

Volusia County Government Activities December 4 – 10, 2021

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Resource Stewardship: The ECHO advisory committee met on Dec. 2 to review and score the 2020/2021 ECHO grant applications. Eight of the nine applications received a score of 80 or above and will be recommended to County Council for final review and approval. Staff continue to review Volusia Forever (VF) applications and the VF advisory committee will meet on Jan. 26 to identify properties that are eligible for further consideration. For more information, contact Brad Burbaugh bburbaugh@volusia.org.

Votran: The TSA has extended the mask mandate for public transportation until March 18, 2022. For more information, contact Bobbie King bgking@volusia.org.

COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Community Information: Staff have begun the filming process for the State of the County Address scheduled for Feb. 8, 2022. Staff are coordinating the unveiling of the Andy Warhol screen print at the Marine Science Center for later in December. For more information, contact Kevin Captain at kcaptain@volusia.org.

FINANCE

Information Technology: Staff installed a patch to the enterprise financial system, so that 1099 forms can be processed with the latest legislative updates. Staff developed an internal-use GIS portal, leveraging the power of Active Directory to provide a new, more secure, GIS environment for county employees. Staff confirmed and converted into GIS shapes a series of new legal descriptions resulting from the decennial redistricting effort (pending official County Council adoption on Dec. 14). For more information, contact Kevin Benge at kbenge@volusia.org.

GROWTH & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Environmental Management: The Marine Science Center staff transported 58 sea turtle hatchlings to Gumbo Limbo Nature Center where they were taken out to the Gulf Stream for release. On Dec. 6-7, staff also released five juvenile green sea turtles.

Members of the Volusia County Marine Mammal Stranding team helped release a manatee on Nov. 30 at Blue Spring. He was rescued in April and treated at the Jacksonville Zoo Manatee Rehabilitation Facility. On Dec. 2, the stranding team also helped rescue an orphaned manatee calf, which is now being treated for malnutrition and a skin condition at the SeaWorld Rehabilitation Facility. The stranding team coordinators will also attend the annual FWC Manatee Captures and Health Assessments to determine baseline health information of West Indian Manatees.

On Dec. 10, staff participated in the Florida Shorebird Alliance Partnership, assisting FWC with a cleanup effort of the Port Orange Critical Wildlife Area in anticipation of the 2022 nesting season.

Staff appeared on the Volusia Today radio program to promote the change of countywide water restrictions from two days per week to one day per week. For more information, contact Ginger Adair at gadair@volusia.org.

OCEAN CENTER

Events: The Ocean Center hosted the Joseph Volleyball's Florida Holiday Challenge week 1 on Dec. 11 and 12 in our Exhibit Hall (they repeat next weekend). This event brought over 4,000 attendee days and over 1,500 room nights to the area. The East Coast Cheer & Dance Championships utilized the Arena and Ballroom on Dec. 12 bringing over 5,000 attendees through the facility for the competition that day. We then complete an overnight turn of the Ballroom for a Holiday Bazaar in the Ballroom on Dec. 12. The Bazaar is free to the public, with an expected 1,000 people to attend. Masks will be recommended for entry for all events. For more information, contact Tim Riddle at triddle@volusia.org.



PUBLIC PROTECTION

Beach Safety: Beach Safety participated in the Oak Hill and Ormond Beach Christmas Parades on Dec. 11. Beach Safety personnel also utilized their boat in the New Smyrna Beach Christmas Boat Parade on Dec. 11. For more information, contact Division Director Andy Ethridge, (386) 239-6414.

Corrections: The Corrections Division conducted a promotional ceremony at the Branch Jail on Dec. 8. The Corrections Division is expected to offer COVID and booster vaccines on Dec. 9. 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. Emergency Management successfully completed the Full Scale Backup EOC Activation Exercise conducted on Dec. 3. For more information please, contact Division Director Helene Wetherington, (386) 254-1500.

Emergency Medical Services: Emergency Medical Service's recruiter participated in the Orlando First Response Job Fair on Dec. 4. Thirty Emergency Management Services employees took the first part of the Sergeant's Paramedic exam from Dec. 6-10. For more information, contact Division Director Michael Colman, (386) 236-3511.

PUBLIC WORKS

Coastal: Work is set to begin on replacement of the 27th Avenue beach ramp in New Smyrna Beach. The existing ramp structure has exceeded its life expectancy and beach erosion at the eastern end of the structure often creates a drop-off that makes the ramp unusable to vehicles. The Coastal Division has removed the gates and toll booth from the existing beach ramp and the County's Contractors started work on Dec. 8. The beach ramp will be closed to all vehicles and pedestrians during construction, which is expected to last approximately six months. During that time, vehicles are advised to access the beach using the 3rd Avenue beach ramp located approximately 1.5 miles north of 27 Avenue. The Crawford Road Beach Ramp will also now be open 7 days a week beginning Dec. 8 to accommodate the closure at the 27 Ave Beach Ramp. For more information, contact Jessica Winterwerp at (386) 248-8072, ext. 20356.

Mosquito Control: Staff received and setup the budgeted FY 22 capital outlay compound microscope (pictured at right). Mosquito specimens are routinely verified to species using stereo and compound microscopes depending on the specimen features required to confirm identification. Dichotomous keys are used to review anatomical features such as the placement of setae (tiny hairs), shapes and patterns of scales, and colorations. Correct identification is an integral part of mosquito surveillance as a component of an integrated pest management program. For more information, contact Tim MacHardy at (386) 424-2920, ext. 20273.



Road & Bridge: On Dec. 11, travelers on State Road 44 at the St. Johns River bridge experienced delays to accommodate DeLand's annual Christmas boat parade. For more information, contact Lori Koontz at (386) 822-6422, ext. 20455.

Solid Waste: The Solid Waste Division offers the removal of home fuel oil free to all Volusia County residents. Our goal is to remove abandoned home fuel oil from all known tanks. Since October, staff removed 865 gallons of home fuel oil from nine residential properties. Residents needing home fuel oil removed may call the Solid Waste Division at (386) 943-7889 to schedule removal. For more information, contact Regina Montgomery at (386) 947-2952, ext. 21347.

Traffic Engineering: Traffic Engineering signal staff installed radar-controlled, Edgelit curve signs for the City of DeBary at Ft. Florida & Ft. Florida Point. In addition, radar speed signs were installed for the City of Ormond Beach on Beach Street. For more information, contact Jon Cheney at (386) 736-5968, ext. 12709.

Water Resources and Utilities: Staff attended planning session with utility staff representing DeLand, Deltona, and Orange City to review current capital improvement projects, evaluate potential regional water supply and wastewater remediation projects, and discuss cooperative springs protection strategies. For more information, contact Mike Ulrich at (386) 943-7027, ext. 12724.