

Volusia County Government Activities May 15 – 21, 2021

COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Community Information: Community Information staff coordinated ribbon cuttings for two new trail segments - the Gobblers Lodge Trail in Osteen and the Gemini Springs Trail near DeLeon Springs State Park. The Spring-to-Spring Trail Ribbon Cutting event from May 22, is pictured below...



Staff completed the May/June issue of County Line and distributed it to employees. Community Information collaborated with Animal Services' promotional needs for their free pet microchip, pet food and rabies vaccination event that took place on May 22. The promotion included creation and dissemination of an event flyer along with a news release, social media posting and a video story profiling Animal Service's role in the care of a lost Dachshund named Bunny and her safe return to its owner. The video can be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/volusiacounty.animalservices/videos/182055787129676>.

Community Information staff met with Community Services to begin planning for their audio-visual-production needs for an upcoming series of virtual workshops, to be followed by an in-person summit addressing the issue of affordable housing. Community Information's production staff also did some on-scene filming at the event for social media. Staff is assisting several divisions with recruitment efforts. Paid social is running to help Community Assistance fill two summer positions related to summer food sites; bus wraps and paid social will launch soon promoting driver positions at Votran; and efforts to recruit corrections officers include paid social, paid Google search, local in-business display ads and a targeted direct mail piece. For more information, contact Kevin Captain at kcaptain@volusia.org.

GROWTH & RESOURCES

Administration: The fifth Volusia Forever listening session took place on May 19, at the Deltona Regional Library. For more information, contact Clay Ervin at cervin@volusia.org.

Environmental Management: The MSC Bird Hospital is in the middle of baby bird season and has seen an increased number of babies from last year's record breaking season. The babies admitted include; four Screech Owls that were raised and released, 16 Red-Shouldered hawks, and a record number of Sandhill Crane babies. As of May 19, the Bird Department has admitted over 500 birds since the beginning of the year. The Bird Department would also like to express its gratitude to Volusia County Animal Control for their dedication and hard work helping rescue and transport injured birds and abandoned baby birds to the MSC for rehabilitation. Their service helps the MSC conserve our avian friends that play a large role in a healthy environment. For more information contact, Ginger Adair at gadair@volusia.org

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Animal Services: Animal Services welcomes its newest staff member, Dr. Lindsey Cossa. Dr. Cossa began her employment with VCAS on May 18, as a part-time veterinarian in the Animal Care Clinic. On May 18, the division director and two animal control officers will be attending the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Safe Capture Live-Stream Training event. This three-day event provides the most complete, up-to-date instruction available on chemical immobilization of animals. The instructors are veterinarians and biologists who specialize in remotely delivered anesthetic agents. In addition, Animal Services hosted a free microchipping, rabies vaccination and pet food give-away event on May 22. For more information, contact Adam Leath at aleath@volusia.org.

Corrections: VCCD continues to offer the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccination to inmates. The Corrections Division along with the Volusia County School System will be holding a graduation for two high school students who are in custody and have completed their graduation requirements. Families will be allowed to attend the ceremony in an effort to make this event special for both the inmate/student and their families. The graduation ceremony will take place at the Branch Jail at 1 p.m. on June 7. For more information, contact Mark Flowers at mflowers@volusia.org.

Emergency Medical Services: Volusia County EMS celebrated EMS Week by honoring Gerald "Jerry" Jones on May 19, with a dedication ceremony at the new Station #23 in New Smyrna Beach. When Volusia County's Public Protection Department announced plans last year to open an emergency medical services building next to a southeast Volusia fire station, long-time paramedic Gerald Jones was looking forward to staffing the new office. Tragically, he died from COVID-19 complications on Sept. 20. A dedication plaque, along with his picture, has been permanently affixed inside the EMS quarters at Station #23. A U.S. Navy veteran, who worked for Volusia County Emergency Medical Services for 21 years, Jerry is survived by his wife, Emily, and son Joshua. VCEMS honored and appreciated all first responders during EMS Week, as well as welcoming new team members, who began their field training May 17. For more information, contact Jason Brady at jbrady@volusia.org.

Fire Rescue: On May 17, VCFR will begin its New Hire Academy for six personnel. The academy will comprise 12 weeks of basic firefighting and EMS skills, Driver operator training for engine and aerial apparatus and a basic technical rescue course, such as rope and vehicle machinery extrication. Graduation for these new hires is tentatively scheduled for August. For more information, contact Howard Bailey at hbailey@volusia.org.

PUBLIC WORKS

Coastal: Trades workers renovated the existing dune walkover located at 17th Avenue in New Smyrna Beach. This renovation will provide continued safe public access to the beach. For more information, contact Jessica Winterwerp at (386) 248-8072, ext. 20356.

Engineering & Construction: The contractor for the ongoing Williamson Boulevard widening will have the eastern half of the roadway, the future northbound lanes, completed and ready to shift traffic in a few weeks. Following the shift, construction of the future southbound lanes will begin. For more information, contact Tadd Kasbeer at (386) 736-5967, ext. 15846.

Mosquito Control: Mosquito Control is collaborating with Fleet Maintenance and Information Technology to upgrade hardware connections on our ultra-low volume (ULV) spray trucks for improved efficiency of our spray operation tracking software. For more information, contact Suzanne Bartlett at (386) 424-2920, ext. 20272.

Road & Bridge: In honor of National Public Works Week from May 16–22, all divisions of Public Works extend our appreciation for the accomplishments that our fellow public works professionals contribute to the public health, high quality of life, and well-being of Volusia County residents and visitors. Road & Bridge Director Ben Bartlett spoke about Public Works week on the Volusia Today radio program. For more information, contact Benjamin Bartlett at (386) 822-6422, ext. 20470.

Solid Waste: FCC Environmental Services will hold a community bulk item cleanup in the northwest quadrant of the County for June 26. The company will collect up to four bulk items from unincorporated residential households in this area and will begin notifying residents the week of June 14. For more information, contact Regina Montgomery at (386) 947-2952, ext. 21347.

Traffic Engineering: Staff is preparing new timing plans for Saxon Boulevard, from I-4 east to Normandy Boulevard, with a focus on the Finland Drive at Saxon Boulevard intersection. For more information, contact Jon Cheney at (386) 736-5968, ext. 12709.

Water Resources and Utilities: The Utilities engineering team coordinated with city planning staff members in a site plan review of the proposed Canopy Terrace single family residential community in DeLand and the O'Reilly's auto parts center in DeBary. For more information, contact Mike Ulrich at (386) 943-7027, ext. 12724.

