AVIATION & ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Air Service, Marketing, Customer Experience: Daytona Beach International Airport (DAB) recently joined the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower program. Travelers with brain injuries, hearing loss, asthma, diabetes, or other hidden disabilities that may not be outwardly noticeable to airport staff can now receive extra assistance through the program, which has grown to include nearly 200 airports worldwide, including 77 in the United States. This voluntary program for airport passengers identifies hidden disabilities by the green sunflower product they choose to wear.

Projects & Facilities: Vertical construction activities continue for the terminal emergency generator project. Finished stucco has been applied to all exterior walls. For more information, contact Joanne Magley at jmagley@flydab.com.

OCEAN CENTER

Events: The Ocean Center welcomes two first-time events this week, both open to the public. Major League Table Tennis (MLTT) moves into the arena on Sept. 13 for its first-ever event, which will take place Sept. 15-17. Fans nationwide can look forward to high-octane table tennis action as teams from the East and West Divisions go head-to-head in competition. Tickets are available on the official MLTT website. CFA Foundation moves into the exhibit hall on Sept. 15 in preparation for Cat Week at Daytona Beach, which is Sept. 16 and 17. The event will feature over 150 cats comprising at least 35 breeds competing for various titles, including Best Cat in Show. It will also have a meow mall, feline agility course, cat costume contest, and adoption center in partnership with Southeast Volusia Humane Society. Tickets start at $10 and can be purchased online. For more information, contact Tim Buckley at tbuckley@volusia.org.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Assistance: The division has published the draft State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Annual Report for the closeout year 2020-21 and interim years. The report is available online and at the Community Assistance office until Sept. 13 for public comment. The report encompasses funds from fiscal year 2020-21 that have been fully expended and funds from 2021-22 that have been expended or encumbered. The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) will hold a public hearing at 5 p.m. on Sept. 13 in the County Council Chambers. The purpose of the hearing is to review the AHAC’s recommendations on local housing incentive strategies. A copy of the draft report of recommendations is available here. The meeting agenda and materials can be found on the committee’s website. For more information, contact Carmen Hall at chall@volusia.org.

Parks, Recreation & Culture: Construction will begin this week for three pickleball courts at Michael Crotty Bicentennial Park and is expected to be completed in approximately 90 days. The courts will be constructed adjacent to the community center just west of the park’s interior parking lot. Pickleball
courts were requested to be added to the facility by park users. The project was approved by the County Council earlier this year and is being partially funded through the ECHO Direct County Expenditure plan. For more information, contact Tim Baylie at tbaylie@volusia.org.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**Emergency Medical Administration:** On Sept. 6, a Hazmat meeting convened with area healthcare providers to deliberate on the protocol for managing patients exposed to hazardous materials. For more information, contact Mark Wolcott at mwolcott@volusia.org.

**Emergency Medical Services:** Quarterly in-service sessions begin this week for clinical providers. These sessions provide essential operational and clinical updates and foster a collaborative environment where team members can engage in meaningful discussions on topics of mutual interest. For more information, contact Kevin Captain at kcaption@volusia.org.

**PUBLIC PROTECTION**

**Animal Services:** Staff met with the Southeast Volusia Humane Society (SEVHS) on Sept. 7 to discuss the possibility of using the mobile spay/neuter vehicle in their parking lot to serve animals in the shelter. For more information, contact Angela Miedema at amiedema@volusia.org.

**Beach Safety:** The division has maintained a successful partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for several years. Their collaboration stems from Beach Safety's extensive expertise in managing tourist-oriented activities and their seamless coordination in emergency response efforts alongside other agencies. This outstanding track record led to their selection as key US DOJ Saudi Special Forces Training initiative participants.

In 2016, the Special Forces for Security and Protection (SFSP) agency was established as a specialized police and security unit under the Saudi Ministry of Interior's purview. SFSP shoulders the vital responsibility of safeguarding individuals and assets connected to significant development projects, with a particular emphasis on securing tourism sites and bolstering the tourism sector.

On Sept. 1, Beach Safety hosted a comprehensive search and rescue training scenario for Saudi Officers. The training session included a presentation and an interactive Q&A segment, culminating in a rescue simulation. Notably, the scenario involved active participation from various Volusia County divisions, each assuming designated roles, including Beach Safety, Volusia County Emergency Medical Services (VCEMS), and Volusia County Fire Rescue (VCFR). In addition to the local team, DOJ Officers and translators were present to enhance the effectiveness of the training. For more information, contact Andy Ethridge at aethridge@volusia.org.

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PUBLIC WORKS

Mosquito Control: The division is working to develop Tire Amnesty Day events for this fall and winter. These events offer an opportunity for residents to dispose of up to 20 tires for free. Disposing of tires enhances public health as mosquitoes lay eggs inside tires, and a small amount of water from rainfall is enough for biting mosquitoes to develop. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection funds the disposal of tires, and these events are part of the Keep Volusia Beautiful program. Once dates and locations are confirmed, event details will be publicized through various avenues. For more information, contact Marcus McDonough at mmcdonough@volusia.org.

Road & Bridge: The division maintains an extensive pedestrian infrastructure network, encompassing more than 280 miles of sidewalks and 6,200 feet of handrails across the county. Upkeep efforts entail sidewalk repairs, retrofitting of curb ramps, and the replacement of handrails, all of which are undertaken to increase pedestrian safety and adhere to standards set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Upcoming projects include work on Williamson Boulevard in Daytona Beach, Main Street in Lake Helen, Spruce Creek Road in Port Orange, and Amelia Avenue in DeLand. For more information, contact Lori Koontz at lkoontz@volusia.org.

Water Resources and Utilities: In support of its efforts to promote the annual capital project cost-share program, a video production team from the St. Johns River Water Management District recently visited the Southwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility in DeBary. This state-of-the-art treatment facility serves as a cornerstone for forthcoming initiatives related to alternative water supply and environmental water quality improvements, which will benefit the Volusia Blue and Gemini Springs areas. For more information, contact Mike Ulrich at mulrich@volusia.org.