Volusia County Government Activities
Dec. 2 – 8, 2023

OCEAN CENTER

Events: Over the weekend, the facility hosted AJ Joseph Volleyball for the Florida Holiday Challenge, which used the arena, ballroom, exhibit hall, and meeting rooms. The event hosted 4,000 daily attendees and generated 1,500 room nights. The Emergency Management Division will host an active shooter training in the exhibit hall Dec. 12-14. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University moves into the arena and ballroom on Dec. 13 in preparation for two graduation ceremonies the following day. Palmer College will also host a graduation in the ballroom on Dec. 15. Varsity Spirit moves into the exhibit hall Friday for the Cheersport Classic on Dec. 16 and 17. The event expects 4,000 attendees and will generate 500 room nights. Sports Tours International moves into the arena next weekend for the Daytona Beach Shootout, which will take place Dec. 18-22. For more information, contact Lynn Flanders at lflanders@oceancenter.com.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Assistance: The division will hold a public meeting to review the accomplishments of the federally funded Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant programs. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Dec. 11 in the county council chambers at the Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center. The accomplishments are detailed in a report that outlines the County's activities, achievements, and expenditures. For more information, contact Carmen Hall at chall@volusia.org.

Parks, Recreation & Culture: DeBary Hall welcomed students from Timbercrest Elementary for an interactive educational experience. On Dec. 5, 140 second graders enjoyed a hands-on day where they learned to make fresh butter, explored the historic site, engaged in a creative craft session, and participated in various other activities. Another group of 70 students had a similar enriching experience on Dec. 7. Additionally, on the evenings of Dec. 8 and 9, DeBary Hall opened its doors to the public for a special candlelight tour. Guests had the opportunity to explore the mansion by candlelight, admire the festive holiday decorations, and discover the site's rich history. For more information, contact Tim Baylie at tbaylie@volusia.org.

Resource Stewardship: The Land Management team, in collaboration with the Florida Forest Service, hosted the Operation Outdoor Freedom Veteran's Hunt at the scenic Barberville Conservation Area, providing a unique outdoor experience for veterans. Simultaneously, a youth hunt was organized at the Longleaf Pine Preserve in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to educate young enthusiasts about sustainable hunting and wildlife conservation. For more information, contact Nick Dunnam at ndunnam@volusia.org.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency Management: On Dec. 7, the division organized and hosted a strategic meeting with representatives from various divisions in the County, local nonprofit organizations, churches, first responders, and other key stakeholders. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a comprehensive plan for cold weather sheltering operations for this winter, ensuring a coordinated and effective response to the needs of those vulnerable to the cold temperatures. For more information, contact Division Director Clint Mecham at cmecham@volusia.org.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Beach Safety: Beach Safety is collaborating with Guardian Ad Litem this holiday season to spread cheer to local foster children by gifting them thoughtful presents. For more information, contact Andy Ethridge at aethridge@volusia.org.

Corrections: Captain Squires and Sergeant Keating demonstrated their commitment to community and strength in more ways than one at the Battle of the Badges Charity Powerlifting Meet on Dec. 3. Their participation not only highlighted their physical capabilities, as evidenced by the medals they brought home, but also underscored their dedication to supporting charity. For more information, contact Joe DeMore at jdemore@volusia.org.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mosquito Control: The division is actively responding to the increase in adult mosquito populations due to recent substantial rainfall. Their comprehensive efforts include inspections of potential mosquito larvae breeding sites and applying effective control measures upon discovery. Additionally, the team is intensifying adulticiding operations, guided by detailed surveillance data and conducted as weather conditions permit. These control activities are being rigorously implemented both within and beyond the boundaries of the mosquito control district to ensure a thorough and effective response. For more information, contact Marcus McDonough at mmcdonough@volusia.org.

Water Resources and Utilities: Construction of the Indian Harbor Estates sanitary sewer collections system in Oak Hill is nearing completion. The septic-to-sewer project utilizes vacuum system technology to convey wastewater from individual households to a central collection station, which will then be pumped to the County's southeast regional wastewater treatment facility. Residential connections to the system are expected to begin during Spring 2024. The water quality project benefitting Mosquito Lagoon was made possible through the cooperative efforts of the County, the City of Oak Hill, the Florida Dept of Environmental Protection, and the St. Johns River Water Management District. For more information, contact Mike Ulrich at mulrich@volusia.org.