

Volusia County Government Activities

April 25 – May 1, 2020

Aviation and Economic Resources

Airport

Operations - Airport Operations will assist Sheltair on Saturday, May 2, with two chartered Boeing 737-800 aircraft operated by Southwest Airlines that will be carrying approximately 220 soldiers back from deployment. *(The National Guard has specifically asked for no media, no family/friends allowed to greet inside the AOA and no ceremonies for this movement.)*

Facilities and Maintenance – The second phase of bid schedule D for the Taxiway November rehabilitation project began this week. This phase should be completed within 90 days, and will include approximately 20 days of evening closures of the main commercial service runway and 15 days of hard closure. This project is on time and on budget with a final completion date set for December 2020. (see photo) For more information, contact Joanne Magley at 386-248-8030 ext: 18309 or jmagley@volusia.org.



Economic Development

The Economic Development division is developing plans for a grant program to help small businesses reopen their doors and rebound from the economic devastation brought on by coronavirus crisis. The preliminary proposal includes setting aside a portion of relief funds from the U.S. Treasury Department to fund grants for local businesses in Volusia County that have 25 or fewer employees.

Economic Development Director Helga van Eckert participated in a panel discussion with Dr. Jerry Parrish, chief economist and director of research for the Florida Chamber Foundation, and Team Volusia Executive Vice President Heather Shubirg, on Friday, May 1. The discussion was broadcast on the county's Emergency Management Facebook page. The panel discussed the economy and business sector initial next steps as the state begins reopening some sectors. van Eckert was also a panelist in a Facebook live discussion April 29, with the city of DeLand. For more information, contact Helga van Eckert at HVanEckert@volusia.org.

Community Services

Library Services

Library Services has moved its "How-to" Festival online. It will take place Sat. May 2, and Sun. May 3 on the Library Facebook page and the Library website. The online festival will feature two days of educational materials online including staff produced how-to videos. For more information, contact Lucinda Colee at LColee@volusia.org.

County Manager's Office

Community Information

Community Information conducted four COVID-19 news conferences and developed a 50-page Relaunch Volusia booklet based on department submissions and other information. Staff are working collaboratively with many agencies and partners during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Facebook Live Fridays

In addition to frequent news releases, daily briefings, social media postings, video presentations, the weekly radio program and updates to the PIN web site, Community Information is supplementing the County's COVID-19 messaging to the public with weekly panel discussions. These panel discussions focus on topics that provide support and assistance to our residents and businesses community. They can be viewed live on Fridays at 10 a.m. on Emergency Management's Facebook page and also reside on their Facebook page after the events end for later viewing:

<https://www.facebook.com/VolusiaCountyEmergencyManagement>

Daily Press Briefings

Community Information staff are hosting daily press briefings four times a week at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide the public with updated COVID-19 information. The briefings began Monday, April 27, and take place at 2 p.m. (or later) every Monday, Wednesday Thursday and Friday. The daily briefings include updates from representatives of Volusia County Government as well as featured guests from local agencies. No EOC briefings are scheduled for Tuesdays because the County Council is receiving weekly briefings every Tuesday in meetings that are publicly accessible. The briefings at the Emergency Operations Center, 3825 Tiger Bay Road, Daytona Beach, are open to the media and will be streamed live on the Volusia County Emergency Management Facebook page at www.facebook.com/VolusiaCountyEmergencyManagement/.

For more information, contact Kevin Captain at kcaptain@volusia.org.

Finance

Information Technology

Assisted with the implementation of virtual council meetings, including creating a website for the submission of public comments. Assisted Corrections with implementing virtual First Appearances, reducing face-to-face contact in the Branch Jail's courtroom. Increased VPN access capability to the County network to accommodate nearly 300 work-from-home employees. Provided ongoing GIS support, reviewing shelter information with the School Board, and updating information about health care facilities. Coordinated with the School Board to provide GIS resources for home schooling and remote education; including the provision of 500 educational licenses for web-based GIS software. Volunteered time with GISCorps to assist with the development of an [online locator map](#) for COVID-19 testing locations.

Worked with the Assistant County Attorney to help prepare for the decennial redistricting process. Implemented a web-based whiteboard application for the Medical Examiner's Office. For more information, contact Kevin Bengé at kbenge@volusia.org or Brian Whiting at bwhiting@volusia.org.

Growth and Resource Management

Environmental Management

The sea turtle nesting season officially begins on Friday May 1, but sea turtles have already begun nesting on Volusia County beaches. So far we have documented 5 nests. Nesting season runs through Oct. 31. During a typical year, 400 to 500 nests are laid in Volusia County. Last year's season set a new record with 984 nests counted. For more information, contact Clay Ervin at cervin@volusia.org.

Public Protection

Emergency Medical Services

Five ambulance units, ambulance supply techs and multiple management personnel established a highly efficient and effective operation to transport 16 patients from a nursing home. Within five hours EMS had completed that mission with absolute proficiency and effectiveness. This is an example of what a High Performance EMS agency looks like. It takes real courage to get into the back of an ambulance with a known positive case and then repeat that exercise multiple times over. The degree of professionalism throughout the entire operations was nothing short of Excellence!

Fire

On May 4, 140 new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) are being placed in service. Crews will be rotated through the Volusia County Fire Training Center beginning on May 4 and 5 at 8:00 a.m. with equipment distributed and a short training refresher delivered to each engine crew. This is a major project for VCFR with many personnel involved in researching, specifying and procuring the over \$1 million in equipment. Firefighters will be provided with the latest technology in breathing apparatus. These devices are essential to the health and wellness of employees, and allow firefighters to enter smoke-filled and hazardous environments to protect life and property.