

FEB 3, 2021

City Manager's Update



Join us in celebrating Black History Month. Visit www.CelebratingBlackHistory.com as we reflect on our heritage and honor local leaders in the city.

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Florida COVID-19 #s

Positive cases: 1,744,619
Hospitalizations: 73,266
Deaths: 27,019
Daily positivity rate: 7.77%
People vaccinated: 1,747,761

Volusia County COVID-19 #s

Positive cases: 31,565
Hospitalizations: 1,538
Deaths: 540
Daily positivity rate: 7.52%
People vaccinated: 45,777

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.

Multifamily rental housing market continues to be active

Multiple projects under construction

Due to Florida's favorable weather, tax climate and housing costs, it is estimated that nearly 1,000 people are moving into the Sunshine State each day. Some of those transplants migrate to the Daytona Beach area, and apartment living is an attractive option for these new residents and others like students and young professionals.

To meet the increased demand for rental housing, several multifamily apartment complexes were either recently built or are under construction. All of the projects, which represent a combined 2,500 units, are close to the International Speedway or LPGA boulevards. In addition, several more projects are under staff review.



Tradewinds, a 264-unit multi-family apartment complex, is currently under construction on a 21-acre site at the corner of Dunn Avenue and Jimmy Ann Drive. When finished, there will be 10, three-story buildings and all units will be two bedrooms. The construction value is \$22.1 million.



Clyde Morris Landings at 1381 N. Clyde Morris Blvd. is the largest apartment complex to be built in the city with 392 units on 24 acres. When finished, there will be 12 buildings with a total of 428,000 square feet. The construction value is \$32.3 million.

Overall downward crime trend continues

Overall crime in Daytona Beach has been on a downward path in the last decade. According to the recently released preliminary reports for 2020 from the police department, the trajectory continues to trend down. Most notably, auto thefts, burglaries, larcenies and robberies saw significant decreases. While there was a historic low in incidences of overall crime, there were upticks in gun violence and in the number of persons shot.

Part One Crime, which includes crimes against persons and property crime categories, was down 21% when compared to the previous year. Crimes against persons – aggravated assault, homicide, rape and robbery – were down 8.7%. Property crime, which makes up nearly 75% of all Part One Crime, includes auto thefts, burglaries and larcenies, was down 24.3%.

Chief Jakari Young said the pandemic likely played a significant role in the reduction of crime, particularly in the late spring when more people were home during lockdowns, retail stores and bars were closed and less visitors traveled to the Daytona Beach area.

In a report from the National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice, which is a nonpartisan criminal justice think tank, the commission analyzed crime statistics from 28 cities across the country from January through October. Similar to Daytona Beach’s stats, the commission found that residential burglaries and larcenies fell while gun violence and domestic violence offenses increased during the pandemic.

	2019	2020	Percentage Change
Overall Crime Stats			
Property Crime	2,833	2,145	-24.3%
Person Crime	794	725	-8.7%
Total Part One Crime	3,627	2,870	-20.9%
Total Arrests	8,571	7,209	-15.9%
Individual Crime Categories			
Auto thefts	240	203	-15.4%
Burglaries	380	274	-27.9%
Larcenies	2,213	1,668	-24.6%
Aggravated Assault / Batteries	654	609	-6.9%
Domestic Violence Offenses	1,324	1,372	+3.6%
Homicides	13	14	+7.7%
Rape	18	25	+38.9%
Robberies	109	77	-29.4%

State deed restrictions’ legislative update

The city’s request to remove state deed restrictions on a .41 acre riverfront parcel was unanimously approved by the Florida Cabinet at their meeting Tuesday in Tallahassee.

The property is south of Orange Avenue in the Halifax Harbor Marina. By releasing the restrictions, it clears the city’s title to the parcel

making it easier to improve and redevelop the property. This is the only city parcel in this current request.

In previous City Commission action, a \$112,300 payment to the state to release the restrictions was approved in November 2019. In that request, the adjoining 21-acre parcel was included; however, that parcel was not included in Tuesday’s Cabinet meeting agenda. The payment was never made to the state because the Cabinet didn’t take official action following the City Commission’s vote.



Riverfront seawall nearing completion

A seawall replacement project on the east side of Riverfront Park between Orange Avenue and International Speedway Boulevard (ISB) is almost 80% complete. Crews started at ISB and have demolished the old seawall to Orange Avenue and installed new composite sheet pilings. Crews have driven most of the seawall concrete piles, and almost all of the stormwater outfalls and backflow preventors have been installed, and 80% of the seawall cap has been poured.

Once the new seawall cap is completely installed, crews will replace the observation decks and restore the pedestrian bridge. The project is scheduled to be complete in April.

Redevelopment grants available

Each year the city allocates funding for several different grants, which are available for residential and small business property owners. While each grant has its own criteria, they are all available yearround and once a completed application is submitted, take about 10 business days to process.

These grants are intended to help residential and small business owners make investments to their property. The grants are available in the Ballough Road, Downtown, Main Street, Midtown and South Atlantic areas, which are designated Community Redevelopment Areas. With this designation, a portion of the property taxes are allocated for reinvestment into the area. For more information about the grants, call (386) 671-8188.

Types of grants

- **Residential/Commercial Façade:** Matching grant to improve the exterior of properties.
- **Business Façade:** Matching grant to assist a new or expanding business with exterior improvements.
- **Leasehold Improvement:** Matching grant to assist a new or expanding business with certain interior improvements.
- **Lease Subsidy:** Funds to subsidize initial rent for new target businesses.
- **Historic Preservation Residential/Commercial:** Matching grant to improve historic buildings in designated Local historic sites or districts.
- **Upper Floor Residential:** Matching grant to assist commercial property owners to add upperstory.
- **Landscape Improvement:** Matching grant to provide landscaping along certain major thoroughfares.

Redevelopment Grants' Summary

FY 19 & FY 20 (Combined)

Area	Grant Budget	Actual	# Grants
Midtown	\$70,000	\$19,543	5
Main Street	\$140,000	\$48,120	14
Ballough Road	\$25,000	\$0	0
South Atlantic	\$50,000	\$0	0
Downtown	\$240,000	\$100,826	28
Total	\$525,000	\$168,489	47

FY 21 (Through 1/19/21)

Area	Grant Budget	Actual	# Grants
Midtown	\$60,000	\$24,590	5
Main Street	\$100,000	\$0	0
Ballough Road	\$4,700	\$0	0
South Atlantic	\$25,000	\$0	0
Downtown	\$150,000	\$2,000	1
Total	\$339,700	\$26,590	6

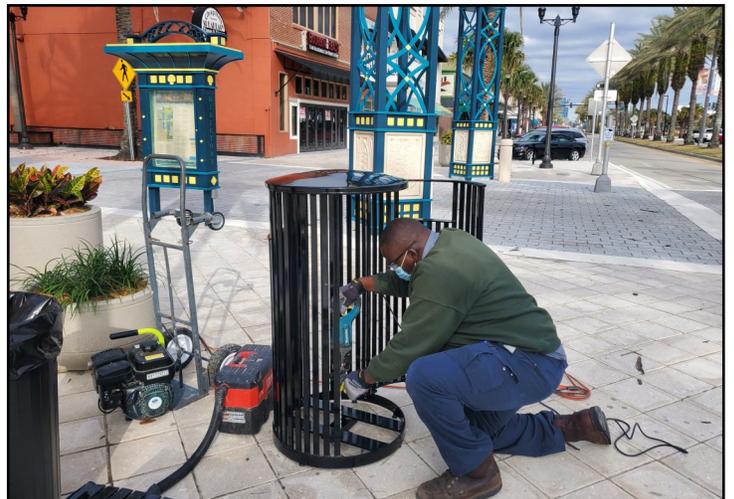


New police recruit vehicle hits the streets

Police recruitment is revving to a new level with the addition of a custom-wrapped vehicle taking to the streets. With iconic images of the city emblazoned on the 2020 Chevy Malibu, the vehicle provides a visible reminder that the police department is continually recruiting for officers.

While recruitment numbers were stable in 2019 and 2020 (31 and 29 new officers, respectively), the effects of the pandemic are starting to be felt as the number of certified law enforcement professionals applying to be officers has fallen, and requests for sponsorship by the city to attend the law enforcement academy have increased. Currently, there are 11 vacancies for fulltime officers with a starting pay of \$41,578; however, due to retirements, officers leaving for another agency or the profession, and others who aren't able perform the duties, recruitment is important yearround.

Recruitment efforts are led by the seven-member training unit. Pre-COVID, the unit participated in 12-15 recruiting events a year including a biannual law enforcement symposium at Bethune-Cookman University. Now with the addition of the wrapped cruiser, the team hopes to continuously promote recruitment needs and increase diversity in its ranks.



As part of the Beach Street Streetscape, new trash receptacles, benches and bike racks were installed this week from Orange Avenue to Bay Street.

News to Note



City makes top 10 list for Most Affordable Beach Towns

Daytona Beach has been ranked #9 Most Affordable Beach Towns in the U.S. out of 218 waterfront cities analyzed by SmartAsset, moving up two spots from last year's report. Four factors were considered: home value, number of rooms, property taxes and monthly housing costs.

Beach Street Wine & Chocolate Walk

Head over to downtown Beach Street **Saturday, Feb. 20**, for the 10th annual Wine & Chocolate Walk. Enjoy strolling on Beach Street and sample wonderful wine and scrumptious chocolate from 1 to 6 p.m. at more than 15 locations.



The Wine & Chocolate Walk is the first event to return to the downtown area since the city enacted its local state of emergency due to the pandemic. Social distancing protocols and other safety measures will be in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Guests are asked to wear face coverings when inside stores except when seated or tasting a sample. Parking is available behind the shops in free public areas. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.RiverfrontShopsOfDaytona.com.



The second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine was distributed Monday and Tuesday at the Daytona Stadium to the more than 2,000 people who had received their first dose at the site in January.

Paycheck Protection Program webinar

Volusia County Economic Development is hosting a webinar at 10 a.m. **Thursday, Feb. 4**, to provide information on the updates and changes to the Paycheck Protection Program's second round, which is available for hard-hit small businesses and nonprofits. For more information and to register, visit the county's Volusia Business Resources Facebook page.



New online tool to find local clinics, food and shelter

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has launched its Find Shelter tool to help people find local assistance including shelter, clothing, health clinics and food pantries. Visit www.hud.gov/findshelter.

First-time homebuyer classes

The University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension in Volusia County offers two-part classes that consist of eight hours of classroom education, which is required to obtain the certificate for federal down payment and closing cost assistance programs available through Volusia County.

All classes are held virtually and pre-registration is required. Upcoming classes include:

- Thursday, Feb. 11 (English): 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 18 (Spanish): 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Thursday, March 4 (part one): 5 to 9 p.m.
- Thursday, March 11 (part two): 5 to 9 p.m.

For more information or to register, call 386-822-5778 or email Patricia Caradonna at pcaradonna@volusia.org.

Free mental health services available

IMPOWER is offering no cost mental health services statewide virtually to children and adults who have been impacted by the pandemic. To qualify for the free services, individuals must be uninsured, underinsured, be at 150% of the federal poverty level and have been directly impacted by the pandemic.

Services include:

- Outpatient mental health and substance abuse assessment and counseling
- Psychiatric clinics and medication management
- Case management and medication assistance

For more information, call (321) 639-1224, email referrals @impowerfl.org or visit www.impowerfl.com.