AVIATION & ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Administration: The Parcel 61 debris removal project is concluding this week. The site has been restored, leveled and graded, and it will be seeded this week. The project was expected to take at least 60 days but will be completed in 40.

OCEAN CENTER

Events: H.T. Hackney moves into the exhibit hall on Aug. 9 for its Food Service Expo on Aug. 10. The private event is expected to host 800 attendees, generating 400 room nights. As a reminder, it’s not too late to purchase tickets to see comedy legend and Emmy Award-winning actor Katt Williams at the Ocean Center on Aug. 25. Get your tickets [here](#) or at the box office on event night. For more information, contact Tim Buckley at tbuckley@volusia.org.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Assistance: On July 29, staff participated in the 13th Annual Mayor’s Backpack Giveaway at Earl Brown Park in DeLand. The event provided backpacks, school supplies, health screenings, community resource information, and more to approximately 1,000 children and their families. For more information, contact Carmen Hall at chall@volusia.org.

Library Services: The Port Orange Regional Library and the City of Port Orange Parks and Recreation partnered for the third consecutive year to create a fun search in City Center Park. Staff hid five plastic flamingos with fun nametags in the trees around the lake and encouraged families to spend time together outside. Participants could enter a raffle by completing an online form to let library staff know which flamingos they saw. Five hundred-eleven people, including 65 children from the Port Orange Parks and Recreation summer camps, participated in the search. For more information, contact Lucinda Colee at llcolee@volusia.org.

Parks, Recreation & Culture: The new playground, funded through a Community Development Block Grant, was installed at Spring Hill Park in DeLand. It has two separate play areas, one for children two to five and another for five to 12. Both sites meet all current national safety standards. For more information, contact Tim Baylie at tbaylie@volusia.org.

Resource Stewardship: On Aug. 4, ECHO staff and committee members attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for the City of DeLand Jackson-Lane Memorial Park improvements project. The ECHO project created an all-inclusive playground (ADA), allowing children of all abilities to play safely. Additionally, the UF/IFAS Extension team collaborated with the Marine Science Center to conduct a three-day summer camp for 4-H students between the ages of eight and 11. The camp focused on marine and coastal habitats and conservation. For more information, contact Brad Burbaugh at bburbaugh@volusia.org.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency Medical Services: The division has been invited to participate in an active shooter exercise scheduled in October at the Daytona International Speedway. The New Smyrna Beach
Police Department is coordinating the training. For more information, contact Kevin Captain at kcaptain@volusia.org.

**Fire Rescue:** To support logistics for emergency medical services within Volusia County Fire Rescue, four UCAPIT machines have been placed in service, one in each battalion. These UCAPIT machines will allow chief officers to obtain medical supplies on a 24/7 basis to ensure staff in the field have the necessary supplies to respond. For more information, contact Chief Joe King at jwking@volusia.org.

**GROWTH & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**Environmental Management:** As of July 31, 1,387 sea turtle nests have been laid on Volusia County beaches. The county also has a record number of 187 green sea turtle nests on its managed beaches, significantly higher than the previous record of 98. In total, 220 nests have hatched, of which only six became disoriented due to nearby artificial lighting that directed hatchlings into locations other than the water. Staff continues to work with property owners to comply with nighttime lighting restrictions.

As washback sea turtle season officially began on Aug. 1, if there is sargassum on any public beach driving areas, Beach Safety will conduct a washback survey before allowing vehicle access.

Staff attended this year’s Florida Onsite Wastewater Association Annual Convention at the Ocean Center to educate septic system installers about a grant available for properties in the DeLeon Spring Priority Focus Area to convert their traditional septic system into a nitrogen-reducing system. Information about the grant program can be found [here](#). For more information, contact Ginger Adair at gadair@volusia.org.

**PUBLIC PROTECTION**

**Beach Safety:** The division held its annual awards banquet on the evening of Aug. 4 at the Hard Rock in Daytona Beach. Earlier that day, a mock rescue training scenario was conducted for the Department of Justice, with international visitors in attendance for the training scenario. For more information, contact Andy Ethridge at aethridge@volusia.org.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**Coastal:** Coastal Director Jessica Fentress presented a beach recovery progress report at the Florida Inland Navigation District’s (FIND) Volusia County meeting on July 21, where she expressed the county’s appreciation for FIND’s participation throughout the recovery process. FIND has been a critical partner in providing beach-compatible sand for the county’s TrapBag program, as well as the offload of Rattlesnake Island and beneficial reuse of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and FIND’s scheduled 2024 dredging of the inlet and Intracoastal Waterway.

Staff also presented the past, present and future activities of the county’s Artificial Reef program to the IFAS Florida Master Naturalist Program on July 27. This presentation coincided with the group’s education on offshore reefs and corals and focused on the complexities of permitting and creating artificial reefs.
Contractors working for the Coastal Division demolished Pavilion 4 on the river side of Mary McLeod Bethune Beach Park this week. A new pavilion and concrete pad will be constructed and ready for use in early September.

County tradesworkers completed repairs at the 11th Avenue, 25th Avenue and Mullet Avenue walkovers in New Smyrna Beach and the Egret Avenue walkover in Wilbur-By-The-Sea, all of which are now open to the public. The Florida Shores vehicular access ramp in Daytona Beach Shores was also reopened for vehicular traffic, as was the Botefuhr Avenue vehicular access ramp in Daytona Beach.

The county’s TrapBag installation and debris removal crews continued their efforts in Daytona Beach Shores, Wilbur-By-The-Sea and both the unincorporated and incorporated areas of New Smyrna Beach. As of Aug. 1, approximately 12,113 cubic yards of debris have been removed, and 22,663 linear feet of TrapBags have been installed. Thirty-six beach accesses remain closed. For more information, contact Jessica Fentress at jfentress@volusia.org.

**Engineering & Construction**: Construction continues on the Blue Lake Extension South project. Current and upcoming activities include pond excavation, subgrade stabilization, and road base construction. For more information, contact Tadd Kasbeer at tkasbeer@volusia.org.

**Solid Waste**: The division continues to offer the removal of home fuel oil at no charge to Volusia County residents. The goal is to remove abandoned home fuel oil from all known tanks. Staff removed 734 gallons of home fuel oil from 12 residential properties in May and June. Residents needing home fuel oil removed may call 386-943-7889 to schedule a removal. For more information, contact Regina Montgomery at rmontgomery@volusia.org.

**Traffic Engineering**: Staff is currently reviewing a Traffic Impact Analysis Methodology for the Orange City Mixed Use development, located in the northeast quadrant of Veterans Memorial Parkway and Harley Strickland Boulevard. This development will consist of 134 single-family detached housing dwelling units, 672 single-family attached housing dwelling units, 576 multi-family housing dwelling units, a 36,640-square-foot mini-warehouse, and a 335,000-square-foot shopping center. For more information, contact Jay Williams at jwilliams@volusia.org.