

# Volusia County Government Activities

## February 27 – March 5, 2021

### AVIATION & ECONOMIC RESOURCES

#### **Daytona Beach International Airport**

**Operations** – The airport conducted an orderly evacuation of the terminal on March 3, due to an email threat targeting the airport. The terminal was closed for approximately two hours while Volusia Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad swept the facility. Two air carrier flights were impacted (AA diverted back to Charlotte and Delta delayed in Atlanta). An after-action debriefing of the event was conducted March 4, with all staff involved, to identify core strengths and weaknesses of the Airport's Emergency Plan. For more information, contact Joanne Magley at [jmagley@volusia.org](mailto:jmagley@volusia.org).

**Air Service/Marketing/Customer Experience** – Construction continues on the airport's \$7.6 million parking lot improvement project, which includes repaving and painting of the short and long-term parking lots. Paving of the short-term lot was completed in February and work continues on the long-term and rental car lots. The project also includes repaving of Catalina Drive, Innovation Way and the rental car parking area and new way-finding signage, LED lighting and canopies over the parking ticket dispensers. For more information, contact Joanne Magley at [jmagley@volusia.org](mailto:jmagley@volusia.org).

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

#### **Community Assistance: Emergency Rental Assistance**

Volusia County's Emergency Rental Assistance program will accept applications starting at 9 a.m. March 10. This program will assist eligible Volusia County households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Interested persons may submit an application online at [www.volusia.org/ERA](http://www.volusia.org/ERA). With finite funds available, the county will close the application window after receiving 1,000 applications to ensure assistance is available for all qualified applicants. For more information, visit [www.volusia.org/ERA](http://www.volusia.org/ERA) or contact Community Assistance at [386-943-7095](tel:386-943-7095) or [ERA@volusia.org](mailto:ERA@volusia.org).

**Extension Services:** Extension Services is now offering several hybrid classes which gives our residents the option to join an educational program in person or virtually via Zoom videoconference. This new technology/innovation has received positive reviews from our audiences and increased participation in our educational efforts. For more information, contact Brad Burbaugh at [bburbaugh@volusia.org](mailto:bburbaugh@volusia.org).

### COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

**Community Information:** Staff coordinated the presentation of proclamations to local black leaders in celebration of Black History Month during the March 2 County Council meeting. Community Information is coordinating the annual Public Employee Feed The Need Drive, which kicks off on March 8 and goes through March 19. This year's event has transitioned from a food drive to a fund drive for safety reasons and to maximize the impact of the giving. For more information, contact Kevin Captain at [kcaptain@volusia.org](mailto:kcaptain@volusia.org).

### GROWTH & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**Environmental Management:** The Marine Science Center's (MSC) Education Department continues to build community support for conservation in Volusia County virtually. The department hosted a virtual program, "Family Science Night" to 80 R.J. Longstreet students and family members. Ms. Stasa, R.J. Longstreet first-grade teacher, and her class were able to raise \$4,000 for the MSC's Sea Turtle Hospital through their Turtle Rescuers Fundraiser. The first-grade class were special guests to the release of "Frozen," a green sea turtle that had successfully completed rehabilitation. The MSC's Sea Turtle Department continues to receive above average numbers of sea turtles and has 30 sea turtles currently in rehabilitation at the Center. For more information, contact Ginger Adair at [gadair@volusia.org](mailto:gadair@volusia.org).

**Planning and Development Services:** The Real Estate Activity sold one county-owned surplus property, generating \$85,000 in revenue and adding it back on the tax roll. This Activity also received \$300 in revenue for releasing mineral rights held by the county on one parcel. For more information, contact Palmer Panton at [ppanton@volusia.org](mailto:ppanton@volusia.org).

### OCEAN CENTER

**Events:** Hosted by Lightning City Gymnastics, the Ocean Center welcomed the Gasparilla Classic Feb. 24 – 28. As one of the largest gymnastics competitions in the country and its first time at the Ocean Center using all the available space, the event attracted ~12,000 attendees with an estimated 1,200 hotel room nights. The Ocean Center will shift into "special event mode" during Bike Week, focusing primarily on an anticipated heavy parking load in the surface lots and parking garage. As a new endeavor, indoor parking for motorcycles on both weekends will be offered in the Exhibition Hall. Staff will assess if this indoor parking supports a demand and provides a new stream of revenue given today's business challenges. For more information, contact Director Tim Riddle at [triddle@volusia.org](mailto:triddle@volusia.org).



## PUBLIC PROTECTION

**Animal Services:** Staff is working with Purchasing and Budget in preparation for the bid process to replace the aging Animal Services spay/neuter mobile unit. For more information, contact Director Adam Leath at [aleath@volusia.org](mailto:aleath@volusia.org).

**Beach Safety:** This week Beach Safety will be meeting with the lodging and hospitality board regarding rip currents and signage. "How to break the grip of the rip" signs will be provided for the hotels to post to assist in educating their visitors. Staff is gearing up for Spring Break; assigning staff and getting equipment ready. On March 6 Beach Safety will be holding the second round of lifeguard tryouts. For more information, contact Director Adrew Ethridge at [aethridge@volusia.org](mailto:aethridge@volusia.org).

**Fire Services:** In a diverse community group, Volusia County Fire Rescue (VCFR) held the first of several meetings for the development of the VCFR 2022-2026 Strategic Plan on March 4. The plan is essential for shaping the future of VCFR and to meet the requirements outlined in the accreditation process. For more information, contact Chief Howard Bailey at [cbailey@volusia.org](mailto:cbailey@volusia.org).

## PUBLIC WORKS

**Coastal:** The Expansion of the Dahlia Ave Beach Park began on March 1. The new park will have 61 parking spaces including three ADA parking spaces, an ADA beach access ramp, restrooms, showers, bike rack, playground, picnic pavilions, and a beachfront boardwalk and landscaping. Coastal Staff will coordinate the trimming of palm trees along the roadway and main parking area at Smyrna Dunes Park located in New Smyrna Beach. Staff will also coordinate the installation of "You are here" mini map signs on the Smyrna Dunes Park boardwalk. For more information, contact Jessica Winterwerp at (386) 248-8072, ext. 20356.

**Engineering & Construction:** Construction of the Spring to Spring trail from Highbanks Road to US 17/92 has begun. Activities in the coming weeks include Gopher Tortoise relocation, silt fence installation, and clearing and grubbing. For more information, contact Tadd Kasbeer at (386) 736-5967, ext. 15846.

**Mosquito Control:** Staff is conducting virtual presentations at the American Mosquito Control Association annual meeting. These presentations feature how operational challenges were overcome during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, mosquito surveillance improvements, and efficacy trials conducted for aerial adulticide missions. For more information, contact Suzanne Bartlett at (386) 424-2920, ext. 20272.

**Road & Bridge:** On Feb. 24, Road & Bridge staff facilitated a request from members of the Volusia Remembers Coalition to collect soil along Old DeLand Road where Lee Snell was killed in 1939. One soil sample will join those displayed at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, and the other will be displayed at various places throughout Volusia County. For more information, contact Benjamin Bartlett at (386) 822-6422, ext. 20470.



## Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Division hosted a free collection event for household hazardous materials on Feb. 27, in DeBary. A total of 392 residents participated, dropping off 761 gallons of paint and over 2,000 lbs. of reuse chemicals. The Tomoka Farms Road Landfill will hold limited operational hours from 7 a.m.-10 a.m. on March 7 and 14, in support of Bike Week events. For more information, contact Regina Montgomery at (386) 947-2952, ext. 21347.

**Traffic Engineering:** The upcoming Transportation Map Series comprehensive plan amendments are anticipated in early 2021. Modifications include a proposed Thoroughfare Future Needs List of four roads currently on the Thoroughfare Roadway Map proposed for removal. Future Needs List roads are those projected to not be built within the next 20 years, allowing the county to focus on current and near-future thoroughfare roadway needs. For more information, contact Jon Cheney at (386) 736-5968, ext. 12709.

**Water Resources and Utilities:** Utilities staff is currently coordinating design and permitting of a potable water main to connect the distribution system in Halifax Plantation with the City of Ormond Beach's water system. The planned 1.2-mile water main will provide a backup water supply source in the event of an emergency. For more information, contact Mike Ulrich at (386) 943-7027, ext. 12724.