AVIATION & ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Administration: The public is invited to celebrate Avelo Airlines’ inaugural flight into the Daytona Beach International Airport with a short program and ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. on June 22.

Air Service, Marketing, Customer Experience: The airport is celebrating Father’s Day on June 18, with ambassadors handing out special treats to fathers and father figures.

For more information, contact Joanne Magley at jmagley@flydab.com.

OCEAN CENTER

Events: CEO Gaming begins move-in on June 21 for the 2023 Fighting Game Championships taking place June 23-25. Thousands of competitors and spectators are expected throughout the weekend for the ultimate video game tournament and convention for fighting games. Most of the competition will occur in the exhibit hall, with games streamed live via Twitch to screens throughout the center. Final rounds of gameplay will move to the arena, where players compete for the top spot in a center-stage wrestling ring. The event will also feature an Artist and Vendor Alley and a 24-hour free play arcade dubbed “Jebaileyland.” Spectator tickets are available at https://ceogaming.org/ceo/. For more information, contact Tim Buckley at tbuckley@volusia.org.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Assistance: The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee will meet at 3 p.m. on June 27 at the Emergency Operations Center. Members will discuss the affordable housing incentive strategies for their annual report, examine the affordable housing plan’s progress and review previous meeting minutes. For additional information, contact Carmen Hall at chall@volusia.org.

Library Services: The division started its Summer Library Program on June 12, with more than 1,600 children attending programming throughout the various branches. So far, over 1,700 children and teens have signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge that runs through Aug. 11. In the challenge, children and teens can read and log at least four days of reading to earn a prize for that week, as well as complete at least four activities in each “activity track” to receive a prize. Children and teens can also link to the Volusia County Schools summer reading program to complete their school’s challenge at the same time. Parents and guardians can find program information by visiting the library program calendar. Adults may also participate in the challenge. For more information, contact Lucinda Colee at lcolee@volusia.org.

Parks, Recreation & Culture: Through funding from a Community Development Block Grant, the replacement playground at Spring Hill Park is nearing completion. The contractor is completing the installation of the playground structure this week, with the safety surface being installed within the
next two weeks, followed by a safety audit. Once the playground passes all safety standards, it will open for recreational use. For more information, contact Tim Baylie at tbaylie@volusia.org.

**Resource Stewardship:** The first educational workshop for the Regrow the Loop initiative will take place from 3 to 4 p.m. on June 24 at the Ormond Beach Regional Library. Information about the initiative, including an introductory video and workshop registration, may be found [here](#). For more information, contact Brad Burbaugh at bburbaugh@volusia.org.

**COUNTY MANAGER**

**Community Information:** The division developed promotions for the Public Works Job Fair and National Mosquito Control Awareness Week. Staff continues to assist Beach Safety, Coastal and Environmental Management to disseminate information regarding rip currents, sea turtle nesting and beach access. For more information, contact Kevin Captain at kcaptain@volusia.org.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**Emergency Management:** Aubrie Austin has been promoted to Emergency Management Operations Coordinator for the division. Five Hazard Awareness presentations will be given this week. For more information, contact James Judge at jjudge@volusia.org.

**Emergency Medical Services:** An orientation class started last Monday with seven EMTs, one paramedic and one AST. This first group began week two of their training. There will be three additional EMTs starting June 19. Representatives from the division participated in a job fair at Seminole State College to recruit paramedic and EMT positions. The division is working through the final phase of the EMS Battalion Chief promotional/hiring process, with all candidates possessing previous experience with VCEMS. Three EMTs passed the promotional process to become Lead EMTs on BLS units and will enter a brief training and then proceed for final clearance with the Medical Director. For more information, contact Kevin Captain at kcaptain@volusia.org.

**Fire Rescue:** Over the previous two weeks, Chief King and other staff held the first round of interviews for the deputy fire chief position. For more information, contact Chief Joe King at jwking@volusia.org.

**GROWTH & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**Environmental Management:**

**Sea Turtle Habitat Conservation Plan Program:** As of June 13, 487 sea turtle nests have been documented. For reference, on the same date last year, 500 nests were reported. This season, there has been a higher-than-average number of false crawls (nesting attempts resulting in no eggs laid). Some sea turtles have managed to nest in unlikely locations, including vacant lots and between damaged seawalls and properties. Recent high tides also overwashed several nests repeatedly, and their status remains unknown until they reach a full incubation date of 70 days.

**Shorebird Nesting:** Disappearing Island has a minimum of eight Least Tern nests inside the posted shorebird nesting area. A Wilson’s Plover (WIPL) nest was discovered in the Bethune Beach area on June 2, and it hatched two chicks shortly after that. Another WIPL nest was found at the end of last week in Bethune. Shorebird Partners have also identified nesting American Oystercatchers with
chicks on several islands near Dunlawton Bridge and two small Least Tern colonies nesting on the City Island Library and a gravel rooftop business building in Ormond Beach.

Water Quality staff performed monthly routine sampling for Turnbull Creek, Edgewater Canal, Gabordy Canal, the Gabordy stormwater pond, Aerial stormwater pond, and Mosquito Lagoon. Field measurements of relative fluorescence units indicate no presence of algal blooms at this time.

For more information, contact Ginger Adair at gadair@volusia.org.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Animal Services: On June 15, partnering agencies from the cities and the livestock community met with Animal Services at the Emergency Operations Center. The meeting was held to establish relationships within these communities to ensure that all parties are ready to respond to the needs of residents and their animals in the event of a disaster. For more information, contact Alicia Dease at adease@volusia.org.

Beach Safety: First responder training was held all week for the new lifeguard recruits. Beach Safety personnel were on the June 16 Volusia Today show to discuss operations for the upcoming July 4 holiday weekend and spread rip current awareness and other general beach safety information. For more information, contact Andy Ethridge at aethridge@volusia.org.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mosquito Control: Staff is preparing for National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, which begins on June 18. A proclamation will be made for the week at the division’s facility on June 19. The division will host a series of educational events with its Fight the Bite trailer at various community locations throughout the week. These events are family-friendly educational opportunities to learn about insect biology, integrated pest management practices, how mosquito fish are used, and how the public can help reduce mosquitoes. On-site staff will be available to answer questions and provide recommendations. Full event details are available here. For more information, contact Marcus McDonough at mmcdonough@volusia.org.

Road and Bridge: In preparation for hurricane season, drainage task team crews are inspecting stormwater systems throughout the county to ensure retention areas, swales, box culverts and other drainage assets are functioning properly. For more information, contact Lori Koontz at lkoontz@volusia.org.

Water Resources and Utilities: As the county serves as the utility provider for its residents and businesses, staff participated in the City of DeBary Citizens Academy, providing an overview of how a utility system operates and how the county works with local cities and state agencies to promote the value of water. For more information, contact Mike Ulrich at mulrich@volusia.org.