



City Manager's Update

First Step Shelter ribbon cutting draws crowd

People from the community are already being helped

Cloudy skies did not keep hundreds from attending last week's ribbon cutting of the much anticipated First Step Shelter. Public tours of the facility were provided after a brief ceremony with remarks by Daytona Beach Mayor Derrick Henry and Volusia County Chair Ed Kelley.

The 15,820 square-foot-shelter is Volusia County's first transitional homeless shelter for single men and women. Funded by the City of Daytona Beach and Volusia County, the \$6 million shelter will offer beds and assistance for those seeking to stabilize their lives.

Catholic Charities oversees operations of the shelter, which includes a health unit operated by Halifax Health and

Advent Health. Stewart Marchman Act has been contracted to provide mental health and substance abuse services. When fully operational, the shelter has capacity to house up to 120 individuals.

By mid-week, 10 people were already registered at First Step Shelter. Intakes are already scheduled for next week.

To receive assistance at First Step Shelter, a person has to be referred by law enforcement, local nonprofits, churches and hospitals. Police officers are also able to screen people to determine if they are eligible and provide transportation to the shelter.



Hundreds attended the First Step Shelter ribbon cutting.



Daytona Beach Commissioners and other officials cut the ceremonial ribbon at First Step Shelter Dec. 11.



One of the two dormitories at First Step Shelter.



Dr. L. Ronald Durham, the city's community relations manager, talks to Beverly, one of the first clients of First Step Shelter.

Construction of new seawall at Halifax Harbor Marina nearly complete

Construction is nearly complete on a new seawall surrounding the Harbor Master Building at the Halifax Harbor Marina on South Beach Street.

The \$385,000 project removed the existing failing seawall, originally built in the 1980s, and replaced it with modern and longer lasting materials, which will stabilize the shore and reduce erosion.

Saboungi Construction from Ormond Beach began construction in August.

Halifax Harbor Marina is a 550-slip, 60-acre property owned by the City of Daytona Beach. Slip occupancy rates are at 86%. Future updates include expanded WiFi service, renovated restrooms and landscape improvements.



City staff attend customized cultural diversity training

The City of Daytona Beach is proud to be a multicultural workplace and is committed to fostering culturally competent employees.

Last week employees from all departments attended cultural diversity and sensitivity training sessions led by outside consultant Dr. Chester Wilson, who designed a customized and engaging presentation.

During the two-hour sessions, employees learned the importance of cultural awareness, how people communicate and the significance of mutual respect as well as inclusion. Dr. Wilson, who regularly provides mental health and legal consultations, encouraged participants to proactively learn about other cultures, practice tolerance and become self-aware of one's personal biases.

For employees who missed one of the six presentations offered, the continuing education opportunity was videotaped and will be made available through the city's intranet.

About Dr. Chester Wilson:

Dr. Chester Wilson has been a Daytona Beach resident since 1999. He received his bachelor's degree from Bethune-Cookman University and was an assistant professor of criminal justice at his alma mater for 11 years.

Dr. Wilson is a Certified Mental Health Professional and serves as the vice president of quality assurance at Stewart-Marchman-Act Behavioral Healthcare.

Dedicated to helping others, Dr. Wilson created the Chester Wilson Consulting Firm to provide consultation and training services to community professionals who are seeking to enhance their personal and professional development.

He also serves as chairperson of the board of directors for Outreach Community Network, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the needs of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in Daytona Beach.



Dr. Chester Wilson

Crowds and parade entries exceed expectations in City's Holly Jolly Christmas Parade

The weather was perfect as residents lined Beach Street to see more than 40 local bands, dance groups, businesses and organizations participate in the City of Daytona Beach's Holly Jolly Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 14, in downtown Beach Street.



A group of community leaders judged each entry for overall entertainment, holiday spirit, creativity and performance.

The Atlantic High School Marching Band received the "Mayor's Choice – Magic of Christmas Award" for being the most outstanding entry.

The Beacon Center received the "Storybook Christmas Award" for being the most creative entry.

Raven Daytona Church won the "Friends of Rudolph Award" for having the most holiday spirit. Dancing Lady Cats received the "Dancing Elves Award" for being the most entertaining entry.

All award winners will receive a certificate and a monetary prize. Planning for 2020's parade is already in the works.



Atlantic High School—Most Outstanding

Holiday trash schedule

Yard waste and recycling will not be collected on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. Collections will be made on the following Saturdays. If you have any questions, please call (386) 788-8890.



Mayor Derrick Henry reads a story



Enthusiastic crowds lined Beach Street

Christmas

- ❄️ No yard waste will be made on Dec. 25.
- ❄️ Collections will be made on Saturday, Dec. 28.

New Year's Day

- ❄️ No yard waste will be made on Jan. 1.
- ❄️ Collections will be made on Saturday, Jan. 4.

City presents performance proceeds and toys to the Beacon Center

Yesterday at the Schnebly Recreation Center, the Beacon Center in Daytona Beach received a \$1,500 check and more than 240 unwrapped toys which were collected during two performances of "Miracle on 34th Beach Street," a Let's Dance Production, earlier this month.

The Beacon Center is an organization that provides support to those struggling with domestic violence.

In addition, the city's Leisure Services department presented commemorative plaques to Cynthia Harkness, director of Let's Dance Productions; Ron and Kathy Rebholz of Seaside Manor; and Jacob Brush and Tinka Linsens of Avante Ormond Beach.

Seaside Manor and Avante Ormond Beach catered the meals given during the two performances of "Miracle on 34th Beach Street."



Members from The Beacon Center, the city's Leisure Services department and Let's Dance Productions worked together to raise the funds and collect toys.

City offers literacy, character building, tutoring and arts & crafts programs for kids

Mayor's Literacy Initiative

The Mayor's Literacy Initiative is a program implemented by Mayor Derrick Henry to teach young children to love reading and learning.

They meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at the Yvonne Scarlett-Golden Cultural and Educational Center, located at 1000 Vine St. There is no cost to participate.

For more information, contact (386) 671-5782.



Pretty Ladies

Inspire, gain knowledge and build character. That is what the Pretty Ladies Program, Preparing Responsible Educated Talented Tenacious Young Ladies, offers to young women ages 11 to 18.

Pretty Ladies meets at 5:30 p.m. every Thursday at Yvonne Scarlett Golden Cultural & Educational Center, located at 1000 Vine St. There is no cost to participate.

For more information, contact program director Rakinya Hinson at (386) 401-2800.

After-School Programs in Daytona Beach

There are several after-school programs available to give children in the community the opportunity to complete homework, participate in tutoring and make arts & crafts.

Sunnyland Recreation Center

825 Washington Street

This program offers assistance with after school homework at 4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, followed by arts & crafts at 4:30 p.m. There is no cost to participate.

For more information, contact (386) 671-3400.

John H. Dickerson Community Center

308 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Need help understanding a school subject? Tutoring programs are available from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is no cost to participate.

For more information, contact (386) 671-5820.



Ortona Elementary School

1265 N. Grandview Ave.

Extensive care for children who attend Volusia County elementary schools is available through this program. Activities include homework assistance, arts & crafts, life skills education, sports, fun with computers and seasonal projects.

The after school program is licensed through the Department of Children and Families. The hours are from 2 to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

For more information on the program, including fees, contact (386) 671-8337.