

Volusia County Government Activities January 1 – 7, 2022

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Assistance: Volusia County's Emergency Rental Assistance program has received funds from the U.S. Department of 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. on 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.

Votran: Outreach events are planned for the next two weeks at the Transfer Plaza in Daytona and the Amelia Superstop in Deland to inform customers of the upcoming Saturday service changes that begin Jan. 8. Customer Service staff will be presenting information on Votran Gold and Fixed Route service to the residents of Woodland Towers in Deland on Jan. 11. For more information, contact Kelvin Miller at kmiller@volusia.org.

COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Community Information: Staff supported the upcoming opening of the COVID-19 testing site at the Volusia County Fairgrounds with public messaging, including a news release and social media posting. The online registration portal opens on Jan. 9 and the site will begin operations at 9 a.m. on Jan. 10. The final changes were completed on new anti-litter PSAs that will be prepared for distribution in tandem with an anti-litter webpage in the coming weeks. For more information, contact Kevin Captain at kcaptain@volusia.org.

GROWTH & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Environmental Management

In 2021, the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program collected 176.1 pounds of fishing line from recycling bins and 1385 pounds of line and marine debris from underwater cleanups. Currently, 85% of all recycling bins in the county have been adopted by volunteers; this is an increase from last year by 50%. The Marine Mammal Stranding Team responded to 21 dolphin calls (an increase of 3 from 2020), one whale call and 66 Manatee calls (an increase of 40), including rescues, releases, necropsies, verifications and monitoring calls. The team continues to lend support to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), throughout the ongoing Florida Manatee Unusual Mortality Event. The total manatee deaths as of Dec. 24, 2021, in all of Florida, for all mortality reasons is 1,083. Seventy-five deaths were in Volusia County. The Sea Turtle Hospital smashed its previous record of 171 juvenile and adult sea turtles (mostly cold-stunned) with 221 sea turtles admitted this calendar year. The new interactive educational material provides an important component to educate the public as we see yearly increases in sea turtle and bird intakes. The Marine Science Center's Turtle, Education, and Aquarium Department Teams worked to improve the signage that helps guide and inform guests about the sea turtle patients. The new professionally designed sign by Paul Radetsky of Community information (top of photo, previous sign to right) provides patient names and locations that are used to look up patient information on interactive computers located close by. The new information system has been very popular with guests. Figure New Educational Signage. For more information, contact Ginger Adair at gadair@volusia.org.



PUBLIC PROTECTION

Emergency Management: Emergency Management, in partnership with the cities, continues to support COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts while closely monitoring spiking impacts of the new Omicron variant and unmet needs in the community. There are three mobile testing sites in Volusia County, which are located in Daytona Beach at City Island (formerly the Speedway location), Deltona at Dewey O. Boster Park and at the New Smyrna Beach City Gym. Volusia County will be opening an additional site at the Volusia County Fairgrounds on Jan. 10. The site, which will offer both booster vaccinations and testing, will be open to the public on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays beginning at 9 a.m. on Jan. 10. The site will be closed on Jan. 17 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. For more information please, contact Division Director Helene Wetherington, (386) 254-1500.

Emergency Medical Services: Seven EMT & twelve PM applicants have been scheduled to interview/test this week. VCEMS will be conducting the second week of new hire orientation. For more information, contact Division Director Michael Colman, (386) 236-3511.

Fire Rescue: Jan. 18-21, VCFR will be attending, participating and supporting Fire Rescue East, which is the largest conference and trade-show in the Southeast. This annual event hosts an extensive offering of training for every level and function within the fire service, with educational hands-on training, lectures, workshops, and real-world scenario competitions. For more information, contact Fire Chief Howard Bailey, (386) 736-5940 ext. 12918.

PUBLIC WORKS

Coastal: Coastal Tradesworkers completed installation of new wayfinding signs at New Smyrna Dunes Park to help patrons easily navigate throughout the park. For more information, contact Jessica Winterwerp at (386) 248-8072, ext. 20356.

Mosquito Control: As part of our integrated pest management program, Mosquito Control utilizes mosquito fish (*Gambusia holbrooki*) as a biological control for juvenile mosquitoes. Mosquito fish are placed in many semi-permanent and artificial aquatic habitats where they can provide effective control by consuming mosquito larvae. Staff are working to improve the on-site fish production through the implementation of isolated rearing tanks. This will increase the district's capacity to utilize this control option. For more information, contact Tim MacHardy at (386) 424-2920, ext. 20273.



Road & Bridge and Traffic Engineering: Road & Bridge and Traffic Engineering partnered to complete a raised median pedestrian crossing in the 5300 block of S. Atlantic Avenue in New Smyrna Beach. For more information, contact Lori Koontz at (386) 822-6422, ext. 20455.



Solid Waste: There is no change to garbage, recycling, bulk waste and yard trash collection schedules for residents of unincorporated Volusia County on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 17. The Tomoka Farms Road Landfill and West Volusia Transfer Station will both be open normal operational hours. For more information, contact Regina Montgomery at (386) 947-2952, ext. 21347.