

Volusia County Government Activities Jan. 29 – Feb. 4, 2022

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Assistance: The Children and Families Advisory Board will meet at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 11 in the County Council Chambers of the Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center, 123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand. Members will review summer camp provider applications and make approval recommendations for the 2022 summer camp scholarship program. Persons may also attend virtually using a link posted prior to the meeting at www.volusia.org/cfab. For more information, please contact Carmen Hall at 386-736-5955.

Library Services: Volusia County Library patrons will benefit from funding received by the Northeast Library Information Network (NEFLIN) via the Florida Division of Library and Information Services ARPA grant program. NEFLIN received \$20,000 to purchase additional e-book titles in the OverDrive database for the Volusia County collection. Library staff selected and added 341 juvenile titles, 141 teen titles, and 550 adult e-book titles to the Library's OverDrive e-book collection. NEFLIN also received \$18,600 to purchase six AWE – Bi-lingual Early Learning computer stations for library branches in lower income zip codes. The additional stations will be located in the Pierson Public Library, Dickerson Heritage Library, Hope Place Public Library, and the Edgewater Public Library.

COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Community Information: Staff is creating an artwork template for bronze ECHO signs. Final preparations, including a new opening video sequence, are being completed for the annual State of the County address at the Ocean Center on Feb. 8. We look forward to another successful event, with 447 people registered to attend. The event also will be broadcast live via YouTube. Volusia County Animal Services hosted an animal fighting workshop on Feb. 4 at the Volusia County Fire Training Center that included hands-on training through the use of mock crime scenes. More than 50 people from a variety of local, state and federal agencies participated. With coordination from Community Information staff, local news media were invited to observe the training. An article about the training is expected to be published in the West Volusia Beacon. For more information, contact Kevin Captain at kcaptain@volusia.org.

GROWTH & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Environmental Management: On Jan. 31, members of the Volusia County Marine Mammal Stranding Team assisted FWC and other agencies with the rescue and relocation of a 10-foot adult male manatee to Blue Springs State Park. The 14th annual Florida Winter Shorebird Survey will be conducted statewide Feb. 4-10. The Winter Shorebird Survey is to better understand the winter distribution of shorebirds and seabirds in Florida and to allow us to recognize long-term trends or changes in winter population sizes, help identify key wintering sites, which is needed to guide future conservation efforts. The Marine Science Center had a 30% drop in attendance from pre-COVID-19 numbers from October through December, but gift shop net revenue increased by 7.2% during those months, setting sales records. Total revenue, from gift shop sales and admissions, were up 16.8% during the same first three months of the fiscal year. The increase can be attributed to the increase in entrance fees and spending in the gift shop. The Water Quality team performed monthly water sampling on Lakes Beresford and Ashby, as well as Deep Creek and the south St. Johns River. All samples were taken and sent to the laboratory for analyses. A large group of honeybees were observed floating on Lake Beresford, probably stunned by the cold. For more information, contact Ginger Adair at gadair@volusia.org.

OCEAN CENTER

Events: Feb. 4-6, the Ocean Center hosted the annual Ace Gymnastics for the Daytona Beach Open, sanctioned by USA Gymnastic. The event is expected to bring 2,000 attendees and approximately 500 hotel room nights. The Ocean Center hosted a women's getaway on Feb. 5, which included local businesses that empower, educate and nurture women. Also included was free brow waxing, haircuts and styling, massages, henna tattoos, manicures, photo booth, karaoke and self-defense workshops. The hottest sneaker event in Daytona Beach, FlyKicksOnly, comes to the Ocean Center Feb. 6., featuring a variety of vendors including sneakers, trading cards, electronics, clothing brands, artists and more, along with a professional tattoo artist, professional barbers and special guests. On Feb. 7-9, we welcome the JJM Legacy, 2022 Midyear Conference. This is the first time this group will be hosting their event in Daytona Beach, and we expect 3,000 attendees, with a staffing room block of nearly 400 room nights. The event is currently contracted to return in 2023. On Feb. 8th, we will play host to the State of the County Address. The event will include an address by Volusia County Chair Jeff Brower, a year-in-review video presentation with the County Council, as well as a spectacular lunch. The doors will open at 11:30 a.m. and the two-hour event will start at noon. While the event is free of charge to the public, lunch reservations closed on Feb. 1. The event will take place in the Ocean Center's exhibit hall and also will be live-streamed on the county's YouTube page. On Feb. 9-11, the Ocean Center welcomes the Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools for their annual Brain Bowl event. The FACCS Brain Bowl is a two-



day, academic team competition for students in grades 6-12 that follows the Quiz Bowl general format. This event brings about 300 people and generates about 150 room nights. Masks are recommended for entry for all events. For more information, contact Tim Riddle at triddle@volusia.org.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Animal Services: Director Leath presented at the Port Orange Council meeting regarding countywide pet licensure on Feb. 1. Additionally, Director Leath instructed the first Volusia County Animal Fighting Workshop on Feb. 4. This training is targeted towards first-responders and law enforcement for the identification and collection of evidence in animal fighting cases. For more information, contact Division Director Adam Leath, (386) 822-3506.

Beach Safety: Beach Safety participated in two public relations events this week; *Get To Know Your Island* where they presented on all things beach related and *Back the Blue*, an event to show support for law enforcement. For more information, contact Division Director Andy Ethridge, (386) 239-6414.

Emergency Management: Emergency Management, in partnership with the cities, continues to support COVID-19 testing at the three mobile testing sites: Daytona Beach at City Island, Deltona at Dewey O. Boster Park and at the New Smyrna Beach City Gym; free home test kits are being distributed at the Volusia County Fairgrounds. For more information please, contact Division Director Helene Wetherington, (386) 254-1500.

Emergency Medical Services: On Feb. 2 and Feb. 3, VCEMS and County staff met to begin EMS Commander bargaining. For more information, contact Division Director Michael Colman, (386) 236-3511.

Fire Rescue: A Project Manager has been assigned to review VCFR's applications that were submitted for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding. The application has been received and is in initial review for Programmatic and Technical compliance. These applications are for the station modifications for Stations 34 and 42 and are worth approximately 3.8 million dollars. For more information, contact Fire Chief Howard Bailey, (386) 736-5940 ext. 12918.

PUBLIC WORKS

Coastal: Coastal Tradesworkers and the Corrections inmate crew worked together to dig out and replace damaged segments of the wooden staircase at Phyllis Ave in Daytona Beach Shores. For more information, contact Terri Propst at (386) 248-8072, ext. 20337.

Engineering & Construction: The Highbridge Boat Ramp will be closed Feb. 7, for installation of a turbidity barrier, silt fence, dewatering, and layout of the proposed bulkhead. The closure is expected to last through Feb. 11. Subsequent to these activities, demolition will take place followed by foundation prep and concrete placement scheduled for Feb. 28 – Mar. 11. For more information, contact Tadd Kasbeer at (386) 736-5967, ext. 15846.

Mosquito Control: Staff is attending the annual Florida Mosquito Control Association Dodd Short Courses. These courses offered online and in-person provide advanced instruction on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies and continuing education units required for applicator license renewals. The Dodd Sentinel Chicken Course is also co-taught by one of the Division's Environmental Specialists. For more information, contact Marcus McDonough at (386) 424-2920, ext. 20272.

Road & Bridge: Reflective pavement markers (RPMs) were recently placed on Lake Winona Road in DeLeon Springs. This road is one of many that receive RPMs after road re-striping efforts are completed and provide safety reminders to drivers. For more information, contact Lori Koontz at (386) 822-6422, ext. 20455.

Solid Waste: The Volusia County Adopt-a-Road Program is a litter reduction campaign designed to remove litter and debris from Volusia County roads to keep Volusia County beautiful. Community volunteers sign up to adopt one mile of county roadway and perform litter clean ups four times a year. In January, 12 volunteers performed cleanups collecting 1,080 pounds of litter from county roadways. For more information, contact Regina Montgomery at (386) 947-2952, ext. 21347.

Traffic Engineering: A Notice to Proceed is being prepared for work to begin on a signal upgrade from a span wire to a mast arm at intersection of Clyde Morris Boulevard and Willow Run Boulevard in Port Orange. For more information, contact Jon Cheney at (386) 736-5968, ext. 12709.

Water Resources and Utilities: Staff finalized terms and conditions of a utility services agreement for Phase 2 of the Wexford Reserve subdivision in the county's northeast service area. The agreement provides for water and wastewater services for up to 111 residential lots. Consideration of the agreement by the County Council is scheduled for March 1. For more information, contact Mike Ulrich at (386) 943-7027, ext. 12724.

