JULY 19, 2023

City Manager's Update

Multiyear project wraps up to create Dickerson Recreation Complex

Residents invited to reopening community event Saturday, Aug. 5

A three-year project to improve amenities and functionality of the John H. Dickerson Center, James Huger Park and Campbell Aquatic Center has been completed, creating the Dickerson Recreation Complex. Residents are invited to a grand reopening community event from 9 a.m. to noon **Saturday, Aug. 5**, where they can tour the facility and enjoy free swimming, games, music and refreshments. Coinciding with the festivities, Pay it 4ward, a Daytona Beach nonprofit, will be giving away 2,500 backpacks to school-age children.

The improvements are part of the city's vision to create a holistic destination that connected the Dickerson Center to Campbell Aquatic Center as well as to the surrounding neighborhood. The new connectivity offers a cohesive, welcoming space with easy access to and from the community center and pool, creating one unified destination and safe environment for youth and adults to travel between the two facilities.

Improvements included new playground equipment, an outdoor basketball court, reconfigured and additional parking, connecting sidewalks, improved exterior lighting, new exterior paint and upgraded landscaping as well as new flooring in the gymnasium. New paint, flooring and ceiling tiles, installation of an HVAC dust system and mold remediation in a portion of the building are some of the improvements to the interior of the 75-year-old facility.

At the adjacent Campbell Aquatic Center, the entrance was moved to the north side and a new pool entry pavilion, stairs and ADA compliant ramp to enter the area were added. People can also enjoy new canopy shade structures over picnic tables.

The Dickerson Community Center, in the heart of Midtown at 308 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., serves a diverse population -- families, churches, schools and local clubs including the Boys & Girls Club.

A modern, LED sign for the complex and three identifying monument signs for the Campbell Aquatic Center and James Huger Park are expected to be installed prior to the grand reopening.

The project to revamp the complex received nearly $1 million in grants from the Daytona Beach Racing and Recreational Facilities District.

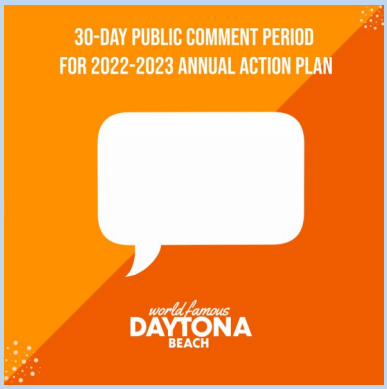
The Dickerson Community Center was purchased by the city in 1975. From 1948 until 1969, the facility was the location of the Campbell Street elementary and high schools, which closed in 1969 to comply with the school district's desegregation plans. John H. Dickerson Sr., former principal of Campbell Street Elementary School, was instrumental in convincing the City Commission to purchase the property and renovate the building for use as a community center. The building was renamed in Dickerson's honor in 1979.

Before

After

City seeks public input in Annual Action Plan

The city's Redevelopment and Neighborhood Services Department drafted an Annual Action Plan outlining programs and activities using Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Grant (HOME) funds. These funds support programs that principally benefit low to moderate income households in Daytona Beach. A draft summary of the Annual Action Plan is available for citizens, public agencies and other interested parties to review at City Hall during business hours. The public is encouraged to provide feedback on the plan. Comments should be submitted by Aug. 2 at the close of business. Written comments can be sent to CommunityDevelopment@CODB.us.



Daytona Beach students maintain or improve proficiency in core subjects

On Florida's most recent academic assessments, students from Volusia County Schools, and specifically students attending Daytona Beach's public schools, maintained or improved their proficiency in core subjects, according to the results released late last month.

Students took several assessments including a statewide science assessment for grades 5 and 8, end-of-course exams in all subjects for middle school students and the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking, or FAST, a progress monitoring assessment given three times a year for mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) for grades 3 through 10. The 2022-23 school year was the first year that the FAST system was in place.

Results of testing show growth in Daytona Beach's 10 public schools. Achievement levels range from Level 1 to Level 5 with Level 3 indicating on-grade-level proficiency.

Elementary Schools

- Students scoring Level 3 and above on the Grade 3 ELA increased or maintained in five of six schools.
- Students scoring Level 3 and above on the Grade 4 ELA increased or maintained in all schools.
- Champion Elementary students scoring Level 3 and above on the Grade 4 ELA increased by 21 points.
- Palm Terrace Elementary students scoring Level 3 and above on the Grade 4 ELA increased by 28 points.
- Students scoring Level 3 and above on the Grade 4 Math increased in five of six schools.
- Students scoring Level 3 and above increased for Grades 3, 4 and 5 at R.J. Longstreet and Turie T. Small.

- Turie T. Small Elementary increased or maintained in all tested areas.
- Westside Elementary and R.J. Longstreet Elementary increased in six out of seven tested areas.
- Students scoring Level 3 and above on the Grade 5 science increased in four of six schools.

Middle Schools

- All middle schools increased or maintained in seven of ten tested subjects.
- Students scoring Level 3 and above on the Grade 8 math increased for all middle schools.
- Students scoring Level 3 and above in algebra, geometry and civics increased for all middle schools.

High Schools

- Students scoring Level 3 and above on the Grade 9 and Grade 10 ELA increased at all schools.
- Students scoring Level 3 and above increased for five of six tested subjects at all schools.
- Students scoring Level 3 and above in biology and geometry increased at all schools.

IN THE WORKS

Army Corps of Engineers study *(In progress)*: Since receiving news earlier this year that Daytona Beach was included in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 2023 Work Plan to conduct a feasibility study to address chronic flooding in the city's core, the process of drafting an agreement between the two partners has been underway. It is typically a 6-8 month process since the city is receiving the entire cost of the study from the federal government. A first draft has been completed and a review is underway by attorneys from both agencies. Once the agreement is approved by the city and USACE's district office, it will be forwarded to USACE's headquarters and to the Assistant Secretary of the Army Civil Works for final review. The USACE estimates the agreement signing will take place in November.

US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Jacksonville District

Daisy Stocking Park *(Soon to be under construction)*: Improvements to Daisy Stocking Park are scheduled to begin at the end of this month. Construction fencing will be placed around the four-acre park and then the demolition of the concrete seating area will begin. Underground utility work, grading and installing footers for the large shade structures will start after demolition. The $2.3 million project is being funded in part from the Florida African-American Cultural and Historical Grant program ($1 million) and Daytona Beach Racing and Recreational Facilities District ($330,000).

Daytona Beach Pier *(Completed)*: Repairs to the eastern portion of the Daytona Beach Pier have been completed. The iconic structure was damaged in last year's hurricanes. More than 30 pilings had to either fixed or replaced and portions of the substructure and decking were rebuilt. The fishing section of the pier should be reopened by the end of this month or earlier if possible.

Heineman Water Tank *(Under construction):* Construction is nearly 60% completed on the Heineman water storage tank, located in the rear of Suburbia Park. The tank contractor is working on the finish coat and dismantling the interior tank shoring, scaffolding and plywood. Block work on the nearby high-service pump house is nearly complete and the roof trusses have been delivered. The pumps are expected to be delivered in August. The $12.4 million project remains on schedule to be completed in early 2024.

The city's Summer Fun on the Run is bringing summer camp to youth in neighborhoods throughout the city. The next Summer Fun on the Run will be 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Thursday, July 20**, at Lakeside Village where participants can enjoy music, arts and crafts, basketball lessons and refreshments.

Purple Heart Ceremony, Aug. 2

Join us at 5:45 p.m. **Wednesday, Aug. 2**, for a National Purple Heart Day ceremony to honor the sacrifices of men and women who have been wounded or killed while serving in the U.S. military.

Mayor Derrick L. Henry, city officials and community veteran organizations will participate in a flag-raising ceremony in front of City Hall, followed by a wreath-laying in Commission Chambers before the 6 p.m. City Commission meeting.

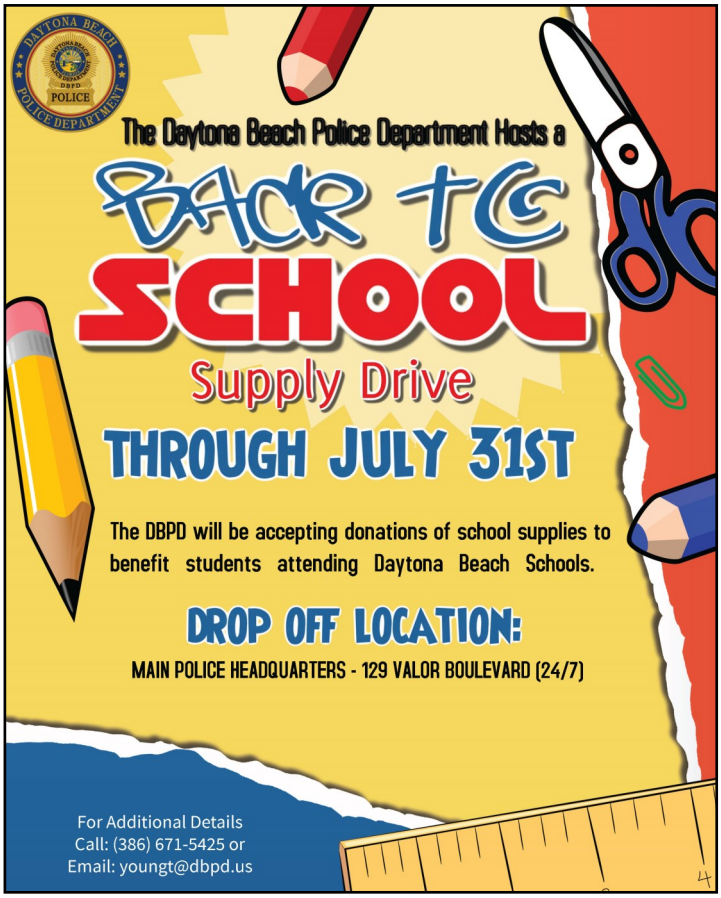
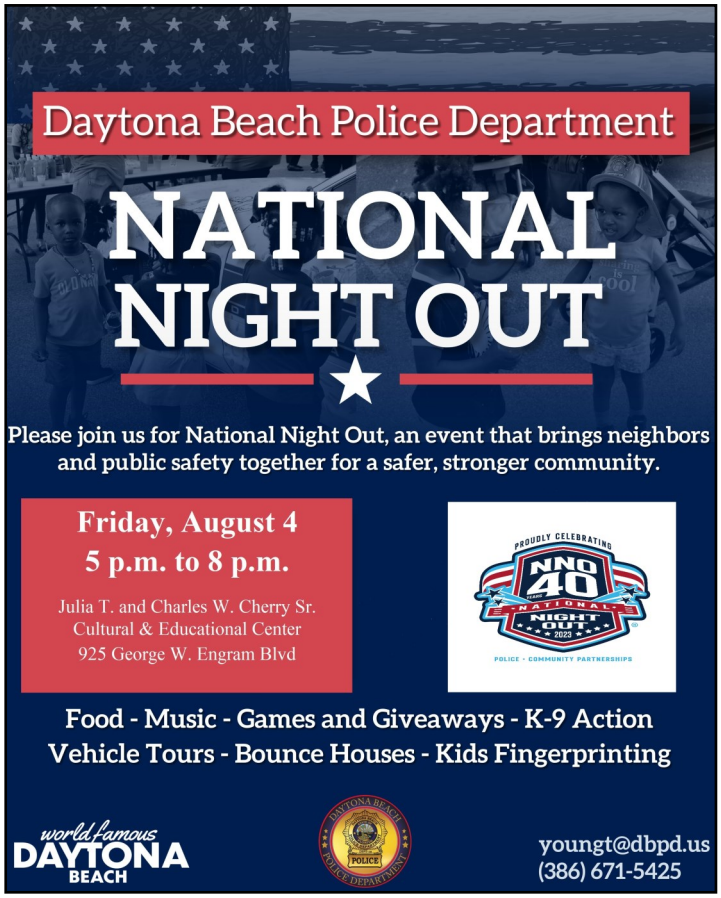
The Purple Heart is the oldest military award still presented to American service members. National Purple Heart Day is Monday, Aug. 7.

Police Department offers vacation home checks

Summer is the perfect time to head out of town for a vacation. When you're planning to be away from home for an extended period of time, as a resident of Daytona Beach, you can request a vacation house check by the Daytona Beach Police Department.

When available, an officer with the Citizen on Patrol program will periodically check your home and have your contact information in case of an emergency. Vacation house checks include a physical and visual inspection of the perimeter, doors and windows of the home.

While the "checks" don't guarantee a burglary or other crime won't take place, they can provide you with additional peace of mind. This is a free service.

How to request a Vacation Home Check

To request a check, call (386) 671-5364 and provide your address, contact information and dates you'll be away.