COMMUNITY SERVICES

Library Services: The division’s annual “Volusia Reads Together!” community reading program is in full swing. This year’s featured book is “Project Hail Mary” by Andy Weir. The Little Theatre of New Smyrna Beach and Port Orange Regional Library hosted successful performances of an original play, “Moonsuit,” written and directed by library employee Karen Poulsen. This play was inspired by the events of the dedicated seamstresses and engineers who designed the spacesuits for the first walk on the moon. More than five hundred people attended the play performances. Through Saturday, April 1, there are more opportunities to attend book discussions and programs. The program finale, “Space Day,” will occur from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at the Port Orange Regional Library, with activities and programs for the whole family. A featured presentation will take place at 1 p.m. by Daniel Florez. He is a test director for NASA’s Exploration Ground Systems Program at Kennedy Space Center. He will give a presentation about our journey back to the moon, the first step toward being able to travel to Mars. He will share information about the Artemis Program and how NASA plans to return astronauts to the moon before the end of this decade. For more information, contact Lucinda Colee at lcolee@volusia.org.

Resource Stewardship: UF/IFAS Extension hosted veterans from the local VA Healthcare System’s Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center for a visit to the DeLand Farmer’s Market and a tour of the Volusia County Agricultural Center demonstration gardens. This event was the first in a series of recreational therapy activities the UF/IFAS team is partnering with the VA to deliver. Upcoming classes offered by UF/IFAS include healthy eating on a budget, growing vegetables in small spaces, improving financial management and home maintenance. For more information, contact Bradley Burbaugh at bburbaugh@volusia.org.

COUNTY MANAGER’S OFFICE

Community Information: Staff is preparing for the groundbreaking ceremony of the Raptor exhibit at 1 p.m. at the Marine Science Center. Staff is also assisting multiple departments in coordinating two easement open houses for residents to learn about county assistance to conduct work on their property. The first meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 20, at the Daytona Beach Shores Community Center, with the next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 27, at the Brannon Center. For more information, contact Kevin Captain at kcaptain@volusia.org.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency Management: The division continues to support the affected areas through the Disaster Recovery Center and provide resources to those areas of need for Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) hosted Corrections Leadership training and Community Organizations Active in Disaster March 14 and 16. The EOC hosted the Medical Directors QA and ESF-8 Community Partners meetings March 15. The division continues to support beach recovery efforts in collaboration with other divisions. For more information, contact James Judge at jjudge@volusia.org.
**Emergency Medical Administration:** The medical director conducted a Quality Assurance meeting for EMS field personnel March 15. A municipal transport meeting was held on March 13 at the request of our partnering agencies to discuss the frequency of out-of-district responses. This week, there was a meeting with county staff to review revisions to the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ordinance. For more information, contact Mark Wolcott at mwolcott@volusia.org.

**Emergency Medical Services:** On March 15, EMS staff attended the quarterly ESF-8 Community Partner’s meeting at the Emergency Operations Center. This week Emergency Medical Services staff prepared for the migration of Station 82 to Station 46. On March 18, EMS staff hosted a meet and greet with the Young Marines organization. Staff gave an overview of EMS and an inside look at the ambulance. For more information, contact Mark Wolcott at mwolcott@volusia.org.

**Fire Rescue:** The division will send two personnel to the “First Responders and Their Mental Health” roundtable discussion through CIGNA. This event will be held March 30 in Orlando. Over the next three weeks, VCFR will be conducting its annual Physical Abilities Test. This annual event ensures our firefighters can perform their duties while promoting a healthy lifestyle. VCFR supported the Florida Fire Service and many other agencies in combating the wildfire at the Deep Creek Preserve. For more information, contact Chief Joe King at jwking@volusia.org.

**OCEAN CENTER**

**Events:** From March 18 to 22, the Ocean Center will host the 2023 College Basketball Invitational (CBI), an NCAA postseason men's basketball tournament. The CBI will have a 16-team bracket with a single-elimination format. Tickets for the 2023 College Basketball Invitational go on sale at http://bit.ly/40hEucv. Tickets may also be purchased at the box office on game days. A schedule of the tournament is below:

- Saturday, March 18 - 11 a.m. (4 games)
- Sunday, March 19 - 11 a.m. (4 games)
- Monday, March 20 - Noon (4 games)
- Tuesday, March 21 - 7 p.m. (2 games)
- Wednesday, March 22 - Championship -- 5 p.m. (1 game)

On Thursday, March 22, the move-in for the Florida Federation of Colorguard Circuit (FFCC) Championships will begin. The event runs from March 23 to 26. Tickets are available online at https://ffcc.org/. The FFCC offers a competitive outlet during winter for color guard, indoor marching percussion and concert percussion teams and winds. Staff expects over 4,000 attendees, generating approximately 1,000 hotel room nights.

For more information, contact Tim Riddle at triddle@volusia.org.
PUBLIC PROTECTION

**Beach Safety:** The seasonal lifeguard recruit class began on March 13. Beach Safety personnel attended dive training March 17. For more information, contact Andy Ethridge at aethridge@volusia.org.

PUBLIC WORKS

**Coastal:** Coastal tradesworkers and maintenance staff repaired the pedestrian beach access at Watts Drive in New Smyrna Beach and the pedestrian beach access/off-beach parking at Phyllis Avenue in Daytona Beach Shores. Staff also coordinated with contractors to repair the vehicular access ramps at El Portal Street in Daytona Beach and Emilia Avenue in Daytona Beach Shores. All of which are now open to the public. Additionally, coastal staff met with contractors to coordinate temporary repairs of the vehicular access ramps at Zelda Road and Hartford Avenue in Daytona Beach; these will be scheduled for completion in the upcoming weeks. A total of 68 Coastal accesses remain closed. For more information, contact Jessica Fentress at jfentress@volusia.org.

**Mosquito Control:** The division received delivery of new sentinel chickens from the local farmer who raises them. The division utilizes sentinel chickens to conduct surveillance of mosquito-transmitted viruses and plan treatment operations throughout the County of Volusia. Chickens do not become sick from these viruses, and the chickens cannot spread viruses to other mosquitoes. Every spring, the flocks are retired and replaced with young chickens. All our retired sentinel chickens have been adopted to new homes. More information on the sentinel chicken program may be found at https://bit.ly/3FYUzMW. For more information, contact Marcus McDonough at mmcdonough@volusia.org.

**Road & Bridge:** Survey data collection efforts are underway to support the design and permitting of the Buckingham Drive exfiltration system project. The ARPA-funded project is located in Ormond Beach and is identified as a stormwater best management practice to reduce nutrients to the Halifax River. For more information, contact Lori Koontz at lkoontz@volusia.org.

**Solid Waste:** The Tomoka Farms Road Landfill held limited operational hours March 12, processing over 55 tons of garbage in support of Bike Week events. For more information, contact Regina Montgomery at rmontgomery@volusia.org.

**Traffic Engineering:** The division’s studies staff is completing reviews for left turn signal phases at South Williamson Boulevard at Thames Road/Midway Avenue in Daytona Beach and Howland Boulevard at Rhode Island Road/Forest Edge Drive in Deltona. For more information, contact Jay Williams at jwilliams@volusia.org.

**Water Resources and Utilities:** During January and February, a total of 1,172 water and sewer locates were performed by field operations technicians. Compared with the same months in 2022, where there were 890. The 31.6 percent increase in utility locate activity denotes the significant rise in fiber optic installation throughout the county’s southwest and northeast service areas. For more information, contact Mike Ulrich at mulrich@volusia.org.