

Volusia County Government Activities July 2 – 8, 2022

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Resource Stewardship: The ECHO advisory committee will hold an Environmental Projects Workshop at 1 p.m. July 14 in the Council Chambers to hear ideas and recommendations as to how to increase the number of funded environmental projects over the next 20 years. The land management team was selected to become a partner involved in the Upland Ecosystem Restoration Project (UERP) which is a partnership between Tall Timbers Research Station, numerous state and federal agencies including the University of Florida, and numerous conservation organizations. The County managed 8,090 acre Lake George Forest and Wildlife Management Area (LGF-WMA) has been selected to be a focal area in central Florida. Becoming a partner makes the County eligible to receive cost-share and grant funds to support and supplement the ongoing upland restoration efforts occurring on the LGF-WMA. For more information, contact Brad Burbaugh at BBurbaugh@volusia.org.

COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Community Information: Staff is designing the Affordable Housing Plan for Community Assistance. The 60-plus paged document will be presented to the County Council on July 19. Staff collaborated with several media outlets in the efforts to showcase the heroic submerged vehicle rescue that took place in Oak Hill. The social media post featured the courageous rescue efforts of VSO and VCFR. The recruitment process is underway for a production coordinator replacement for the division. For more information, contact Kevin Captain at kcaptain@volusia.org.

GROWTH & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Environmental Management: The countywide sea turtle nest count has reached a new record high with over 1,021 nests laid this season. The last record high season was a total of 984 nests in 2019. Since nesting will continue through September, the final count will likely far exceed the 2019 count. Nests are now starting to hatch, so it is important to follow all of the lighting requirements to help hatchlings reach the ocean. Staff has opened over 60 lighting enforcement cases so far this season. Shorebird chicks are still being seen throughout County beaches and islands. A press release was issued on July 1, to remind people about the birds and how to play safe. The message seems to have worked because all nesting activity is still underway in all of the previously known locations. The monofilament recycling program is looking for new adopters in the New Smyrna Beach area. Over 20 bins are up for adoption. To adopt a bin or for more information, please contact MonofilamentRecycling@volusia.org. Learn more at Monofilament recycling program (volusia.org) For bin locations including those available for adoption, please visit the interactive map at Monofilament Line Containers (arcgis.com) For more information contact Ginger Adair at gadair@volusia.org.

OCEAN CENTER

Events: Passion Camp began move in July 9, for their event taking place July 11 through 14. The religious camp for middle and high school students utilizes the entire building and is expected to have 5,400 attendees and generate 4,500 room nights. This is a private event. WWE Wrestling will hold their Stunner event at 7 p.m. July 17. Tickets start at just \$20 and are still available at <https://www.ticketmaster.com/WWE>. For more information, contact Tim Riddle at triddle@volusia.org.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Animal Services: On July 8, Director Leath will be attending an Animal Control Task Force meeting in Ocala, FL. This meeting, attended by the State Attorney's office and the jurisdictions throughout Central Florida, will be discussing evidence issues in animal cruelty prosecutions. For more information, contact Division Director Adam Leath, (386) 822-3506.

Beach Safety: Beach Safety thrived during the July Fourth holiday weekend and managed to keep everyone safe from any major incidents during the extended holiday period. The majority of their time was focused on the holiday, planning and executing their operational plan. This week, Beach Safety shifted their focus to the planning of their Interzone Lifeguard Competition, which will be livestreamed on their VolusiaBeaches Facebook page on July 13. For more information, contact Division Director Andy Ethridge, (386) 239-6414.

Emergency Management: The Emergency Operations Center hosted a Sheltering Transportation Meeting on July 7, which involved the Volusia County School District and Votran. For more information, contact Interim Division Director James Judge, (386) 254-1500.

Emergency Medical Administration: EMA staff is meeting with various system stakeholders this week to further discussions on the Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance Transport Program development. For more information, contact Division Director Mark Wolcott, (386) 561-8087.



Emergency Medical Services: VCEMS is preparing for the Field Training Officer (FTO) Academy that is scheduled for July 12 and 14. For more information, contact Division Director Michael Colman, (386) 236-3511.

Fire Rescue: Fire Chief Howard Bailey's last day of service with VCFR will be July 8. For more information, contact Fire Chief Howard Bailey, (386) 736-5940 ext. 12918.

PUBLIC WORKS

Coastal: In preparation for the Independence Day weekend, the Coastal Division added additional port-o-lets at Mary McLeod Bethune Park and staged extra dumpsters throughout the Coastal parks. During the holiday weekend, janitorial contract staff continuously traveled to coastal restroom facilities for cleaning, replenishing supplies, and assisting with litter pick up. Contracted beach maintenance staff walked the beach and coastal parks picking up trash and operated additional trash carts emptying trash cans. Coastal staff, toll attendants, beach maintenance, and beach concessionaires offered complimentary trash bags to patrons to encourage responsible litter disposal. During the July 5 cleanup, 28.26 tons of garbage, including 1.3 tons of recyclables, was collected. The total of 28.26 tons is up from last year's tonnage of 20.3. For more information, contact Jessica Fentress at (386) 248-8072, ext. 20356.



Engineering & Construction: A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for July 15, to kick off the safety-related road improvements on Old New York Avenue from the Amtrak station to SR-44. These improvements include the addition of a 5-foot wide paved shoulder as well as resurfacing of the existing pavement. For more information, contact Tadd Kasbeer at (386) 736-5967, ext. 15846.

Mosquito Control: Mosquito Control is attending summer camps to conduct classroom presentations or to set up the Fight The Bite educational trailer. Students learn about mosquito biology, such as the life cycle and what features of a mosquito classify it from other insects. They also learn about how to find and reduce mosquito producing habitats at home. To request a summer camp or other group presentation, please email vcmosquito@volusia.org. For more information, contact Marcus McDonough at (386) 424-2920, ext. 20272.

Road & Bridge / Water Resources and Utilities: The Florida legislature adopted a 20-year stormwater and wastewater needs analysis for all counties, municipalities, and special districts. For the first cycle of reports, local governments submitted their reports by June 30, and the Public Works Department will compile the local reports, including our own, and submit them to the Office of Economic & Demographic Research (EDR) by July 31, 2022. EDR will then publish an analysis in the 2023 edition of the Annual Assessments of Florida's Water Resources and Conservation Lands. For more information, contact Lori Koontz at (386) 822-6422, ext. 20455 or Mike Ulrich at (386) 943-7027, ext. 12724.

Solid Waste: Solid Waste Management Compliance Officers routinely conduct inspections on vehicles hauling solid waste, ensuring the loads are covered and secured to reduce windblown litter. In June, 43 trucks were inspected resulting in eight warnings. For more information, contact Regina Montgomery at (386) 947-2952, ext. 21347.

Traffic Engineering: Traffic Engineering staff continues to review proposed developments and assess their impacts to the County's transportation network. For developments along thoroughfare roads with speed limits above 35 MPH, right turn lanes can help to improve traffic safety and operations. Developers working with County staff to include roadway improvements like right turn lanes as part of their project's required improvements can help streamline project review timelines and meet the County's goal of maintaining a safe and efficient transportation system. For more information, contact Jon Cheney at (386) 736-5968, ext. 12709.