

## Volusia County Government Activities December 18 – 24, 2021

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Community Assistance:** Volusia County's Emergency Rental Assistance program has received funds from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to assist Volusia County households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to or during the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications will be accepted starting at 9 a.m. Jan. 12. Navigators will be available at participating public libraries and the Community Assistance Division Emergency Rental Assistance office to assist those needing assistance with the application. For more information, please contact Carmen Hall at 386-736-5955 x 12044.

**Veterans Services:** Veterans Services gave away 10 food baskets this week to local veterans. Heels and Holsters, a women's shooting group, provided the baskets. For more information contact, Robert Watson, rbwatson@volusia.org.

**Votran:** Votran operated a limited service schedule on Dec. 25, and the same limited service will operate on Jan. 1, 2022 for New Year's Day. Riders are encouraged to plan their travel in advance to avoid possible travel conflicts. Votran reminds all riders that masks are required to be worn while onboard, per TSA and CDC requirements. Votran Gold will also operate limited service. For more information, contact a reservationist or Votran customer service. Effective immediately, the service window for Votran's paratransit, call-ahead curb service will change from 60 to 90 minutes for in-town trips and from two hours to three hours for cross-county trips. Effective Jan. 8, fixed route service will transition from 30-minute intervals to 60-minute intervals. This temporary change will affect routes 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 15, 20 and 60, as the other routes already operate on a 60-minute service on Saturdays. For more information, contact Bobbie King and bgking@volusia.org.

### COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

**Community Information:** Filming with County Council members for the annual State of the County message concluded on Dec. 22. The video will now go into the production phase in preparation for the Feb. 8 event in the exhibit hall at the Ocean Center. Public notice regarding the State of the County and invitations to the event will go out in January. For more information, contact Kevin Captain at kcaptain@volusia.org.

### GROWTH & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**Environmental Management:** Sea Turtle Habitat Conservation Plan staff is in the process of acquiring a sea turtle friendly lighting display from the Sea Turtle Conservancy, which will be made available to the public for viewing at the 440 S. Beach Street field office along with an entire room showcasing sea turtle lighting options to be showcased next spring. Pollution Control staff spent several days on the St. Johns River overseeing a contractor who removed a 60-foot derelict vessel in the Hitchens Creek area just south of Lake George. The boat was floated with air bladders and towed to Shell Harbor for demolition and disposal. For more information, contact Ginger Adair at gadair@volusia.org.

## **OCEAN CENTER**

**Events:** Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, we will be hosting for the first time, the Battle at Daytona Beach, Demolition Derby. Come celebrate New Year's with an action packed event featuring over 120 drivers from around the country. Event times: 6 p.m., Dec. 31, and 4 p.m. Jan 1. Doors will open two hours before each event starts. Weekend and single day passes available on ticketmaster.com. Masks will be recommended for entry for all events. For more information, contact Tim Riddle at triddle@volusia.org.

## **PUBLIC PROTECTION**

**Animal Services:** On Dec. 21, Animal Services' staff did a presentation at the Halifax Humane Society PAWS Winter Camp 2021. This camp is for children ages 6-13 and includes daily presentations from professionals in animal welfare careers, shelter tours, animal interactions, crafts, and much more. For more information, contact Division Director Adam Leath, (386) 822-3506.

**Corrections:** Corrections, in cooperation with Family Health Source, once again provided COVID vaccines and boosters to the inmate population. Last week, 110 inmates received the vaccine or the booster, which increased the number of total vaccines administered to more than 1,600 since they began. The Corrections contract Chaplain (Russ Williams), in coordination with a local church, sponsored a Christmas concert for many of the inmates in custody on Dec. 18. More than 500 attended the concert, which was held at the Correctional Facility. For more information, contact Division Director Mark Flowers, (386) 254-1568.

**Emergency Management:** Emergency Management continues to support COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts while closely monitoring impacts of the new Omicron variant. Three mobile testing sites continue to operate. For more information, contact Division Director Helene Wetherington, (386) 254-1500.

**Emergency Medical Administration:** Staff met with county Information Technology on Dec. 21 to begin development of a countywide quality assurance (QA) reporting platform available to all county and municipal emergency medical service providers. This is the inaugural meeting, but it is intended to offer a secure and efficient means for all to provide quality control measures relating to patient care to our medical directors. For more information, contact Division Director Mark Wolcott, (386) 561-8087.

**Emergency Medical Services:** EMS will be completing the second part of the Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) training for employees who need recertification. For more information, contact Division Director Michael Colman, (386) 236-3511.

**Fire Rescue:** VCFR's Technical Rescue Team rappelled from the roof of Halifax Health's Fountain Tower in Daytona Beach on Dec. 23. The Christmas Repel Event serves as a training exercise for the team, but also provides an opportunity to bring a smile to the staff and patients. For more information, contact Fire Chief Howard Bailey, (386) 736-5940 ext. 12918.