

JAN. 6, 2021

City Manager's Update



In this issue:

- ◇ COVID-19 assistance
- ◇ COVID-19 testing
- ◇ MMB Streetscape
- ◇ S. Beach Street and Sweetheart Trail
- ◇ Utility project featured
- ◇ Campbell Aquatic Ctr
- ◇ Brown & Brown HQ
- ◇ F.R.E.S.H. Book Festival

City hosts first drive-thru vaccination clinic

County health department administered more than 2,000 doses of Moderna vaccine

With high demand for the much-anticipated COVID-19 vaccine, the Florida Department of Health in Volusia County (DOH-Volusia) called upon the city to host the county's first drive-thru vaccination clinic at Daytona Stadium earlier this week. With less than three business days notice, staff quickly went to work on the logistics of the two-day clinic.

The city was selected as the first distribution site because of its ability to effectively coordinate large-scale events thanks to extensive experience and interpersonal relationships between city departments. The multi-department effort included police, fire, public works, leisure services and communications, with each having a defined role that utilized their area of expertise.

Plans were adjusted after the first day to better address traffic congestion and crowd-management issues.

In total, 2,052 vaccines were distributed at no cost to people age 65 and older. Participants were provided cards to return to the stadium in 28 days to receive their second vaccine dose.



Florida COVID-19 #s

Positive cases: 1,409,906
Hospitalizations: 64,321
Deaths: 22,317
Daily positivity rate: 12.54%
People vaccinated: 329,060

Volusia County COVID-19 #s

Positive cases: 24,205
Hospitalizations: 1,296
Deaths: 458
Daily positivity rate: 14.22%
People vaccinated: 8,264

Questions?

For updates about the vaccine and distribution, call the county's hotline at (866) 345-0345 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or visit www.volusia.org/coronavirus.

Fire Chief and Deputy City Manager Dru Driscoll addresses media at the vaccination clinic Monday. Also pictured is Patricia Boswell, Administrator with Florida Department of Health in Volusia County.



Rental assistance program continues

The city is continuing to offer rental assistance to residents impacted with a financial hardship due to the pandemic. The city was awarded an additional \$599,913 in Community Development Block Grant funds as part of the federal CARES Act.

Rental assistance is provided on a first-completed application and first qualified/eligible basis, and is for rental housing costs that incurred on or after March 11, 2020. These funds provide rental assistance to eligible households for a three-month maximum per household. Applications are being accepted until the funds are depleted.



Appointments must be made to submit completed applications and provide documentation. Appointments can be made by calling:

- Central Florida Community Development Corporation (386) 226-1216
- Housing Authority of the City of Daytona Beach (386) 888-7684
- Mid-Florida Housing Partnership Corporation (386) 274-4441, ext. 301 and 304

Since May, 1,271 households have been assisted, with the city paying 1,894 months of rental assistance representing a total expenditure of \$1,684,776. The average rental payment is \$890.

County assists more than 2,500 residents

More than 2,579 Daytona Beach households have been helped through the county's mortgage and rental assistance grant program that ended Dec. 30, 2020. The total funds expended in Daytona Beach were \$6,379,768.

Free COVID-19 testing available

The state-run testing site in New Smyrna Beach continues to offer free COVID-19 testing through July, according to county officials. The testing site is at the city gym located at 1000 Live Oak St. and offers self-swab rapid antigen and PCR testing. Results for rapid testing are expected within 15 minutes. PCR testing results are usually available in 3-5 days.

- Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 7 days a week
- Available for all ages
- No symptoms, appointment or ID required

Additional information about the testing is available at www.volusia.org/testing.



County CARES Act funding provides \$1.8 million to city businesses

Hundreds of Daytona Beach's small and home-based businesses received emergency financial assistance through Volusia County's COVID-19 relief program. Grant awards were used to offset the negative financial impact caused by the pandemic and to help defray the cost of reopening or relaunching businesses. A total of \$1,801,500 was awarded to 619 businesses within the city — 45 home-based and 574 brick-and-mortar small businesses. The maximum assistance for home-based business was \$1,500, and \$3,000 for brick and mortar businesses.



Businesses with fewer than 50 fulltime employees with recent tax returns indicating a minimum of \$6,000 in gross income or gross receipts qualified for the assistance, which was offered first-come, first-served. The businesses also had to certify they had suffered at least \$1,500 in financial impacts due to the pandemic.

Funds were provided to the county from the federal government as part of the CARES Act. The deadline to apply for the assistance was Dec. 11, 2020.

	# of Businesses	Total Funding Awarded
Home-Based businesses	45	\$67,500
Brick & Mortar businesses	574	\$1,734,000
TOTAL	619	\$1,801,500

South Beach Street force main project in final phase

The South Beach Street force main project is in its final phase as crews install a new 36-inch force main at Donnelly Place and Fremont Court leading to the city's wastewater treatment plant. This marks the last portion of the 18-month project as the pipe has already been placed along South Beach Street. All stormwater backflow preventers have also been installed. As road closures are made, project managers continue to communicate with impacted residents and business owners.

Started last January, this \$8.1 million project increases capacity in the wastewater collection system serving the downtown area. The project is on schedule and expected to be complete in July. Additionally, sidewalk placement for the Sweetheart Trail is substantially complete from Orange Avenue to Marina Point Drive. Today, crews are pouring sidewalk from South Street to Bellevue Avenue.



MMB Streetscape trees planted

Started just two months ago, the MMB Streetscape reached a significant milestone by planting the crape myrtles and sabal palm trees. The contractor, Green Construction Technologies, is watering the trees for the next 30 days while they take root. Pavers at the base of the trees from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Ridgewood Avenue were leveled.

This week crews will pressure wash the pavers during overnight hours in preparation for the anticipated new benches and trash receptacles. For project information, visit www.codb.us/mmbstreetscape.

Utility project featured in state industry publication

The one-year replacement project of a critical pipe at the city's water treatment plant was featured in a multi-page spread in the most recent issue of the *Florida Water Resources Journal*. The article details the painstaking, methodical coordination between city staff, the design team and construction contractor.

The 36-inch pipe was identified as the most critical pipe in the city's water distribution system because all finished water runs through it on its way from the plant to thousands of residents and businesses. Made of ductile iron, the aging header pipe was original to the Brennan Water Treatment Plant on LPGA Blvd., which was built in the early 1970s. Although not leaking, the pipe was highly corroded. Other factors, which increased the project's complexity were that the pipe couldn't be taken out of service without interrupting water service to the entire community, and it was located in a 150-foot-long tunnel underneath a pump station, which offered crews limited access.

From design and permitting through contractor procurement and phased construction, the project took 12 months to complete. The article states, "This project provides a great example of how a proactive decision by a utility can help to improve the reliability of its aging infrastructure." To read the article, visit www.FWRJ.com and click on the December 2020 issue.

"From city leadership to the construction crew, each person involved in the project provided the commitment needed to successfully complete it on time and on budget. The project also displayed teamwork in action to quickly respond and maintain a safe water supply to the community."



Campbell Pool improvements

A new entry pavilion, stairs, an ADA-compliant access ramp and additional shaded, seating areas are taking shape at Campbell Aquatic Center in the city's Midtown area. Crews laid concrete block walls and built the roof's structure for the 300-square-foot building on the north side of the pool as part of a series of improvements.

Support poles have been installed for two 20' x 20' canopy shade structures on the east side of the existing pool deck.

This week the building's exterior and the walls of the ramp are getting stucco work along with concrete slab work to connect into the existing pool deck.

The improvements are part of a multi-phased approach for upgrading amenities at the popular pool, which hosts about 35,000 swimmers enjoy each year. In recent years, the pool was resurfaced and a geothermal heater was installed to allow for year-round use.

The cost of the current project is \$154,874, using a \$139,386 grant from the Daytona Beach Racing and Recreational Facilities District.

Improvements are also part of a broader initiative to make upgrades and increase the connectivity between the Dickerson Community Center and the pool facility. Current construction is expected to be completed next month.



Move in starts at new Brown & Brown HQ

This week, Brown & Brown employees began moving into their new \$60-\$70 million, 11-story headquarters at 300 N. Beach St.

According to officials, they are welcoming a limited number of teammates into the 225,000 square-foot building due to the

pandemic. The new headquarters in the tallest building in the downtown area. The roadway section along Beach Street between Fairview Avenue and Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Blvd. will reopen by the weekend.



Virtual F.R.E.S.H. Book Festival is Jan. 8-9

The annual F.R.E.S.H. Book Festival starts Friday, Jan. 8, and organizers have taken the popular event virtual and international this year as they celebrate ten years of "Literacy is a Legacy."

This two-day festival started in 2012 at the Midtown Community Center and offers an engaging weekend of entertainment with film, book and author presentation, focus groups and music.

The festival is one of the largest in the state and helps young inspiring authors connect and learn from veterans in the book business. To register or for more information, visit www.freshbookfestivals.net.