

AUG. 2, 2023

# City Manager's Update



## Coming soon...Daytona Aquarium & Rainforest Adventure

*Daytona Mall has new tenant and city will have a new attraction*

New life is being pumped into the Daytona Mall – sea life that is. Work is underway by a private developer to open the Daytona Aquarium & Rainforest Adventure on the south end of the Daytona Mall (formerly Burlington), which is on the northwest corner of Nova Road and International Speedway Boulevard.



Cliff Grosvenor, who first discovered Daytona Beach during one of his visits from Pennsylvania to enjoy Bike Week about 12 years ago, is the visionary behind the aquarium. He enjoyed the people and area so much that about 10 years ago he bought a home. “My vision is to have a hybrid aquarium with mammals and reptiles from around the world with a lot of opportunities for conservation and education,” he said.

Grosvenor is no stranger to aquariums as he has owned and operated the Electric City Aquarium & Reptile Den in Scranton, Pennsylvania, for about five years. While the Daytona Aquarium will be similar, plans call for it to be about 55,000 square feet, which is about twice the size of the aquarium in Pennsylvania. The estimated investment for the initial phase is about \$3.5 million, and he has a 20-year lease on the property.

Residents of the Daytona Aquarium will include fish, sharks and stingrays, birds, sloths and reptiles including alligators and crocodiles. There will be a room with more than 20 species of frogs, an area with lizards, chameleons, a giant Asian water monitor and multiple species of reptiles.



Shark exhibit at Electric City Aquarium & Reptile Den.

Other exhibits include piranhas and electric eels, seahorses, jellyfish, a Giant Pacific octopus and many coral reef and fish from around the world. A 110,000 gallon tank will be home to multiple species of sharks, and there will be overhead fish tanks for people to walk under. Kids will be able to have a hands-on experience at the stingray or invertebrate touch pools, and the education

classroom will be able to accommodate up to 200 people. During phase two, the rainforest area and snake den will open, and birds will be added to the many species who call the aquarium home. In later phases, Grosvenor hopes to add penguins, otters and an outdoor waterfall.

“It is all a process,” Grosvenor said. “We have to get the appropriate permits for the different species and then bring them here and get them settled. We plan to have many different phases of new experiences opening over the next couple of years. We want people to keep coming back.”



Cliff Grosvenor is overseeing the buildout of the new aquarium.

Once opened, Grosvenor estimates he'll employ about 30-40 people who will help with everything from ticket sales and taking care of the animals to staff for the gift shop and café. The aquarium will also have an arcade and be able to accommodate corporate groups and birthday parties.

Phase one is scheduled to be opened by the end of the year if everything goes as planned with construction, and phase two will open in fall 2024.

## Mayor Henry outlines efforts to address safety in Seabreeze area

During a press conference at City Hall on Tuesday morning, Mayor Derrick I. Henry outlined his strategies for improving public safety in the entertainment area along Seabreeze Boulevard. "It concerns me because honestly, I have gone to too many funerals, both relatives and folks I know in the community," Henry said. After receiving timelines of up to six months to install high-tech security cameras due to the limited availability of FDOT-approved poles, Henry announced he wants to expedite the placement of cameras by asking business owners to partner with the city to put cameras on their property while waiting for the installation of city cameras. The cost for the city-owned cameras is \$100,000 of which Commissioner Ken Strickland, whose zone includes the Seabreeze corridor, provided \$80,000 of his Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund allocation to help fund the initiative. Henry will contribute \$20,000 for the project, which he hopes will help deter crime as well as aid law enforcement in their investigation once a crime occurs.

In addition to the placement of cameras, there is a need for improved lighting. FPL has agreed to upgrade lighting on the street with brighter LED fixtures. Work should be completed this month to better illuminate the crosswalks from Halifax to Atlantic avenues to improve pedestrian safety.

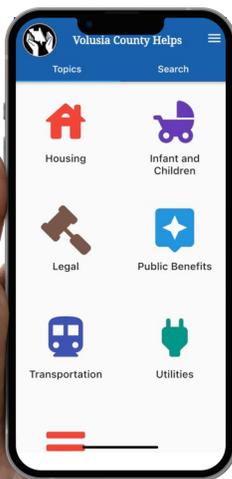
Henry also discussed the city's issuance of extended hours permits, which allows bars, nightclubs and lounges to stay open until 2 a.m. There are currently 13 businesses on Seabreeze Blvd. and Grandview Ave. with extended hours permits.

The mayor vowed to review the requirements and work with businesses to possibly add more measures. "The City Commission will have a discussion to add greater requirements including the possibility of adding metal detectors," he added.



Pictured is an example of what the city-installed cameras will look like. The quad-lens cameras give a full 360° view and four areas of interest.

## County launches social service app



Quick and easy access to information about community services is available in a new app.

Volusia Helps is an up-to-date, centralized resource for residents, social service providers, law enforcement and medical professionals to identify available services offered in Volusia County.

The free app can be downloaded on Apple

and Android devices. A desktop option can be found at [vcservices.vcgov.org/VolusiaHelps](https://vcservices.vcgov.org/VolusiaHelps).

For assistance or questions regarding the app, contact Community Services Operations Manager Corry Brown at [cabrown@volusia.org](mailto:cabrown@volusia.org).



Representatives from Daytona Beach and Bayonne, located in the southwest region of France, gathered during the final days of the Bayonne Festival recently to commemorate the 25th year of being sister cities. Promoting international friendship, Daytona Beach and Bayonne have offered exchange programs, tours and cultural events throughout the 25-year partnership.



# IN THE WORKS



**Beville Road Multipurpose Trail (nearly complete):** Construction of the Beville Road trail is substantially complete. Repairs were made to fill in gaps in damaged areas and a few minor items are left to be finished. The 2.1-mile sidewalk along the south side of Beville Road is open for residents' leisure. A ribbon cutting date will be announced soon.



**Daytona Stadium (under construction):** Following the removal of the aged individual seats on the home side (pictured below), installation of new seating is set to begin next week. Weather proofing of the entire stadium is substantially finished; however, after testing, a few sections were identified as areas needing to be resealed.



**City Hall Bathrooms (under construction):** The \$99,000 project to remodel City Hall's second floor men's and women's bathrooms began last week. Renovations will make the restrooms ADA-compliant and add new flooring, partitions, fixtures and finishes. The restrooms will be closed throughout the 45-day construction period. Restrooms located on the first floor remain available for the public's use.



**International Speedway Boulevard (Under construction):** Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) project to improve roadway safety along East International Speedway Boulevard from the bridge to Atlantic Avenue is well underway. The FDOT project team, along with crews for the city and local utility agencies, currently have westbound traffic shifted to the south and the previous two-way left turn lane is now for through traffic. The traffic shift was necessary for upcoming roadway widening and to facilitate the construction of a storm drain system. Local utility agencies are completing utility work; FPL energized the main line underground and TECO installed a new 8" hot gas line. TECO also removed old lines this week and successfully closed Halifax Ave. to allow for the removal of the abandoned line. Daytime lane closures are anticipated this week at Oleander and Halifax avenues the following week.



## Coke Zero Sugar 400 city fundraiser benefits local youth

Each year the city provides scholarships for qualifying youth to participate in its recreational programs. This year, NASCAR has partnered with the city to offer a discounted ticket to the Coke Zero Sugar 400, with \$5 of every ticket sold benefitting the Parks & Recreation Scholarship Fund. The race is at 7 p.m. **Saturday, Aug. 26.**



### City of Daytona Beach Ticket Package

- \$45 per person (seating in sections 308-313)
- Participate in track walk prior to the race (time and more details to be provided closer to the race)

Visit <https://bit.ly/DBSpeedwayTickets> to purchase tickets, which should be bought before Wednesday, Aug. 16. To purchase youth tickets, paid parking or UNOH Fan Zone, email Jillian Hoy at [jhoy@nascar.com](mailto:jhoy@nascar.com).

**DICKERSON RECREATION COMPLEX**  
**Reopening**  
**SATURDAY, AUG. 5**  
 STARTS AT 9 AM TO NOON

308 S. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD.

**CHRIS MCNEIL**  
 MIDTOWN MUSIC CONCERT SERIES  
 7 PM | SATURDAY, AUG. 19  
 CYPRESS PARK, 981 GEORGE W. ENGRAM BLVD.

SPONSORED BY  
 CODE US/MIDTOWNMUSIC Humana United Way

## CVB hosts listening session, Aug. 15

The Daytona Beach Area Convention & Visitors Bureau will continue with its series of Community Tourism Listening Sessions at noon **Tuesday, Aug. 15**, at the News-Journal Center, 221 N. Beach St. Following the listening session, attendees will be able to tour the News-Journal Center.

Space is limited. Attendees should RSVP no later than Monday, Aug. 14, to [info@daytonabeach.com](mailto:info@daytonabeach.com) or by calling (386) 255-0415 ext. 110. Those unable to attend the session are encouraged to email their input directly to Executive Director Lori Campbell Baker at [lcb@daytonabeach.com](mailto:lcb@daytonabeach.com) or call (386) 255-0415 ext. 120.

**SOUNDS of SUMMER 2023 CONCERT SERIES**  
 AT THE DAYTONA BEACH OCEANFRONT BANDSHELL

**AUGUST 2023 LINE UP**  
 FREE CONCERTS EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT • \$15 VIP TICKETS AVAILABLE

AUG 4	<b>NUTHIN' FANCY</b> Lynyrd Skynyrd Tribute
AUG 11	<b>KC 70'S PARTY BAND &amp; BACK IN TIME</b> KC & The Sunshine Band + Huey Lewis Tribute
AUG 18	<b>FAST FORWARD</b> Kenny Chesney Tribute
AUG 25	<b>WELCOME TO DESTRUCTION</b> Guns N' Roses Tribute

70 BOARDWALK, DAYTONA BEACH, FL • 386.671.3472  
 DAYTONABANDSHELL.COM

**Food Trucks**  
 Magnolia Ave

**DOWNTOWN DAYTONA BEACH**  
**FRIDAY, AUGUST 4**  
 5:00 - 9:00 PM

Featuring the area's best FOOD TRUCKS!