



*2026*

*State  
of the  
County*

**Driving the Future. Honoring Tradition.**

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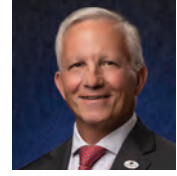
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**Jeff Brower**  
County Chair



**Matt Reinhart**  
Vice Chair,  
District 2 Representative



**Jake Johansson**  
At-Large Representative

# 2026 Volusia County Council



**Don Dempsey**  
District 1 Representative



**Danny Robins**  
District 3 Representative



**Troy Kent**  
District 4 Representative



**David Santiago**  
District 5 Representative

# A Letter From the County Chair

The State of the County is an opportunity to reflect on where Volusia County is headed and how we are preparing for the future. As Volusia County Council Chair, I'm proud to share that 2025 was a year of steady, purposeful progress, guided by responsible leadership, thoughtful planning, and a strong commitment to the people we serve.



This year's theme of "Driving the Future and Honoring Tradition" captures the balance that defines our work as a Council. While Volusia County continues to grow and evolve, our responsibility to protect the community, steward public resources wisely, and plan responsibly for the long term remains clear. These principles shape every decision we make.

Building on the lessons learned from recent storms, the County Council continued advancing Transform386, our long-term recovery and resilience initiative, and prioritized flood mitigation in 2025. Since the program's inception, we have approved more than 30 flood-mitigation and infrastructure projects representing over \$200 million in investment across the county. These projects, supported by federal disaster recovery funding and local partner matches, are being implemented in close coordination with our municipal partners, with several moving from planning to construction.

In addition, the Council has approved nearly 30 stormwater studies to better understand how water moves through our basins and identify future, data-driven infrastructure projects. Together, these efforts reflect a coordinated, countywide approach that delivers immediate improvements, strengthens long-term protection for neighborhoods, critical infrastructure, and the residents who rely on them. Protecting water quality also remained a key priority. Healthy waterways, aquifers, and drainage systems are essential to our environment, our economy, and our quality of life. Throughout the year, the Council supported initiatives that safeguard natural systems and promote responsible water management, ensuring these vital resources are protected for future generations.

Strong financial stewardship underpins all this work. In 2025, the County Council worked closely with the County Manager and financial staff to reduce several millage rates, hold others steady, and improve efficiencies, all while managing rising costs and external mandates. These careful, deliberate decisions reflect a long-standing commitment to fiscal discipline and transparency. This approach allows us to meet today's needs while preparing responsibly for the future and respecting our taxpayers.

As we look ahead, the County Council is closely monitoring state discussions on property tax reform. We are actively evaluating potential outcomes, assessing impacts, and preparing for a range of scenarios. Regardless of how those discussions unfold, our focus remains clear: defining our core responsibilities, prioritizing essential services, and support the quality of life our community deserves through thoughtful planning and transparency.

The County Council remains committed to building on the progress made in 2025 and guiding Volusia County toward a future that is strong, resilient, and well-prepared. It is this commitment that continues to drive our work—honoring the traditions that define our community while responsibly planning for generations to come.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Brower





# 2026 Volusia County Council Goals

## **Goal:** Efficient Regulatory Framework

Streamlining processes and minimizing hurdles to provide resources for residence and businesses to navigate regulatory processes.

## **Goal:** Efficient and Effective Government Operations

Implement and explore technologies and processes that increase efficiency, transparency, and other key performance indicators within government operations.

## **Goal:** Advanced Resiliency Practices

Assuming a facilitative regional role and leading governmental agencies to address stormwater management and flood mitigation.





### **Goal: Enhanced Fiscal Stewardship**

Ensuring the county's long-term financial health through public-private partnerships, proactive maintenance of public infrastructure, and transparent, forward-looking budget practices that maximize state and federal funding.

### **Goal: Expanded Recreation and Sports Tourism**

Preserving the county's environmental lands, beaches, and historical assets while expanding trail networks, water access, and recreational amenities to drive economic impact and enhance the quality of life for all residents.

### **Goal: Solution-Oriented Culture**

Improving the customer service experience by building a nimble, adaptive government, investing in professional development, and utilizing outreach platforms to ensure, transparent communication between the county and its residence.

### **Goal: Economic Prosperity**

Expanding economic development efforts and airport growth to foster employment opportunities, a strong economy, and an equitable future for Volusia County residence and businesses.



# A Letter From the County Manager



I have the privilege of sharing how our community is moving forward each year, and it's my honor to report that 2025 was a time of meaningful progress for Volusia County. Despite challenges, we continued to strengthen the core services our residents depend on, kept tax rates low, and invested in the long-term success and safety of our community. I'm proud of what we achieved together and I'm encouraged by where we we're heading.

One of my highest priorities as County Manager is protecting taxpayer dollars, and this past year was a strong example of fiscally responsible government in action. We reduced five county millage rates and kept the others flat, even as we absorbed rising costs from state-mandated programs. We also implemented smart efficiencies and modernized services, producing real savings that allowed us to invest in roads, public safety, and infrastructure without placing an additional burden on residents.

We also continued tackling the issues that remain top of mind for so many families. While Hurricanes Ian, Nicole, and Milton may be behind us, the recovery continues. In 2025, we accelerated stormwater upgrades, launched new drainage projects and studies, and continued major investments through Transform386. Equally important, we strengthened collaboration with our city governments to coordinate mitigation planning, align infrastructure priorities, and advance projects that benefit entire watersheds, not just individual neighborhoods. These efforts are reshaping how we build, plan, and protect our communities for decades to come.

Public safety also remained a cornerstone of our work. We opened a new animal shelter and our Fire Rescue crews, EMS professionals, and Beach Safety team responded with outstanding professionalism every day. Whether protecting our coastline, responding to medical emergencies, or performing lifesaving rescues, these teams continue to set a high standard for service and readiness. Meanwhile, our economy gained new momentum.

At Daytona Beach International Airport, new JetBlue service to New York City and Boston connected Volusia County directly with two of the nation's largest business and travel hubs and Breeze Airlines expanded service to Akron, Raleigh, Hartford, and Providence, expanding opportunities for residents and attracting more visitors to our community. At the same time, French plane manufacturer AURA AERO selected Volusia County for its U.S. headquarters, alongside continued investment from the Boeing Engineering Center, reinforcing our growing aviation and aerospace economy and expanding opportunity for local workers.

We also brought nationally known entertainment to the Ocean Center and launched the Volusia Business Innovation Hub to support startups and growing companies. These initiatives don't just strengthen our economy, they enhance quality of life for residents and help keep Volusia competitive in a fast-growing state. Finally, we continued strengthening customer service and modernizing the way residents interact with county government. More digital services, better permitting assistance, and easier access to information may seem like small changes, but together they make government more accessible, more efficient, and more helpful.

As we look ahead, our focus remains the same: making decisions that protect taxpayers, strengthen our communities, and create opportunities for families, businesses, and future generations. I am grateful for the continued support of the County Council and the engagement of our residents, partners, and local governments. Together, we will keep building a stronger, safer, and more vibrant Volusia County.

Sincerely,  
George Recktenwald

# A Letter From the County Attorney



The role of a county attorney is to offer sound legal advice and options to the Council and staff. Policy decisions are made by the Council which are implemented by staff. The County is subject to many state and federal laws. Part of our role is to explain those laws. This past year brought new legal challenges at the state level, particularly with SB 180 and its impacts on the land use authority of cities and counties. The Council requested changes to SB 180, and I am proud of the assistance we provided Council during that process.

Much of our work, however, takes place behind the scenes. Our goal is to anticipate legal needs and help move projects forward. As we look ahead, our office remains focused on providing timely and helpful legal counsel that supports the County Council's priorities. I am grateful for the hardworking

Sincerely,  
**Michael Dyer**



## Championing Responsible Government Through Law

Volusia County's Legal Services Department continued protecting taxpayers and strengthening county policies while supporting daily operations across county government. Led by County Attorney Michael Dyer, the department combined strong litigation results with proactive legal guidance to keep public services running effectively and responsibly.

Throughout the year, county attorneys successfully defended the County in complex legal matters involving civil rights, personal injury, and property taxation. The County prevailed in a multi-year Medicaid contribution dispute and litigation involving tax assessments on leased municipal property, preserving revenue for essential services. Legal Services further supported public safety through representation in risk protection order hearings and continued reducing long-term workers' compensation liabilities.

Behind the scenes, Legal Services reviewed contracts, supported major county programs, and advised boards and departments—strengthening accountability, transparency, and preparedness across county operations.



# Volusia County Constitutional Officers

## *Volusia County Sheriff*

**Mike Chitwood**



A combination of innovative technology and hard work led the Volusia Sheriff's Office to once again eclipse the national average in solving cases in 2025. An overall case clearance rate of 80%, including a 93% rate for persons crimes, put VSO among the best in the nation. Deputies and detectives made 10,717 arrests in 2025, including almost 1,300 related to narcotics.

The VSO Overdose Task Force charged 6 drug dealers with manslaughter in 2025, and 5 more were convicted in court. The Financial Crimes Unit recovered hundreds of thousands of dollars for scam victims and tracked down scammers across the country. At VSO's countywide Communications Center, 911 dispatchers handled about 325,000 calls and texts to 911, averaging close to 900 per day. To help free up more personnel to answer those 911 calls, the agency deployed AI technology to assess and route non-emergency calls. The result: Almost 122,000 calls processed, more personnel available for 911 calls, and even faster answer times on 911. Advanced tech continued making an impact across the agency, from an internal ballistics lab matching shell casings to guns in a matter of hours, to Live911 feeds in every deputy's patrol vehicle, to a brand-new computer-aided dispatch system serving the entire county.

The pattern of embracing new tech continued when Volusia County was selected as one of only 3 test sites in Florida for Campus Guardian Angel, a pilot program placing remotely operated drones on a school campus to respond, distract and impede an active shooter in the crucial seconds before law enforcement arrives.

## *Clerk of the Circuit Court*

**Laura E. Roth**



The Clerk of the Circuit Court maintains important court-related and official real property records and provides other services including: issuing marriage licenses and performing affordable wedding ceremonies, recording official land records, assisting victims of stalking or violence seeking injunctions, providing child support services, administering foreclosure and tax-deed land sales, collecting, processing, and distributing all traffic citation and criminal fines, attending court proceedings and maintaining the official court record, and numerous other services. The office provides extensive free court and land-related public records access on its official website, [clerk.org](http://clerk.org).

New this year is an online injunction assistance program, that allows residents to file for injunctions from any computer 24/7. The Clerk also offers Property Fraud Alert, a no-cost, easy-to-use service to protect residents from land records fraud. Sign up for this free service today at [clerk.org](http://clerk.org). Every year, the Clerk's office holds a special Operation Green Light event that reduces traffic citation fees, as well as other informative events. Visit [clerk.org](http://clerk.org) and follow the Clerk's Office's official Facebook page for more information about future Operation Green Light events, records research workshops, specialty weddings, and other free programs and information.





## *Tax Collector*

### **Will Roberts**



Under the leadership of Tax Collector Will Roberts, the Office of the Volusia County Tax Collector continues to modernize operations and improve the customer experience. Since he took office in 2021, the office has nearly doubled its DMV-related services, while significantly reducing wait times and improving service quality. Strategic investments in technology and customer education have helped to shift demand online, easing in-office traffic and improving convenience. Today, approximately 40% of vehicle and vessel registrations are renewed online, allowing customers to complete routine transactions on their own schedule. These efficiencies have translated into meaningful results for customers. Average wait times across all branches are at least 50% lower than they were prior to the mandatory transition of driver license services from the State of Florida. Customer satisfaction continues to rise, with nearly 90% of surveyed customers rating their experience five stars – an increase of more than 20 points since 2021.

Internally, the office has also strengthened workforce stability. Employee turnover, historically a challenge in certain positions, has decreased and stabilized to below the national average. Looking ahead to 2026, the office will begin renovations to the DeLand branch to improve operational efficiency and customer convenience, ensuring services continue to meet current and future demand.

## *Property Appraiser*

### **Larry Bartlett**



In 2025, the Volusia County Property Appraiser's Office continued its commitment to fair, accurate, and transparent property valuations while adapting to a changing real estate market and the evolving needs of our community. The office remained focused on customer service, expanding outreach efforts to educate property owners about exemptions, assessment processes, and available resources. Through community events, digital communications, and one on-one assistance, residents were helped to better understand how property values are determined and how to navigate the exemption process. In 2025, continued investments in technology and process improvements enhanced efficiency and accuracy, allowing staff to better serve the public while managing increased workloads. As Volusia County continues to grow, the Property Appraiser's Office remains dedicated to upholding fairness, transparency, and professionalism—providing residents, businesses, and local governments with reliable property data that supports informed decision-making and a strong community.

## *Supervisor of Elections*

### **Lisa Lewis**



Over the past year, our office moved into a new facility designed to better support the scope and complexity of modern election administration. This transition has allowed us to improve security, expand capacity, and create a more efficient workspace for the dedicated professionals who serve voters across our county. While change always brings challenges, the move has strengthened our ability to carry out elections with accuracy, transparency, and care. 2026 will include two statewide elections, plus many local elections: making preparation, coordination, and public trust more important than ever. Our team is already working diligently to ensure every aspect of these elections is conducted fairly, securely, and in accordance with the law. That work includes equipment testing, staff training, and clear communication with voters. We remain committed to providing accurate information, accessible services, and a process that all voters can trust. Thank you for your continued confidence in our office. We are honored to serve.



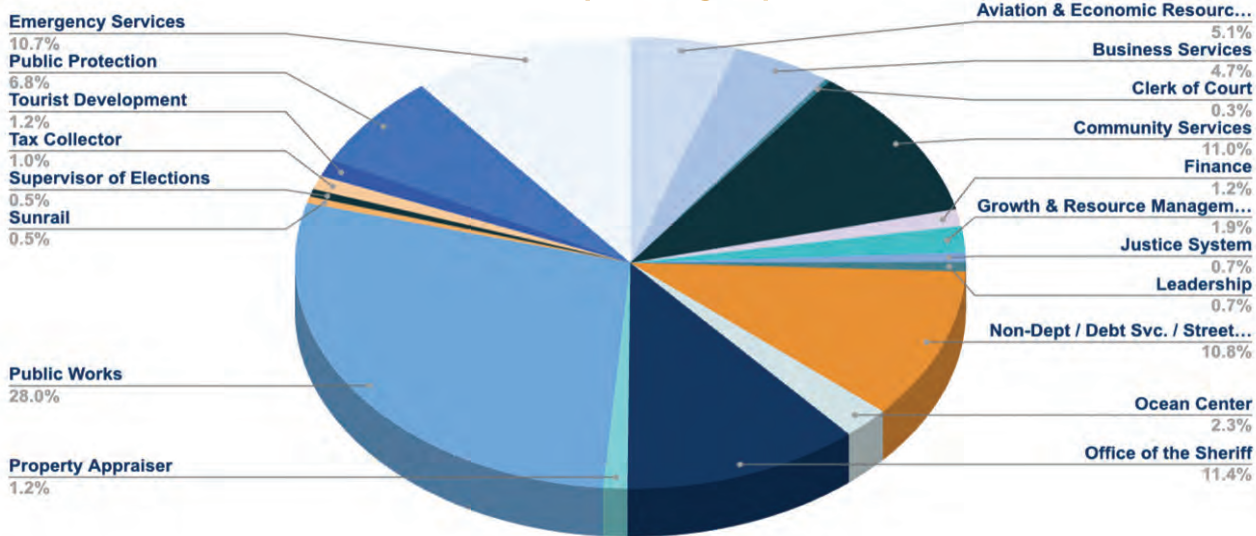
# Financial Management & Accountability

*Chief Financial Officer*

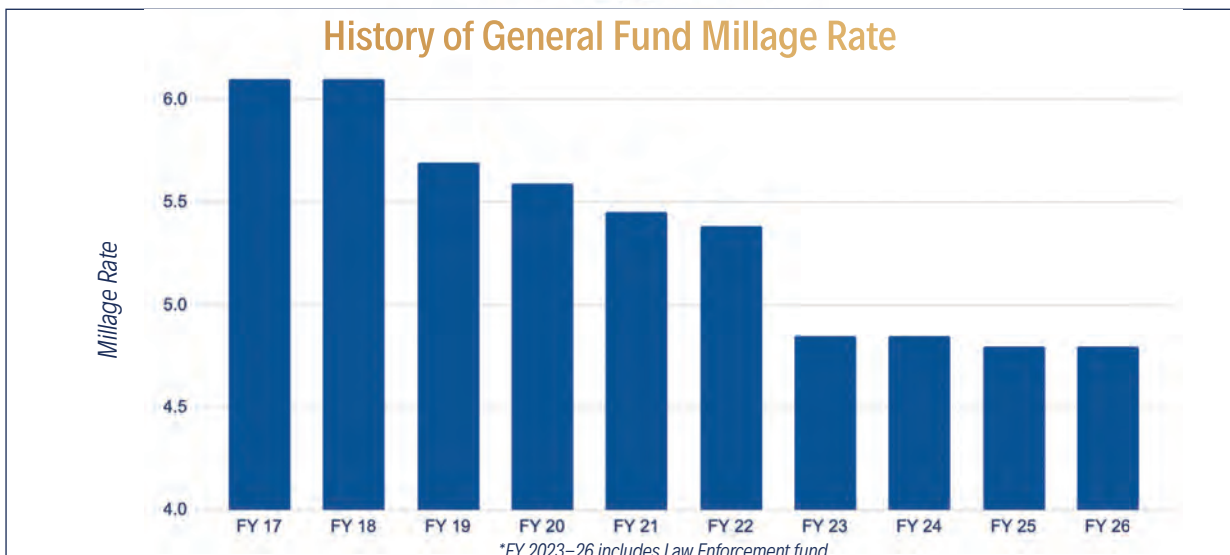
## Funding Community Priorities Without Increasing Tax Rates

In September 2025, the Volusia County Council adopted a fiscally conservative, transparent, and responsive budget that protected taxpayers, preserved essential services, and continued investing in long-term priorities, all without increasing county property tax rates. The approved budget advances critical needs such as roads, public safety, and long-term infrastructure, while reducing five millage rates and keeping the remaining five at prior-year levels. The County faced rising costs outside its control, including heightened demand for law enforcement services and state-mandated contributions to programs such as Medicaid and SunRail. To manage these pressures responsibly, Volusia County Administration implemented efficiency measures that produced significant savings and cost reductions, while streamlining operations and utilizing technology. These efforts help direct resources where residents need them most while protecting reserves and avoiding unnecessary tax increases. The FY2026 budget maintains a strong financial footing today while supporting the services, infrastructure, and public safety efforts that will benefit residents for years to come. The budget also maintains healthy reserves that safeguard Volusia County's credit rating, strengthen financial stability, and ensure it remains prepared for emergencies or changing economic conditions.

### FY25-26 Total Operating Expenditures



### History of General Fund Millage Rate





**\$3.9M**

In investment earnings  
above benchmarks

**\$107M+**

American Rescue Plan Act  
funds administered

## Certificate Of Achievement For Excellence In Financial Reporting & Distinguished Budget

GFOA Recognition

**\$3M**

Federal Revenue secured for  
emergency medical services

**75%**

Increase in efficiencies  
and reduced processing  
requirements

**80K+**

New followers on  
social media

**20M+**

Website visitors

**440+**

News releases distributed

### *Community Information*

#### Communication That Meets Residents Where They Are

Last year, Volusia County expanded its efforts to make local government more accessible, transparent, and engaging by modernizing how it shares information. From new digital platforms to focused newsletters, the County continued opening the doors of government and improving how residents connect with services, programs, and County initiatives.

The Community Information Division launched several new communication tools designed to bring residents behind the scenes. The “It’s Giving Government” podcast and “Day in the Life” video series offered residents a closer look at the people, programs, and services that shape our everyday life, while the new Volusia Weekly social update makes it easier for residents to follow important news in one concise format. New monthly newsletters focusing on flooding, stormwater, and coastal projects provided residents with direct updates about infrastructure, planning, and community resources. These efforts help ensure residents receive timely, clear information on issues that directly impact neighborhoods, homeownership, and quality of life.

Digital engagement also continues to grow as the County consolidated its social media presence, strengthened its content strategy, and expanded outreach across platforms. Combined, the County’s social accounts reached more than 500,000 followers, generated millions of video views, and drove more than 20 million visits to the County’s website, a reflection of how residents increasingly rely on digital platforms to stay informed.



# Recovery & Resilience

## A United Strategy For Flood Mitigation and Stormwater Management

Addressing flooding in Volusia County is a shared responsibility that relies on coordination across jurisdictions and levels of government. In 2025, the County continued strengthening its collaborative approach with municipalities, aligning planning, infrastructure investments, and maintenance efforts to reduce flood risk across entire watersheds rather than isolated locations.

Through the Volusia County Elected Officials Roundtable Stormwater Mitigation and Flooding Subcommittee, the County worked closely with city partners to share data, prioritize projects, and advance solutions that cross jurisdictional boundaries. This regional focus helps ensure stormwater improvements are complementary, resources are used efficiently, and projects deliver the greatest benefit countywide.

While major construction projects and studies move forward, effective flood mitigation also depends on consistent maintenance and preparation. County and municipal crews clean ditches, flush culverts, maintain swales and canals, and clear debris from inlets, outfalls, and retention areas to preserve system capacity and reduce localized flooding. When significant weather is forecast, teams shift into response mode by inspecting drainage points, positioning equipment, and preparing infrastructure to keep water moving safely.

To keep residents informed, the County expanded flood-related communications by launching a flooding microsite, a monthly newsletter, and increased social media and website updates. Building on that foundation, staff are developing a public-facing stormwater dashboard expected to launch in 2026, allowing residents to track studies, construction projects, and maintenance efforts across both County and municipal systems.

Together, these coordinated efforts reflect a more transparent, data-informed, and regionally aligned approach to flood management, helping protect neighborhoods, roads, and critical infrastructure across Volusia County.

**\$133M+**

Secured in new federal  
CDBG-DR funding

**\$50M+**

Allocated to 14 flood-mitigation  
projects across the county

**25**

Flood mitigation  
basin studies





# TRANSFORM386

STRENGTHENING VOLUSIA'S FUTURE

## Utilizing Federal Funding To Reduce Local Flooding

Three years after Hurricane Ian, reducing flooding remains one of Volusia County's highest priorities. In response, the County launched Transform386—a comprehensive, federally funded initiative that is strengthening neighborhoods, modernizing critical infrastructure, and investing in long-term protections that make Volusia County more resilient for the future. From inland communities to coastal areas, the program focuses on reducing vulnerabilities and improving the systems that residents depend on during storms.

Since its launch, Transform386 has secured more than \$460 million, with nearly \$120 million already directed toward stormwater and flooding infrastructure. These investments include stormwater retention ponds, drainage improvements, lift station upgrades, and wastewater treatment enhancements—each designed to reduce localized flooding, protect waterways, and maintain essential services during extreme weather.

Transform386 is also laying the groundwork for future improvements. Thirty stormwater studies have been funded, with 12 already underway. These studies will identify priority areas, guide future construction, and ensure the County continues building effective, targeted solutions that reflect the unique challenges within each community.

Together, these investments and outreach efforts reflect Volusia County's commitment to tackling flooding head on. By strengthening infrastructure, planning for future conditions, and keeping residents informed every step of the way, the County is building stronger, safer communities and helping residents feel more confident as the region prepares for future storms.

## Transitioning From Recovery To Resilience

The Transform386 initiative continued to deliver results, converting disaster recovery investments into long-term resilience. Through federal Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG–DR) funding, the County secured an additional \$133.5 million to assist residents, repair critical infrastructure, and mitigate future flooding. Nearly \$50 million was allocated this year to 14 flood-mitigation projects, while housing programs completed or initiated work on more than 300 homes. By aligning funding, staffing, and project delivery, Transform386 has evolved into a countywide platform for sustainable recovery infrastructure improvement.

**\$460M+**

Total federal dollars secured for recovery and resilience efforts

**181+**

Transform386 projects under construction

**300+**

Homes already completed or initiated vital resilience work

**1500+**

Total Transform386 applications received and processed



# Economic & Destination Development

## *Daytona Beach International Airport*

### Expanded Air Service Strengthens Local Economy and Tourism

In 2025, Daytona Beach International Airport (DAB) continued strengthening its role as a gateway to Central Florida by expanding air service and increasing destination options for residents, visitors, and businesses. The airport welcomed new flights from multiple carriers, opening the door to more affordable travel and boosting the region's tourism economy.

In December, JetBlue initiated daily service to New York and Boston, offering convenient nonstop access to two of the nation's most traveled business and leisure markets. Breeze Airways also added new routes to Providence, Hartford, Raleigh, and Akron/Canton, making travel easier for local residents while expanding visitor access to Volusia County's beaches, attractions, and special events.

In addition, Avelo Airlines offered service to Wilmington and New Haven, while American Airlines operated seasonal Saturday service to Washington, D.C., giving travelers greater convenience during peak periods. At the same time, Delta and American introduced Daytona 500 event flights from major hubs to accommodate increased travel demand during one of the country's most recognized sporting events, while maintaining multiple daily flights to their hubs in Atlanta and Charlotte year round.

These new connections position Volusia County within easy reach of major East Coast economic centers, making it easier for both vacationers and business travelers to choose Volusia County as their Florida destination. The added service also supports increased tourism spending, stronger business travel, and more opportunities for visitors and locals who may not have previously considered DAB as a convenient gateway into Central Florida.



**4 New**  
Breeze Airways destinations

**2 New**  
JetBlue nonstop routes

**\$15M**  
Critical security and  
infrastructure improvements

**11**  
Total non-stop destinations  
available from DAB



## Ocean Center

### Volusia County Prepares for Big Entertainment

The Ocean Center celebrated its 40th anniversary and strengthened its role as a premier destination by attracting major events, expanding its lineup of big-name entertainment, and implementing key facility upgrades in 2025.

A new production agreement with Danny Wimmer Presents—the nationally recognized promoter behind Rockville—positions the Ocean Center to bring even more performers to Volusia County in the years ahead, increasing visibility and excitement surrounding the venue. The year also brought impressive economic gains. The Ocean Center hosted over 100 events that drew more than 470,000 attendees and generated over 76,000 room nights, significantly boosting visitor spending at local hotels, restaurants, and attractions and supporting businesses across the region.

Along with strong conference and sporting activity, the Ocean Center added nationally recognized entertainment, including Jeff Dunham, the Harlem Globetrotters, Bert Kreischer, the College Basketball Invitational, AMA Arenacross, and regional festivals. At the same time, the County completed major improvements, including LED lighting, a new arena floor, upgraded power systems, parking garage rehabilitation, and expanded ADA accessibility—investments that enhance the guest experience, safety, and operational efficiency.

## Economic Development

### New Innovation Hub Helps Businesses Start, Grow, and Scale

Volusia County advanced economic growth in 2025 with the launch of the re-branded Volusia Innovation Hub, a County-led initiative supporting small and medium sized businesses from startup to global expansion. Transitioning management to the County's Economic Development Division expanded the Hub into a comprehensive ecosystem for entrepreneurs, growth-stage companies, and international firms, reinforcing Volusia County's reputation as a business-friendly community focused on innovation, jobs, and investment. Combined with streamlined permitting, access to capital, and digital business tools, these efforts position Volusia County as a competitive destination for long-term economic growth.



- Volusia Innovation Hub launch attended by 200+ community members
- First launchpad cohort created a pipeline of innovation and job growth for 25 entrepreneurs
- 271 Businesses and residents assisted through ombudsman concierge permitting support
- Acuity business pass earned statewide Florida Library Association Means Business and NEFLIN Innovation Awards
- Q Breakfast and Funding Readiness Live events connected 650+ business leaders, lenders, and investors
- 7,200+ users served through volusiabusinessresources.com AI support
- Four major projects supported, including Germfree, Incertec, By Light, and Deering Park investments

# 470K

Event attendees in 2025

# \$126M

In economic impact for Volusia County

# 104

Total events hosted

# 76K

Room nights generated

# \$160M

Statewide economic impact

# \$40M

In upgrades to the Ocean Center





# Exploring Volusia

## *DeBary Hall, Lyonia Environmental Center, and Marine Science Center* Learning Through History, Nature, and Science

In 2025, Volusia County continued investing in its most unique cultural and environmental destinations, including the DeBary Hall Historic Site, Lyonia Environmental Center, and Marine Science Center.

At DeBary Hall, the County preserved the landmark estate’s character while modernizing the visitor experience. Restoration of the historic Tenant House interior and upgrades to the visitor center theater improved interpretive storytelling and expanded space for community events, school programs, and heritage tourism. These improvements ensure the site remains historically authentic and visitor-friendly, strengthening its role in cultural preservation.

On the conservation side, Lyonia Environmental Center expanded its reach as a hub for environmental education and outdoor exploration. In 2025, the center delivered hundreds of public and school programs, welcomed thousands of visitors, and hosted field trips, youth camps, homeschooling sessions, and community outreach events. More than 15,500 people visited the gallery, where ECHO and ARPA renovations, landscape improvements, and rotating exhibits offered fresh experiences.

In June, Volusia County reopened the Marine Science Center following a \$4.2 million renovation that expanded educational spaces, enhanced exhibits, and improved visitor amenities. The updated center features new exhibits designed to deepen understanding of coastal ecosystems, including the John Crisp Artificial Reef Exhibit, a living reef exhibit, and a living shoreline exhibit. A new working coral lab will support research opportunities for high school and college students, offering hands-on experience in coral propagation and restoration. Improvements also include a 1,500-square-foot multipurpose education building and upgrades to traffic flow, parking, and aquarium intake areas to support future growth.

**12K+**  
DeBary Hall  
annual visitors

**15K+**  
Lyonia Environmental  
Center annual visitors

**1.5K+**  
Sea turtles, birds, and  
reptiles treated





## *Library Services* Literacy that Inspires Education and Connection

Volusia County’s library system continued redefining the modern library in 2025 by expanding access, supporting digital learning, and creating welcoming spaces for all ages. The system earned statewide recognition for innovative programming and its growing role as a trusted resource in the community.

The opening of the new Pierson Public Library marked a major milestone, transforming a former school media center into a 4,200–square–foot branch with more books, computers, study areas, and gathering space for families, students, and seniors. Across the system, libraries introduced Discovery Learning Hubs with robotics, STEM activities, and interactive tools, benefiting nearly 1,200 young readers, while teens and adults explored 3D printing, VR, and creative workshops at Launchpad Makerspace.

Libraries also enhanced digital access with a redesigned, mobile–friendly website, on–demand chat, online services, and simplified navigation. Classes, workshops, story times, and cultural programs strengthened community connections and fostered a sense of belonging, ensuring Volusia County libraries remain welcoming, innovative, and essential centers for learning and engagement.

**278K+**  
Summer learning  
program visitors

**9.3K+**  
Summer youth program  
meals served

**2.3K+**  
Children engaged in K–5  
Literacy programs

## *Parks, Recreation, & Culture* Safe, Accessible, and Engaging Spaces for All

In 2025, Volusia County invested in parks, trails, and cultural spaces to enhance safety, accessibility, and everyday recreation for all. Upgrades focused on high–use facilities, ADA improvements, major sports partnerships, and preservation of historic and waterfront amenities for residents year–round.

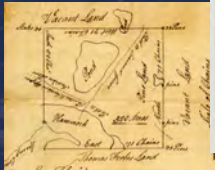
- New playground at Lake Monroe Park; court and safety upgrades at Chuck Lennon and Robert Strickland parks serving hundreds daily
- ADA improvements at Michael Crotty Bicentennial Park; Lake Beresford Pathway enhancements for 1,000+ weekly users
- Motocross and sports complex in exploratory phase; Highbridge Park parking improved and expanded by 40%
- Restored DeBary Hall’s Tenant House; upgraded Visitors Center theater; renovated fishing dock and Sugar Mill Gardens facilities
- Installed multiple “all access” playgrounds for inclusive play

**500+**  
Little leaguers protected  
annually with replaced  
dugout fencing



# The Volusia Journey

Driving The Future. Honoring Tradition.



**1566**  
Volusia Landing

Spanish explorer Pedro Menéndez de Avilés sails the St. Johns River, encountering a Mayaca village in what is now Volusia County.

**1768**  
The Turnbull Colony

Dr. Andrew Turnbull established a massive indigo plantation in New Smyrna, bringing 1,400 settlers and creating one of the largest colonial ventures in Florida.

**1830**  
The Sugar Boom

Industrial roots rose from native coquina stone and steam, fueling massive plantations like Dunlawton and Cruger-dePeyster.

**1854**  
Volusia County is Born

On December 29, the county was officially established, carved from Orange County and named after the Volusia settlement on the St. Johns River.

**1887**  
The Great Seat Migration

The County Seat moved from Enterprise to DeLand. That same year, the 175-foot Ponce Inlet Lighthouse was first lit.

*The Mystery:* To this day, the name's origin is debated. Is it from the Belgian settler Veluche, the "Land of the Euchee" Indians, or the Roman jurist Volusius?



**1959**  
The World Center of Racing

The inaugural Daytona 500 was held at the new super speedway, cementing the county's status as the global capital of motorsports.

**1970**  
The People's Charter

Volusia became a Home Rule Charter county, establishing the professional Council-Manager government used today.

**1975**  
Protecting the Wild

Congress established the Canaveral National Seashore, permanently protecting 24 miles of pristine dunes and ancient shell mounds.

**1985**  
The Ocean Center

The premier beachside convention center opened, creating a massive economic engine for tourism and events.

*Something To Note:* The Dunlawton ruins were re-imagined as a whimsical theme park in 1947, featuring life-sized concrete dinosaurs. Originally built to "educate" visitors, these quirky relics still stand today as iconic landmarks within the historic Sugar Mill Gardens.

*1976 Bicentennial:* Volusia celebrated the U.S. Bicentennial by burying community time capsules filled with local artifacts. These hidden "history chests" remain scattered across the county, waiting to show future generations the mid-century soul of the Florida coast.



### 1903 The Birthplace of Speed

Organized automobile racing began on the hard-packed sands of Ormond Beach, attracting pioneers like Henry Ford and Louis Chevrolet.

### 1918 The Rockefeller Era

John D. Rockefeller purchased The Casements as his winter home, hosting icons like Thomas Edison and turning the area into a global destination.

### 1930 The Airport Legacy

Aviation moved from the beach to its permanent home at Daytona Beach International Airport, evolving from a grass strip into a strategic gateway.

### 1946 Breaking the Barriers

Jackie Robinson played his first integrated professional baseball game in Daytona Beach after other cities refused to host the event.

*In 1937:* The Bandshell was constructed of coquina, a self-healing” rock made of millions of tiny seashells.



### 1995 Completing the Map

Deltona officially incorporated as the 16th and final city, completing the modern geographic layout of the county.

### 2003 Marine Science Center

Opening in Ponce Inlet, this facility became a global leader in sea turtle and seabird rehabilitation.



### 2024 The Robotic Horizon

The 2.8 million square feet Amazon Robotics facility opened, bringing over 1,000 high-tech jobs to the region.

### 2025 Building For Resilience

The County launched a \$114 million coastal recovery initiative, placing 750,000 cubic yards of sand to restore and protect the shoreline.

*The 1992 Rogue Wave:*  
A mysterious, 18-foot rogue wave crashed onto the shore under clear night skies, damaging hundreds of cars. The event remains one of the beach’s most legendary natural mysteries, sparking decades of local lore and scientific study.

*Transform386:*  
Volusia County’s Transform386 Action Plan approved, marking the start of a six-year hurricane recovery program.



# Protecting & Preserving

## *Environmental Management* Protecting Ecosystems for the Future

Volusia County advanced environmental protection and resilience efforts by balancing coastal recovery, regulatory oversight, scientific monitoring, and community education. Through restoration initiatives and regional partnerships, the County continued safeguarding natural resources while supporting responsible growth, wildlife protection, and sustainability.

- Coastal recovery and permitting: Continued post-storm beach and dune recovery with integrating sea turtle program expertise
- Environmental oversight and restoration: Conducted inspections, pollution response, hazardous-waste oversight, and tree replacement efforts to protect land and waterways
- Science, monitoring, and water quality: Expanded water-quality sampling, maintained open-access environmental data, advanced oyster habitat restoration, and supported nutrient-reduction initiatives
- Wildlife protection and public engagement: Protected nesting shorebirds and sea turtles, expanded environmental education programs, and mobilized volunteers.



4:1

Volusia Forever return  
on investment

\$29M

In investments from  
strategic partnerships

## *Volusia Forever*

### Stewardship that Honors Volusia's Natural Heritage

In 2025, Volusia County continued protecting its natural landscape by acquiring six conservation properties totaling more than 5,000 acres. By investing \$5.7 million in local funds and leveraging \$23.3 million in partner contributions, the County achieved a nearly four-to-one return on investment, demonstrating how strategic partnerships can expand conservation outcomes while maximizing taxpayer value.

These results reflect the continued success of Volusia Forever, a voter-approved initiative rooted in strong public support and fiscal responsibility. Renewed in 2020 with more than 75% approval, the program preserves natural lands, protects wildlife, and supports agriculture while ensuring transparency and accountability. Each acquisition undergoes professional staff review, advisory committee evaluation, and final approval by the Volusia County Council, and the program has passed every annual audit since renewal.

Today, nearly 259,000 of Volusia County's approximately 695,000 acres are protected as conservation land by either a federal, state, or local entity, placing the County second statewide among county-based conservation programs, with more than 53,000 acres locally managed. Through conservation easements, more than 1,300 acres of active agricultural land have been preserved, keeping farms productive while preventing future development. Conservation investments also continue strengthening the Florida Wildlife Corridor, with approximately 64% of the corridor, nearly 239,500 acres, now protected to support wildlife habitat, water quality, and long-term environmental resilience.

## *Growth and Resource Management*

### Transforming Permitting Through Digital Innovation

Volusia County continued transforming how residents, contractors, and businesses interact with local government by expanding digital services and streamlining development processes last year. Through Connect Live, the County's online permitting platform, more users are conducting business electronically—saving time, reducing paperwork, and gaining greater transparency across processes ranging from building permits to inspections.

Last year, more than 99% of building permits were submitted online, with nearly all Growth and Resource Management payments and inspection requests handled digitally. For homeowners and contractors, this shift means less travel, shorter wait times, and faster access to information. For businesses, it delivers a more predictable, efficient experience that supports responsible growth and economic development.

Expanded digital services also improve transparency by allowing users to track applications, view approvals, and receive updates without visiting an office. The Growth and Resource Management Department also launched a new online Permit Guide that brings key zoning and permitting information together in one place so customers can see what's allowed, which permits are needed, estimated costs, and how to apply.

These tools help County staff process applications more efficiently, reduce manual paperwork, and focus on project review, customer service, and long-range planning that supports sustainable development and

**13.8K**  
Applications received  
and processed

**99%**  
Building permits  
submitted online

**27.8K**  
Online inspection  
requests processed

## *Volusia Echo*

### Environmental, Cultural, Historic, and Outdoor Recreation

Guided by the program's most comprehensive stakeholder engagement to date, the Volusia ECHO program delivered transparent dashboards, strategic planning, and visible improvements to public spaces in 2025. ECHO research findings show 71% of respondents rate quality of life excellent or good, 82.5% say ECHO enhances quality of life, and ECHO generates an estimated \$31.5 million in annual economic impact. Significant milestones included:

- Unveiled new ECHO 2040 Plan outlining expenditures and key projects
- Launched ECHO Transparency Dashboard and microsite delivering real-time financials, status tracking, and interactive maps that clarify how voter approved funds are invested
- Completed ECHO/ARPA-funded exhibit renovations at Lyonia Environmental Center
- AI "ECHO Explorer" that personalizes recommendations

**31.5M**  
ECHO annual  
economic impact

**82%**  
Quality of life  
enhancement rating

# Coastal & Beach

## *Coastal Restoration*

### Ensuring Coastal Resilience Along Volusia County's Shoreline

In summer 2025, the County partnered with the Florida Inland Navigation District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to initiate a North Sand Placement Project from south of the Sunglow Pier to the jetty, strengthening natural coastal protection. Coastal restoration efforts continued with the South Berm Construction Project in New Smyrna Beach, which began in early 2026. The project will place approximately 550,000 cubic yards of sand along 5.5 miles of shoreline, creating an improved beach area while also adding a natural buffer to help protect homes, businesses, and public infrastructure during coastal storms.

The County also advanced long-term planning through the Coastal Feasibility Study, a countywide effort to evaluate science-based shoreline protection strategies and gather community input. Public meetings and online engagement helped shape future coastal resilience efforts, while the study underscored the economic importance of healthy beaches, which generate billions in annual tourism spending and support more local jobs than any other industry in Volusia County. Together, these projects demonstrate meaningful progress in strengthening Volusia County's coastline. Supported by a Florida Department of Environmental Protection resilience grant, the North Sand Placement Project, South Berm Construction Project, and Coastal Feasibility Study allow the County to restore dunes, replace storm-lost sand, and plan for long-term protection without additional costs to local taxpayers.



# 550K

Cubic yards of sand in South Berm construction project

*"Public meetings & online engagement helped shape future coastal resilience efforts, while the study underscored the economic importance of healthy beaches."*

## *Coastal Recreation*

### New Dog Beaches Provide More Room to Roam

After an overwhelmingly successful 18-month pilot project in Ormond Beach, the Volusia County Council voted in April 2025 to permanently establish a designated dog-friendly beach area between Milsap Road and Rockefeller Drive. The decision followed impressive participation throughout the trial period, with more than 13,000 visitors choosing to bring their dogs to enjoy the shoreline. The pilot demonstrated that pet-friendly opportunities can thrive when paired with responsible pet ownership and clear safety expectations, making Volusia's beaches even more welcoming for families and dog lovers.

Building on that momentum, the County opened another dog-friendly beach in December, this one along a 1.7-mile stretch of Daytona Beach between the Williams Avenue and Seabreeze Boulevard ramps. The expansion reflects the County's commitment to enhancing coastal recreation and responding to the community's interest in inclusive outdoor spaces. The addition of dog-friendly beaches also positions Volusia County as a destination of choice for traveling pet owners, an audience that continues to grow nationwide as more families vacation with their pets. By offering clearly marked and well-managed dog-friendly zones, Volusia provides an experience not available in many coastal communities, encouraging visitors to explore local restaurants, shops, and attractions while they are here.



## Beach Safety

### A Safe Beach for Volusia Residents and Visitors

Volusia County's Beach Safety Division delivered another standout year on one of Florida's busiest coastlines in 2025. Patrolling 47 miles of shoreline, Volusia County lifeguards performed more than 2,400 rescues and responded to over 2,300 medical issues in 2025, protecting residents and visitors who flock to the beach year-round.

With lifeguard shortages affecting the entire country, Beach Safety strengthened recruitment and training by hosting more than 60 outreach events, partnering with Daytona State College, and launching its second fall lifeguard academy. Increased starting pay and incentives helped attract new candidates and retain experienced guards who know the coastline best. Beach Safety built new lifeguard towers and shoreline signage in-house—reducing costs, improving durability, and ensuring consistent safety messaging along the beach.

Beach Safety also earned national recognition. Volusia County is now one of only five agencies to hold all three United States Lifesaving Association accreditations—Agency Accreditation, Training Accreditation, and Personal Watercraft Accreditation. Together, these certifications verify that Volusia's lifeguards meet the highest national standards for staffing, training, rescue operations, and emergency response.

## Park Volusia

### Park Volusia's First Year Delivers Strong Results for Residents

2025 marked the first full year of Volusia County's Park Volusia initiative, an effort designed to modernize beach access, increase convenience for residents, and create a more equitable funding structure for maintaining and improving coastal resources. Through Park Volusia, registered residents and property owners receive complimentary access to drive on the beach and park in County-owned off-beach parking lots, while nonresidents and non-property owners pay for these privileges.

The program has already demonstrated significant results. Within its first full year, more than 140,000 resident accounts were created, reflecting strong public interest and participation. By shifting the cost of access to nonresidents and visitors rather than local taxpayers, Park Volusia generated an estimated \$1.4 million in additional revenue that helps the County sustain essential services without increasing financial burdens on residents.

Park Volusia also improved convenience and entry efficiency. Late in 2025, the County began installing automatic access gates at beach ramps, allowing more ramps to remain open year-round and registered users to enter quickly without stopping for manual toll processing. With strong participation and continued system upgrades, Park Volusia is positioned to deliver long-term benefits to residents while sustaining Volusia County's most popular public amenity.

# 2.4K+

Rescues performed by  
Volusia County lifeguards

# 2.3K+

Medical issues  
responded to by Volusia  
County lifeguards

# 140K

ParkVolusia resident  
accounts

*“Residents and property owners receive complimentary access to drive on the beach and park in County-owned off-beach parking lots, while nonresidents and non-property owners pay for these privileges.”*





# Community Support Services

## *Community Assistance*

### Connecting Residents to Support and Stability

In 2025, Volusia County strengthened its commitment to residents most in need by investing in practical solutions that stabilize households, prevent crises, and connect individuals and families to long-term opportunities. Through strong partnerships, the County delivered support designed not only to meet immediate needs, but to help people regain stability and move forward.

Prevention remained a priority, especially for children in a community surrounded by beaches, waterways, and backyard pools. The County provided nearly 400 learn-to-swim scholarships through partner agencies and distributed pool and door alarms at 11 outreach events, helping families reduce drowning risks through education and early intervention.

To improve access to services, Community Assistance staff were placed in libraries across the county, allowing residents to receive help in familiar, welcoming spaces. Across 14 branch libraries, specialists assisted more than 1,700 residents with housing, food access, employment resources, health insurance, and transitioned them to our partner agencies, reducing barriers to care.

Housing stability remained central to these efforts. The County sustained housing for more than 100 owner-occupied households through critical repairs and recovery work, supported first-time homebuyers, and advanced more than 300 affordable multifamily housing units prioritized for veterans, formerly homeless individuals, and low-income residents. Volusia County also continued addressing the opioid epidemic by awarding more than \$7.4 million to local agencies providing evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery services, reaching more than 70,000 residents. By the end of 2025, total approved opioid settlement investments exceeded \$10 million countywide, strengthening the community's long-term safety net.

## Improving Food Access for Families Across Volusia County

Volusia County continued advancing its commitment to reducing food insecurity by expanding community food programs, supporting local pantries, and ensuring families have access to nutritious meals. Through partnerships and targeted grant funding, the County implemented strategies to assist residents facing rising food needs.

Working with Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, the County distributed more than 1,800 boxes of food at large-scale events and supported dozens of smaller efforts. Additional state funding of over \$160,000 helped restock pantries and shelters, benefiting 80+ local feeding partners and resulting in 90,000+ pounds of food and 2,200 one-week food boxes for families in need.

The County also provided more than 125,000 free summer meals at 70+ locations while schools were closed, ensuring children who rely on school meals continue receiving nutritious food and helping families offset higher grocery costs.

**90K**

Pounds of food provided to local pantries and shelters

**\$160K**

In state grant funding invested in food programs

**125K+**

Meals for students provided over the summer

## Veterans Services

### More Services, More Recognition, More Support for Veterans

Volusia County continued strengthening its commitment to veterans in 2025 through expanded services, targeted support, and new spaces designed to honor and serve those who served. Together, these efforts reflect a community-wide approach, one that combines recognition, direct assistance, and long-term investment in veterans' wellbeing.

A major milestone came with the launch of the Volusia Values Veterans Program (V3P), which formalized new ways the County recognizes and supports veterans year-round. The program introduced designated parking spaces and reduced fees at county facilities, expanded recognition opportunities, and provided administrative leave for County veteran employees with service-connected disabilities.

At the same time, Volusia County Veterans Services continued delivering meaningful results for veterans and their families. In 2025, the division served more than 16,000 veterans and dependents, processed over 8,000 claims, and helped secure \$2.5 million in newly awarded federal benefits. Those efforts contributed to an estimated \$477 million in total annual benefits flowing into Volusia County, providing critical financial stability for local veterans and strengthening the community as a whole.

In addition, Volusia County delivered the largest Veterans Stand Down event in its history, serving 668 veterans, a 48% increase over the previous year. With support from more than 55 community partners, the event connected veterans to medical care, housing resources, employment services, and meals in one coordinated setting.

Capping these efforts, the County also opened a new veterans memorial in April, creating a dedicated space for reflection, recognition, and community gatherings. The plaza serves as a visible reminder of the County's enduring commitment, honoring veterans not only through programs and services, but through permanent spaces that recognize their service and sacrifice.

## “Volusia Values Veterans”



**16K+**  
Veterans and dependents served in 2025

**8K+**  
Veterans claims processed by Volusia County Veterans Services

**668**  
Served at the largest Veterans Stand Down (48% increase from prior year)

**\$2.5M**  
In federally awarded veterans benefits



# Public Safety & Emergency Services

## Emergency Medical Services

### Strengthening Emergency Response Across Volusia County

Volusia County made major strides in public safety last year, strengthening emergency medical care and modernizing fire response to meet the needs of a growing community. From enhanced lifesaving technology to improved staffing and equipment, these efforts reflect the County's commitment to protecting residents when every second counts. In 2025, Volusia County EMS responded to more than 71,000 emergency calls and earned the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline Silver Award for excellence in cardiac care, proof that local paramedics are delivering nationally recognized, data-driven results. The division also upgraded lifesaving tools across the fleet, deploying advanced cardiac monitors, defibrillators, and automated CPR equipment that improve survival in the most critical medical emergencies. Rather than purchasing a single ambulance costing nearly \$1 million, EMS used opioid settlement funding to launch Quick Response Vehicles equipped with advanced medical equipment and staffed by specially trained paramedics. These rapid response units now allow EMS to intervene sooner, stabilize patients faster, and reach emergencies where traditional ambulances might be delayed, an innovative solution that improves care while reducing costs.



# 71K+

Calls answered for emergency medical services

*“These rapid response units now allow EMS to intervene sooner, stabilize patients faster, and reach emergencies where traditional ambulances might be delayed—an innovative solution that improves care while reducing costs.”*



## Fire Rescue

### Responding to Rising Calls and Strengthening Readiness

Volusia County Fire Rescue answered 19,163 calls across unincorporated areas and partner municipalities, maintaining high service levels while investing in staff, modernizing facilities and apparatus, and enhancing operational readiness through advanced training and predictive analytics. Regional collaboration and community outreach also remained priorities, ensuring safety and preparedness across the County.

- 19,163 calls for service answered
- Hired 18 new employees; maintained 99 certified paramedics
- Modernized fleet and facilities; began Station 34 expansion and added generators to three stations
- Improved readiness with predictive analytics, ISO compliant training, and standardized scheduling
- Upgraded accountability with RFID narcotics tracking and CAD integration
- Strengthened regional collaboration and public engagement through joint

## *Animal Services*

### **New Animal Shelter Delivers Early Success**

In October 2025, Volusia County opened a new animal shelter on an accelerated timeline to ensure continued animal services for the community. The effort came after the County's long-standing sheltering contract concluded when the service provider no longer accepted animals deemed a threat to public safety. In response, the County acted quickly to plan, procure, staff, and establish operations within a matter of months, ensuring uninterrupted animal care and the continuity of services for residents.

The new shelter provides increased capacity and greater control over intake, behavioral evaluation, and public safety procedures, enabling the County to house and assess animals that require specialized care, as well as care for dogs who need to be rehomed. By bringing these services in-house, Volusia County strengthens its ability to protect public safety while ensuring animals receive appropriate evaluation and humane treatment.

In just the first few months of operations, the new shelter has already supported meaningful outcomes for families. Staff facilitated two significant reunions, including a dog missing for more than 5 years, lost initially in Mississippi, and another pet missing in Volusia County for over four years.

## *Medical Examiner*

### **Statewide Leadership in Forensic Science**

Volusia County's Medical Examiner's Office continued its quiet, vital work in 2025, strengthening public safety while providing answers and closure to families during some of life's most difficult moments. With support from state grant funding, the office advanced long-term unidentified-person investigations and successfully resolved two cases that had remained open for years, helping law enforcement while finally giving families long-awaited answers.

The office renewed its National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) accreditation with zero phase violations, confirming its operations meet the highest national standards for professionalism, evidence handling, and investigative quality.

The Medical Examiner's team also invested in future professionals by hosting students from Florida State University, interns from Stetson University, and multiple law enforcement trainings, helping strengthen statewide expertise in forensic investigation.



# Achieved

Cost savings and operational efficiency

# Expanded

Health and safety programs

# Reinforced

Law enforcement and investigative collaboration

# Received

National Association of Medical Examiners accreditation

# Delivered

Closure and advanced casework

# Increased

Education and workforce development



# Emergency Management

## Readiness Built on Planning and Community

Last year, the Emergency Management team focused on the work that matters most before a crisis occurs, strengthening readiness, coordination, and community awareness so residents are protected when emergencies arise. Fortunately, 2025 did not bring a catastrophic hurricane or wildfire, allowing the year to be defined by deliberate preparation and continued investment in the systems that support effective response and help the recovery efforts from recent years.

Training and coordination remained central to that effort. Emergency Management coordinated 16 major exercises and drills, including multiagency scenarios such as Operation Protect and Secure, Trouble in the Air, the Spartan active shooter exercise, and a full-scale triennial event at Daytona Beach International Airport. These exercises brought together first responders, healthcare partners, and government agencies, strengthening communication and collaboration before real-world emergencies occur.

The County also began a significant expansion of its Emergency Operations Center, supported in part by a \$400,000 State of Florida grant. The project will add approximately 5,000 square feet to the facility, increasing capacity during hurricanes, wildfires, and other large-scale incidents. When not activated for emergencies, the expanded space will serve as a hub for training, planning, and coordination, ensuring readiness remains a year-round priority.

Preparing the community itself was equally important. Emergency Management delivered over 60 educational presentations reaching nearly 2,500 residents through schools, neighborhood organizations, and civic groups, focusing on practical steps families can take before, during, and after emergencies. These sessions emphasized preparedness planning, situational awareness, and personal responsibility, empowering residents with the knowledge and confidence needed to respond effectively when conditions change.

In collaboration with the Community Assistance Division, the division launched the Volusia Ready Response Corps, a new County initiative designed to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capabilities through engaged residents. The program establishes a trained volunteer network that can be activated to support emergency operations and recovery efforts, with a particular focus on assisting elderly, disabled, and at-risk residents during emergencies.



# \$400K

Grant received for Emergency Operations Center expansion

# 2.5K

Residents participated in emergency management education

*“The Emergency Management team focused on the work that matters most before a crisis occurs—strengthening readiness, coordination, and community awareness so residents are protected when emergencies arise.”*





## *Corrections*

### Preparing Individuals for Work, Housing, and Life After Incarceration

Volusia County Corrections continued advancing its commitment to rehabilitation in 2025 by expanding educational, workforce, and reentry programming that prepares individuals for life after incarceration. The reentry team provided more than 2,800 services during the year, ranging from job placement assistance to essential documentation, and arranged approximately 180 housing placements to support safe and stable transitions.

Several new programs designed to build employable skills, improve educational attainment, and support self sufficiency were introduced as part of a broader effort to reduce recidivism and strengthen outcomes for returning citizens. New cosmetology and barbering programs were launched in partnership with Daytona State College, creating pathways into careers with competitive wages and high demand.

These programs provide hands on training and industry-specific instruction, helping participants develop skills that support employment opportunities upon release. Quarterly reentry job fairs were also hosted, bringing employers and service providers directly into the facility to connect participants with jobs, support, and community resources.

The division also initiated a new farming program designed to reduce operating costs while teaching transferable agricultural skills that support future employment opportunities. These vegetables supplement inmate meals, reduce reliance on outside food providers, and offer hands-on experience that can translate into work opportunities after release.

**180**  
Housing placements to support  
safe, stable transitions

**2.8K**  
Reentry services provided  
for life after incarceration



# Clean Water & Safe Roads

## Public Works

### Enhancing Roadway Safety Across Volusia County

Volusia County continued its commitment to building a safer, more connected transportation network by advancing roadway, bridge, and pedestrian improvements across the region. These projects were designed not only to move traffic more efficiently, but also to make everyday travel safer for families, students, and commuters, strengthening connections between neighborhoods, schools, and job centers.

Several road improvements reduced congestion and enhanced safety in high-traffic corridors. Along LPGA Boulevard and Clyde Morris Boulevard, upgraded signals and expanded turn lanes improved flow in a rapidly developing commercial area. In DeLand, roadway improvements and a new roundabout helped calm traffic and reduce crash risks, while new sidewalks near schools created safer routes for students and families.

*“These projects were designed not only to move traffic more efficiently, but also to make everyday travel safer for families, students, and commuters.”*

Major projects also moved forward to support long-term mobility, including widening key corridors and extending regional trail systems to give residents more options for walking, biking, and commuting. At the same time, bridge rehabilitation work strengthened critical crossings and coastal protection, helping extend service life and ensure reliability during severe weather.

County crews resurfaced and restriped nearly 30 miles of roadway and improved sidewalks and intersections using a data-driven approach that directs investments where they will have the greatest community impact. Together, these improvements reflect a coordinated effort to modernize transportation infrastructure, improve safety, and build a stronger, more resilient network that benefits residents today and prepares Volusia County for tomorrow.

## Notable Road, Bridge, and Intersection Improvements

- Turnbull Bay Road paved shoulders
- Princeton Street school-area sidewalk
- Amelia Avenue safety conversion
- LPGA and Clyde Morris intersection improvements
- Beresford Avenue extension and roundabout
- Williamson Boulevard widening
- Pioneer Trail and Tomoka Farms Road roundabout
- Hand Avenue widening
- Tomoka Farms/Taylor Road intersection improvements
- Spring-to-Spring Trail Phase 3C
- Old Mission Road improvements
- Beresford Avenue extension
- Jacobs Dairy Road sidewalk
- River to Sea Loop Trail Phases 1, 2, and 3
- Pioneer Trail and Williams Road improvements
- Dunn Avenue exit improvements
- Williamson Boulevard widening
- Veterans Memorial Parkway extension
- USS Lexington Boulevard extension
- Tomoka Farms Road intersections





## A Comprehensive Approach to Water Quality

Protecting water quality remained a priority for Volusia County in 2025. Through targeted investments in wastewater infrastructure and sustained environmental monitoring, the County continued advancing a coordinated approach to safeguarding local waterways, groundwater, and sensitive ecosystems.

Major progress continued at the Southwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility in DeBary, where the County advanced an expansion to increase treatment capacity from 2.7 to 4.5 million gallons per day. A new 5-million-gallon reclaimed-water tank is now in service, supporting irrigation needs and reducing demand on groundwater resources, while basin-wide nutrient-reduction improvements remain on track for substantial completion by the end of 2026. Similar investments moved forward in Oak Hill, where construction began on the Southeast Regional Wastewater Facility expansion. Once completed, the project will double treatment capacity and incorporate advanced nutrient-removal technology to protect the Mosquito and Indian River Lagoons, strengthening long-term water quality protections.

At the same time, the County continued its science-based oversight of local waterways, sampling nearly 80 monitoring stations and collecting more than 22,000 water-quality measurements. Staff worked proactively to reduce environmental hazards by addressing derelict vessels in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Coast Guard, responding to nearly 50 pollution reports, and conducting inspections of 819 hazardous-waste generators, 95 schools, and 69 private wastewater facilities.

Targeted efforts also focused on sensitive groundwater areas. In the DeLeon Springs Priority Focus Area, the County assisted 85 property owners with upgrading to advanced, nutrient-reducing septic systems. Supported by a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the incentive program helps protect springs and groundwater while reducing costs for property owners.

**4.5M**  
Increase in water  
treatment capacity

**5M**  
Gallons of new  
reclaimed water

**22K+**  
Water samples analyzed

### *Mosquito Control* Proactive Protection and Targeted Prevention

Volusia County strengthened mosquito control efforts by focusing on prevention, public health coordination, and long-term operational improvements in 2025. Through proactive treatments, targeted aerial applications, and community education, the County reduced mosquito populations before they hatched, lowered nuisance levels, and minimized disease risk. At the same time, progress continued on planning and bonding for a modern replacement facility to support future operations and improve service delivery countywide.

- Proactive mosquito reduction: Conducted ground and aerial larvicide and adulticide treatments, including three fixed-wing aerial applications targeting salt-marsh mosquitoes
- Breeding source removal: Hosted three tire-amnesty events, removing more than 55 tons of tires that create standing-water habitats
- Public health coordination: Worked with the Florida Department of Health to assess disease risk and target treatments where needed
- Outreach and education: Reached more than 4,500 residents through 39 events, providing prevention and awareness education



# Transportation & Asset Management

## *Fleet Management*

### Keeping County Services Moving

The fleet team is one of many divisions whose support is critical to all of the county's functions, from making sure Sheriff's deputies have reliable patrol cars to ensuring fire trucks for our 19 fire stations, bulldozers, critical canal cleaning equipment for public works, to ATVs for the beach all operate safely and effectively. Without fleet, we wouldn't get far!

Fleet Management supported uninterrupted County operations by strategically replacing vehicles, modernizing shop systems, and maintaining high fleet reliability. In 2025, the team sustained 96.9% fleet availability across departments. Investments in technician training, safety equipment, and modern fleet technology strengthened operational efficiency, reduced downtime, and ensured critical services—from public safety to public works—remained on the road and ready to serve residents.

When recruiting CDL drivers was difficult, our fleet divisions grew our own skilled workforce by creating a certified CDL training program which is producing CDL certified drivers for Public Works and others, as well as helping partner agencies at the local and state level.

- Replaced 79 vehicles, including three fire apparatus and seven ambulances; supported \$5.4 million in additional capital vehicles and equipment
- Maintained 96.9% fleet availability with 9,696 preventive maintenance services and 12,250 work orders completed
- Trained 55 CDL-certified drivers from County divisions and partner agencies
- Modernized shops with upgraded lifts, diagnostics, GPS integration, and facility improvements
- Earned ASE Blue Seal status with 289 ASE and 91 EVT certifications, including 10 ASE Master Technicians





50  
Years  
Of service

*VoTran. VoRide. VoAccess*

**Preparing for the Next 50 Years of Transit in Volusia County**

Volusia County celebrated the 50th anniversary of VoTran in 2025, marking five decades of public transportation service that has helped residents, visitors, and commuters move safely throughout the county. As VoTran reached this milestone, the agency continues to build on its history of innovation, expand mobility options, and strengthen connections across the region. The anniversary year also introduced a new brand identity, including refreshed logos for VoTran and VoRide, as well as the rebranding of its paratransit service, now known as VoAccess.

1.7M  
Bus passengers

From its early beginnings, VoTran has consistently evolved to meet changing transportation needs across Volusia County. Today, its fixed-route network, combined with the VoRide microtransit service, creates a flexible and accessible system that connects neighborhoods, major destinations, and transit corridors. These services also link directly to SunRail commuter stations in DeBary and DeLand, strengthening regional mobility and improving access to employment centers throughout Central Florida. Looking ahead, the Volusia County Council approved several changes to the public transit system that will be rolled out in 2026, positioning VoTran for the future. As part of this effort, staff continuously evaluates ridership data, listen to rider needs, and explore potential cost-saving measures to ensure resources are used efficiently.

187K  
Paratransit riders

The popular VoRide rideshare microtransit service—which launched on the west side of the county in 2023—will also expand to select areas on the east side, bringing greater flexibility and convenience to additional communities. These updates are anticipated to serve more people, improve cost efficiency, and support a more sustainable system while freeing up savings that can be redirected into other essential transit programs. With these changes, VoTran will be able to deliver expanded service, smarter resource use, and long-term benefits for riders across the county.

92K  
VoRide passengers

*“Volusia County celebrated the 50th anniversary of VoTran in 2025, marking five decades of public transportation service that has helped residents, visitors, and commuters move safely throughout the county.”*



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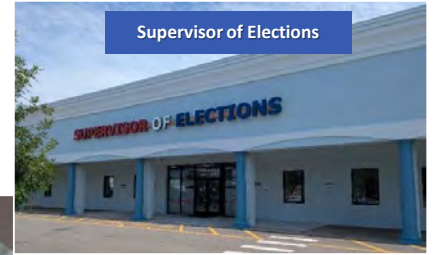




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Masci was founded in 1981 as a sole proprietorship by Andres and Maria Masci in Leominster, Massachusetts. The company was incorporated in 1985 and began pursuing projects in concrete, demolition, road construction, bridge construction, masonry, and pipeline installation. In 1995, Masci relocated to Port Orange, Florida, and has since completed more than 500 projects throughout Central Florida for local cities, counties, and the State of Florida. Today, the company employs approximately 230 dedicated professionals and remains a proud family-owned and operated business.



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FDOT District Five 2025

## FDOT Smoothest Pavement Award

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In 2011, Masci expanded its capabilities to include asphalt paving operations, and in 2016 opened its own asphalt production plant, further strengthening its ability to deliver high-quality, efficient roadway solutions. Masci's commitment to excellence has been recognized with multiple industry honors, including the FDOT Smoothest Pavement Award in 2024 and being named Roads and Streets Builder of the Year for FDOT District 5 in 2025.