

Volusia County Government Activities

July 3 – 9, 2021

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Volusia County is organizing a three-part affordable housing initiative. Our third webinar will take place July 16, from noon to 1:30 p.m. This week's topic is *Preserve*, and we will discuss Community Land Trust, HUD RAD projects, and existing county mechanisms. For more information, please visit www.volusia.org/affordable-housing-summit.

Community Assistance: A draft of the FY 2021-22 One-Year Action Plan for Volusia County has been prepared and is available for citizen review and comment. The One-Year Action Plan is a planning document required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that summarizes Volusia County's strategies and provides citizens with information about planned housing and community development activities that will be implemented in the upcoming fiscal year. Residents and service providers are encouraged to participate in identifying community priority needs and activities to be funded with Community Development Block Group (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding. For more information, please contact Carmen Hall at 386-736-5955.

Resource Stewardship: Extension Services welcomed Brittany Council-Morton the new urban horticulture agent and master gardener volunteer coordinator. She previously served as an agent with Virginia Cooperative Extension since 2011 (photo attached). Land Management staff is presenting an educational program at an upcoming Native Plant Society Chapter meeting where they will teach citizens about our science-based management practices with a focus on exotic species control. For more information, please contact Brad Burbaugh, bburbaugh@volusia.org.



COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Community Information: Staff collaborated with Emergency Management with preparatory efforts with Tropical Storm/Hurricane Elsa. Staff is working with the Ocean Center to finalize the FY 21/22 marketing plan and media buys. Staff is working with Beach Safety to provide live coverage of their Interzone Competition on July 14. Staff is collaborating with Public Protection/Emergency Medical Services staff on the development of an EMS recruiting video as part of a plan for a targeted marketing and recruitment campaign for the Division. Staff is working with Public Works on upcoming infrastructure meetings that will focus on public participation and gathering community input regarding the 5-year road plan. Production staff are assisting with the production needs for the Affordable Housing Initiative. For more information, contact Kevin Captain at kcaptain@volusia.org.

FINANCE

Informational Technology: Staff developed an [online storymap](#) to explain what the decennial redistricting process is and why it occurs. Staff also prepared for the possible arrival of Tropical Storm Elsa, verifying that mapping products and workflows were working as expected. Also created an app for review of pre-storm aerial drone imagery of the beaches for possible use in damage assessment. Staff is working with the City of DeBary to incorporate county GIS data into their permitting and code enforcement application.

GROWTH & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Environmental Management: Marine Science Center (MSC): The MSC had over 1,000 visitors on July 7. The morning overcast, rain, and wind from tropical Storm Elsa did not keep the visitors away. June was surprising busy and close to pre-pandemic attendance numbers. The record June attendance was 14,397 set in 2016, and this year's June attendance reached 11,358 visitors. Total revenue in June 2021 of \$96,576 was also just under the 2016 record of \$101,804. Lyonia Environmental Center (LEC): In July 2020, with COVID restrictions in place, the LEC opened to the public on Saturdays only. Monthly attendance for those Saturdays averaged approximately 150 visitors. On May 8, the LEC fully opened to the public Monday through Saturday. 500 people visited the LEC in May, and over 700 people will visit by the end of June. On June 28 week three of the LEC summer camp programming started with 13 children participating. Camps were full in May; however, expanding registration from 7 to 15 campers has allowed staff to accommodate the increase in requests from parents. For more information, contact Ginger Adair at gadair@volusia.org.

OCEAN CENTER

Events: This Ocean Center hosted the United States Twirling Association (USTA) with nearly 800 athletes, their families and friends, for the 2021 U.S. National Baton Twirling Championships, held July 6–10. Male and female twirlers from 32 states who range in age from four to adult demonstrated their skills in the National Championships, which is a competition for advanced and elite athletes, as well as the Festival of the Future, a competition for novice, beginner and intermediate athletes. USTA is also holding the first-ever Heart Toy Drive throughout the week to benefit pediatric patients at Halifax Health. Twirlers and their families from across the country will donate small toys, games and art supplies to the hospital. Additionally, this event is expected to generate approximately 2,000 room nights. For more information, contact Tim Riddle at triddle@volusia.org.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Corrections: The flooring capital improvement project for the Volusia County Correctional Facility kitchens has been completed. Both kitchens are operational. Over 1,000 Johnson and Johnson vaccinations have been accepted and administered to inmates. For more information, contact Mark Flowers at mflowers@volusia.org.

Emergency Management: VCEM monitored Tropical Storm Elsa and completed preparations for possible activation. Citizens Information Center and WebEOC training is scheduled to be held for county activation staff on July 8. For more information please, contact Division Director Helene Wetherington, (386) 254-1500

Fire Rescue: From July 12-15, all Station 35 personnel will undergo training for the new Squad 35 that will begin service within the next few weeks. Five firefighters will complete the New Hire Academy program on Aug. 6. For more information, contact Fire Chief Bailey, (386) 736-5940 ext. 12918.

PUBLIC WORKS

Coastal: In preparation of Independence Day Weekend, the Coastal Division opened six additional beach ramps to service beach patrons. VSO Details were provided at Sun Splash Park, Mary McLeod Bethune Beach Park, Lighthouse Point Park, and Smyrna Dunes Park. Seven pre-stage dumpsters were deployed. Contracted beach maintenance staff walked the beach and coastal parks picking up trash and additional trash carts emptied trash cans. Toll attendants, beach maintenance staff, and beach concessionaires offered complimentary compostable trash bags to patrons to encourage responsible litter disposal. During the July 5 cleanup, 15.17 tons of garbage including 2.6 tons of recyclables was collected north of Ponce Inlet and 5.13 tons of garbage, including 0.4 tons of recyclables was collected south of Ponce Inlet. The total of 20.3 tons are down from last year's tonnage of 26.26. For more information, contact Jessica Winterwerp at (386) 248-8072, ext. 20356.



Engineering & Construction: Construction on Fire Station 22 continues. The FPL power drop is expected to occur July 12-16. Lift station work and kitchen modifications are scheduled for the following week of July 19-23. Final inspection for the certification of occupancy is anticipated in the first week of August. For more information, contact Tadd Kasbeer at (386) 736-5967, ext. 15846.

Mosquito Control: Due to Tropical Storm Elsa, Mosquito Control provisionally removed the midge program light barge from Lake Monroe; the barge was redeployed after the storm passed. The barge consists of large white panels with solar powered floodlights on a timer to attract nuisance non-biting midges away from the shoreline and reduce the amount of midges flying to residences. For more information, contact Suzanne Bartlett at (386) 424-2920, ext. 20272.

Road & Bridge: Emergency preparations were put in place within the division as the track of Hurricane Elsa was closely monitored. Drainage task team crews inspected stormwater systems to ensure retention areas, swales, box culverts, and other drainage assets are functioning property was checked before and after Elsa arrived. Storm-related equipment such as front-end loaders, bucket trucks, and chainsaws are fueled and ready for use if needed. For more information, contact Benjamin Bartlett at (386) 822-6422, ext. 20470.

Solid Waste: On July 9, Solid Waste staff conducted a solid waste and recycling presentation for 25 4-H Club members at STEM Day Camp in cooperation with UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County. For more information, contact Regina Montgomery at (386) 947-2952, ext. 21347.

Traffic Engineering: Over the past three years, Traffic Engineering has increased coordination efforts with cities and developers seeking driveways on county roads by requiring development plans to include interconnecting with adjacent properties and/or connecting to existing or platted streets to minimize impacts to county thoroughfares. Cumulatively, reduced impacts will prevent the premature need for expensive widening and preserve the thoroughfare's purpose of moving regional traffic. For more information, contact Jon Cheney at (386) 736-5968, ext. 12709.