

OCT. 18, 2023

# City Manager's Update



## Riverfront Esplanade opens and exceeds public's expectations

What started with a community vision and a desire to rekindle a memory has come to reality with the opening of the Riverfront Esplanade. Reimagined into existence by local leaders J. Hyatt and Cici Brown, with the help of the city and the community, the final opening of the Esplanade was celebrated earlier this month with downtown merchants, community leaders and the public in a series of opening events marking the official opening of the southern portion.

"The future of downtown Daytona Beach is bright and much to my delight, the future is here," said Mayor Derrick L. Henry at the opening. "Thanks to Hyatt and Cici Brown's vision and extraordinary financial contribution, the Riverfront Esplanade is an absolute treasure for residents and visitors. Completion of this long-awaited project was worth the wait."

Extending from Main Street to Orange Avenue, the Riverfront Esplanade is now completely open and offers a sensory experience, whether you want to just relax and enjoy your surroundings or get some exercise in the beauty of this 22.5-acre manicured space along the Halifax River. Children can safely play in the splash pad, swings, slides and run in the open spaces. Furry friends can romp in the small and large areas of Brownie's Dog Park. (Dog owners must register and obtain an annual permit for entrance to the dog park.) Traveling the length of the river is a blue, cushioned trail ideal for runners and walkers. A sweeping event lawn with knolls and large oak trees has transformed the once-flat landscape. Swings for adults and children and benches allow for riverfront views, while sculpted ponds with color-change fountains are peppered throughout the area.

The Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Plaza at the intersection of MMB and Beach Street is a nod to the area and legacy of the great leader in a place that designers hope will bring inspiration. A Kress-building inspired restroom sits on what is now Manatee Plaza, which serves as a gateway to Manatee Island. There is a Ranger Station, and this area features an Osprey Tower and the Veterans monument with palm trees and color-changing fountains on each side. Behind the News-Journal Center, the Halifax River Overlook includes an ADA-compliant spiraling walkway and bench swings.

The overlook has been raised 10 feet and visitors to this area can enjoy enhanced views as they are elevated 15 feet above sea level. The walkway is also bordered by large coquina boulders, knitting it into the water's edge.

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Commissioner Quanita May, Commissioner Ken Strickland, Cici Brown, J. Hyatt Brown, Commissioner Monica Paris and Mayor Derrick L. Henry at the opening of the Riverfront Esplanade. (L-R)



# Don't be a victim of home repair financing scam

## Marketing mailers sent to homeowners

The State of Florida's Property Assessed Clean Energy loan program — also known as PACE — allows property owners to make upgrades to their house with no down payment and full financing. The Pace Program is intended to allow homeowners with less than excellent credit to qualify for these upgrades. This is in part because, subject to conditions, the Pace Program provides for the annual loan payments to be collected as part of the homeowner's annual property tax bill.

Sounds great, right? Well, not so fast. The old adage of "if something is too good to be true, it probably is" is a warning to heed. The City of Daytona Beach wants its citizens to know that PACE Program financing may come with high interest rates and predatory lending practices. Unlike traditional loans, PACE Program financing is exempt from the federal Truth in Lending Act, which requires lenders to fully disclose terms of loans.

If you are approached about financing upgrades to your home using PACE Program financing, please be advised that the City of Daytona Beach does not have an interlocal agreement with any of the PACE Program providers. A PACE Program provider, or a private vendor offering PACE Program financing, may tell you that an interlocal agreement is not needed. But an interlocal agreement with the local government agency is required by Florida Statutes. Because there is no interlocal agreement between the City of Daytona Beach and any PACE Program

providers, Daytona Beach residents who enter into PACE Program financing agreements will not have their loan repayments collected and distributed as part of their ad valorem tax bill. Instead, depending upon the wording of their specific PACE Program financing agreement, these residents will have to arrange for repayment under different terms and conditions. It is recommended to hire an attorney to review a proposed PACE Program financing

Several Daytona Beach residents have already entered into financing agreements with a PACE provider. These residents will be receiving a letter from the county's tax collector about this specific issue. The letter will include contact information for the PACE provider to get instructions on how to pay the PACE assessment this year. Residents with questions can call the Volusia County Tax Collector's office at (386)736-5938.



## DBPD offers anti-theft measure for specific Hyundai and Kia models

The Daytona Beach Police Department is offering free steering wheel locks to owners of certain theft-vulnerable models of Hyundai and Kia vehicles. While supplies last, locks will be given out at the front desk of the Police Department, 129 Valor Blvd.



To receive a free lock you must:

- Present valid ID with proof of Daytona Beach residency
- Present current vehicle registration

The front desk is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

For a list of eligible vehicles, visit [www.CODB.us](http://www.CODB.us).

## Meet & Greet for "On Patrol: Live" police officers Oct. 19

Fans of the "On Patrol: Live" television series, the live docuseries that highlights real-time work of police officers, have the chance to meet and greet their favorite Daytona Beach police officers featured on the popular show. The Meet and Greet will be 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, at the Police Department, 129 Valor Blvd. Food, music, raffles and photo ops will be offered during the two-hour event.



Sgt. Mike Bryant is one of the DBPD officers featured on the weekly show.

Hosted Friday and Saturday night's by Dan Abrams, "On Patrol: Live" is the most popular show broadcast on the niche cable channel Reelz, which is available in 40 million homes nationwide. Film crews have been riding along with Daytona Beach police officers for the last year.



# IN THE WORKS



**Dickerson Community Center Basketball Court** (*in progress*): New vinyl flooring is being installed starting this week in the Ralph Robinson gymnasium at the Dickerson Community Center, 308 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Removal of the existing floor is necessary because of issues with the materials in the original floor replacement project completed earlier this year. While the work is being done, the basketball court is closed, but the rest of the facility remains open.



**Florida Tennis Center** (*upcoming*): All 24 courts at the Florida Tennis Center will be resurfaced and the facility will have new fencing installed starting in early 2024. The project will be done simultaneously with six to eight courts under construction at a time. Replaced with new Har-Tru courts, resurfacing is expected to be finished within four months from when work begins. The new chain link fencing will have windscreen fabric, gates and black poles around the entire tennis area.



**Peninsula Club** (*completed*): Renovations are complete at the Peninsula Club, 415 S. Peninsula Drive. The new makeover includes updated windows, doors, lighting, painting and electrical work. In the near future, a new A/C will be installed along with new tables and chairs. The upgraded facility is open for residents from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and is available for rental by calling (386) 671-8250.



**Samuel Butts Youth Archaeological Park Restrooms** (*upcoming*): Improvements to the restroom facilities are expected to begin later this month. Renovations include new porcelain toilet fixtures, which will be installed by city crews, and a new epoxy floor that will be more durable than the current bathroom floor. While under construction, restrooms will be closed with portable toilets placed onsite for parkgoers use.



# Riverfront Esplanade opens

## *Continued from cover*

The southern portion is from International Speedway Boulevard to Orange Avenue and includes an elaborate splash pad, restroom facility, a rose garden with other themed botanical gardens, a water feature, a venue lawn and walking paths. Dozens of security cameras are located throughout the park, and the state-of-the-art system is monitored through a collaboration between park security personnel and local law enforcement.

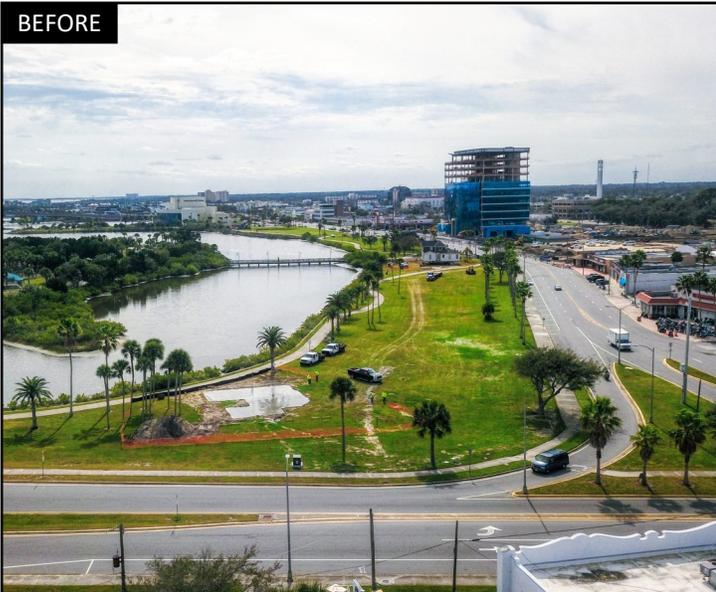
The transformation of the area was overseen by the Brown Riverfront Esplanade Foundation, which was established by the Browns in 2017, with the mission to restore the riverfront to its previous glory and facilitate the restoration, operation and revitalization of the Riverfront Esplanade.

Inspired by memories of his childhood spent along the riverfront, Chairman Hyatt Brown, along with the

Foundation’s Board, is committed to delivering a spectacular space where future generations can go to experience the charm of downtown Daytona Beach. To date, the Brown Riverfront Esplanade Foundation has invested more than \$37 million on the transformation of the park. The annual operating budget is \$2.2 million.

A full schedule of activities is planned for the Esplanade including live music, festivals, family and fitness activities as well as private and business events. The Riverfront Market is 8 to 11 a.m. on the last Sunday of each month featuring local vendors, music and a Wellness Walk at 8 a.m. The 2nd annual Winter Family Fest is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, with more than 90 artisans, vendors, music, face painting, food trucks and Santa.

For more information, follow the Riverfront Esplanade on Facebook and Instagram or visit their website at [www.RiverfrontEsplanade.com](http://www.RiverfrontEsplanade.com).





# UPCOMING

Events in Daytona Beach

## Children's Business Fair Saturday

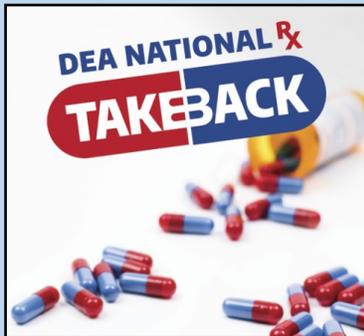
Support the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs at the 3rd Children's Business Fair happening 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Riverfront Esplanade.



Featuring up to 90 booths, kids will showcase their creativity and marketing skills at this community event. For more details, visit [www.RiverfrontEsplanade.com](http://www.RiverfrontEsplanade.com).

## Drug Take Back Day is Oct. 28

It is important to regularly clean out medicine cabinets because unused prescription drugs can find their way into the wrong hands, resulting in a dangerous or tragic scenario. Residents can safely dispose of unwanted or expired prescription drugs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at Daytona Beach Police Headquarters, 129 Valor Blvd. The drop off is part of National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which is organized by the Drug Enforcement Agency.



NEW LOCATION: CITY ISLAND PARK

PRESENTED BY ZONE 4 CITY COMMISSIONER STACY CANTU & CITY OF DAYTONA BEACH

**FREE EVENT**

**TRUNK or TREAT**

6 TO 8 P.M. TUESDAY, OCT. 31

FACE PAINTING, FOOD, GAMES & COSTUME CONTEST AT 7 P.M.

CITY ISLAND PARK, 113 JACKIE ROBINSON PARKWAY, DAYTONA BEACH

DETAILS AT [CODB.US](http://CODB.US)

## City hosts Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Nov. 4

Time to start cleaning out the garage! The City will host its Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Public Works Facility, 950 Bellevue Ave. Accepted items include paint and paint thinners, solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, household and pool chemicals, batteries, anti-freeze, car wax, light bulbs, motor oil and propane tanks.



For more information, contact Ajeenah Taylor at (386) 671-8670 or [TaylorAjeenah@codb.us](mailto:TaylorAjeenah@codb.us).

## Halifax Art Festival, Nov. 4-5

Visit downtown Daytona Beach Nov. 4-5 for the 61st annual Halifax Art Festival on historic Beach Street, from Orange Avenue to Bay Street.



The festival features juried local, regional and national original works of art from more than 200 artists. Admission is free and there is plenty of free parking behind the shops on Beach Street. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

DAYTONA BEACH

**SATURDAY**

**OCTOBER 28**

**3-10PM**

**Oktoberfest**

Beach Street - Daytona Beach

GERMAN MUSIC, BEER & FOOD

Schedule of Events

3:30 - 5:00 pm  
Dachshund & Small Breed Races  
Costume Contest  
Benefits Sophie's Circle  
Dog Friendly Event  
Registration & Info at [www.DowntownDaytonaBeachEvents.com](http://www.DowntownDaytonaBeachEvents.com)

5:00 - 6:30 pm  
**THE ROMANTICS**  
Enjoy the sounds of Oompah music, a lively and energetic genre of traditional German folk music.

7:00 - 9:30 pm  
**THE DYER DAVIS GROUP**  
Get ready to be Rocked and Blissified - an electrifying journey of pure enjoyment from start to finish!

Featuring