listing!



April 20: Volusia County's Annual St. Johns River Cleanup. To register and get more information go to: www.volusia.org/cleanup The St. Johns 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 is intended for broad distribution. It may be shared. Please feel free to email me on any issue that you have a concern. My email address for official county business is pnorthey@volusia.org. Or you can reach my assistant at the numbers O) 386-943-7026; F) 386-943-7028. Photo credits: Council-Jeff Crumbley; Photo of the Enterprise players by Linda Bishop; Photo of DeBary Station provided by FDOT; all others provided by Pat Northey.