

Volusia County Government Activities January 15 – 21, 2022

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Assistance: Community Assistance is accepting applications for nonprofit organizations, cities, schools, and churches to provide summer camp services as part of the summer camp scholarship program. Applications are available at https://www.volusia.org/community_assistance/applications. Scholarships are available to children whose families are at or below 200% of the current federal poverty guidelines. For additional information, please contact Carmen Hall, Community Assistance Director, at chall@volusia.org.

Library Services: Library Services was proud to be one of the many vendors on Jan. 15, at The Museum of Arts and Sciences annual HistoryCon. Catherine Worthington of POR, Ray Lennard of ORM and Jared Fletcher of DLT spent the day showing off the many services that the library has to offer. There were more than 400 people in attendance at the museum event and many stopped to learn more about the library. Other vendors included many local historical societies, Genealogy societies, and historic sites such as Sugar Mill Gardens and Barberville Pioneer Settlement.

Votran: To date Votran has distributed more than 621,000 masks to the public. Customer Service staff will be presenting an overview of Votran services to approximately 50 inmates of the Tomoka Correctional Institute at their re-entry seminar on Jan. 25.

COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Community Information: Staff coordinated with Parks, Recreation and Culture, Public Works, Resource Management and FDOT with the Jan. 21 ribbon-cutting event for the opening of the new 2.9-mile extension of the Spring-to-Spring trail in DeBary. The event was well attended by many trail blazers, local residents and dignitaries. A social media video was created that included unique drone shots following a bicycle rider enjoying the new trail segment. Staff continues preparations for the State of the County on Feb. 8 at the Ocean Center. The online portal for the public to reserve a seat opened Jan. 18. For more information, contact Kevin Captain at kcaptain@volusia.org.

GROWTH AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Administration: The Land Development Regulation affordable housing subcommittee meeting was held on Jan. 19 at the Emergency Operations Center.

Environmental Management: Environmental Permitting (EP) YTD inspection numbers are up 36.8% compared to this time last year. EP staff has conducted 4,732 inspections and reviews this fiscal year (FY). In FY 20-21, EP staff conducted 18,005 inspections and reviews, an increase of 40% over FY 19-20. EP inspections have increased by 97% since FY 16-17.

Water quality sampling staff from Environmental Management completed monthly sampling of Mosquito Lagoon. Water clarity was typical for this time of year. Though the water had a greenish tint, chlorophyll readings were low and do not indicate an algae bloom.

The Manatee Festival is Jan. 22 and 23 at Valentine and Blue Springs State Parks. Staff will provide an educational table. Manatee Watch Training is in February and there are two opportunities to receive training. For more information, contact Jennifer Winters at jwinters@volusia.org.

Sea turtle Habitat Conservation Plan and Beach Safety Division staff met with members of the Daytona Chamber of Commerce for a roundtable discussion on beach safety and environmental questions. The primary topics of discussion were the sea turtle lighting regulations, homeless and vagrancy problems, hotel rights to provide beach equipment for guests and concessions, the beach app, and partnership ideas to educate hospitality staff and guests.

OCEAN CENTER

Events: On Jan. 22, the Ocean Center will wrap up the Florida Fire Chiefs Foundation's, Fire-Rescue East Conference, as they begin their move-out. This conference brought about 1,500 guests, and approximately 1,500 room nights. On Jan. 23, we will host the Volusia County Teacher of the Year Celebration, which is expected to bring in 900 guests. Masks are recommended for entry for all events.



PUBLIC PROTECTION

Beach Safety: Beach Safety personnel attended a virtual criminal law seminar on Jan. 19. 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 and vaccination efforts while closely monitoring impacts of the Omicron variant, which has reached its spike. Five mobile testing sites remain operational in Daytona Beach at City Island and the Ocean Center, Deltona at Dewey O. Boster Park, the New Smyrna Beach City Gym, and the Volusia County Fairgrounds. Emergency Management staff participated in regional, state, and DOH COVID19 situation meetings throughout the week. Numbers for testing are expected to decrease and additional resources are available from FDEM. We also welcomed six new interns into their Emergency Management program this week. For more information, contact division Director Helene Wetherington, (386) 254-1500.

Emergency Medical Administration: The Emergency Medical Administration director is attending the EMS Advisory Group and the Constituency Group meetings being held at the Ocean Center from Jan. 18-22. On Jan. 18, a ZOLL status meeting was held with Information Technology and Emergency Medical Administration to determine the date to resume the update to ZOLL. The update is tentatively scheduled to resume during the weekend of Feb. 18-20. For more information, contact Division Director Mark Wolcott, (386) 561-8087.

Emergency Medical Services: John Wells, an EMS Commander who started with the Foundation in 1980, retired on Jan. 20. Three EMS employees attended the L-948 Strike Team course conducted by the Volusia County Emergency Management Division on Jan. 18-20. For more information, contact Division Director Michael Colman, (386) 236-3511.

Fire Rescue: Volusia County Fire Rescue's Battalion Chief Heather Lorimor was featured in an article in the Ormond Beach Observer this week. Lorimor was recently named Florida's Hazmat Responder of the Year. For more information, contact Fire Chief Howard Bailey, (386) 736-5940 ext. 12918.

PUBLIC WORKS

Coastal: Contractors working for the Coastal Division began construction on a lift station and force main pipeline to service the restroom facilities at Smyrna Dunes Park. This project will eliminate the need for a septic system in the park and is funded in part by grants from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the St. Johns Water Management District. For more information, contact Terri Propst at (386) 248-8072, ext. 20337.

Mosquito Control: The Mosquito Control Fight the Bite educational trailer will be at the Waterwise Fair and Arbor Day celebration on Feb. 5, on Canal Street in New Smyrna Beach. Staff will be on site with live mosquito samples, Gambusia mosquito fish, mosquito traps, and educational pamphlets. For more information, contact Marcus McDonough at (386) 424-2920, ext. 20272.

Road & Bridge: A sidewalk rehabilitation project was recently completed on Dunn Avenue near the Palm Terrace Elementary School in Daytona Beach. For more information, contact Lori Koontz at (386) 822-6422, ext. 20455.

Solid Waste: The Solid Waste Division maintains fourteen (14) used motor oil drop off sites where residents are encouraged to recycle used motor oil. Since Jan. 1, over 1,340 gallons of used motor oil has been recycled. For more information, contact Regina Montgomery at (386) 947-2952, ext. 21347.

Traffic Engineering: Staff is drafting a transportation analysis for the Barracks of Hope shelter project, currently going through the rezoning phase, which is proposed to be developed on Derbyshire Road north of LPGA Boulevard. For more information, contact Jon Cheney at (386) 736-5968, ext. 12709.

Water Resources and Utilities: During calendar year 2021, a total of 2,868 continuous water use and 645 high consumption alert calls were made to customers. The utilities support team contacts customers advising of continuous 24-hour use (indicating possible leaks) and unusually high consumption during a 72-hour period (indicating inefficient irrigation use). These proactive measures help customers avoid costly bills and potential damage within the home. For more information, contact Mike Ulrich at (386) 943-7027, ext. 12724.