

SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

# CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE



## **\$10 million grant awarded for the relocation of Fire Station No. 1**

Daytona Beach has been awarded a \$10 million grant from the State of Florida to relocate and construct a new Fire Station No. 1, a vital step in enhancing the city's emergency response capabilities. The relocation addresses current vulnerabilities and positions the city's emergency services to meet the demands of its growing community.

**Strategically positioned on higher ground to safeguard against flooding and sea level rise, the new fire complex will be on a 3.6-acre site in the 400 block of South Ridgewood Avenue.**



Of the 197 eligible projects submitted for the competitive grant administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, the top 16 prioritized projects will be funded this year.

**Daytona Beach's grant submission ranked second.**

Fire Station No. 1, currently located at 301 S. Beach St. on the frequently inundated Halifax River, is Volusia County's busiest station, with more than 4,500 calls for service in 2023. It has served our community since 1925 and is Florida's second oldest continuously operating fire station. However, its waterfront location has left it highly vulnerable, necessitating evacuations during major storms in 2022, thereby hindering emergency operations.

The new site, just half a mile west and within the required response area, will ensure uninterrupted services, even during severe weather events.

The new two-story, 31,000-square-foot facility will be fortified to withstand hurricane winds up to 150 MPH and have advanced green infrastructure like solar panels.

It features a modern design with a roof contoured like a wave, red accents, floor-to-ceiling windows and exposed steel supports.



## Celebrating Excellence: *The Mayor's Honor Program Returns for its Second Year*

The Mayor's Honor Program is back for its second year, continuing its mission to celebrate the academic success and outstanding character of selected students across Daytona Beach's elementary and middle schools. Launched last year, the initiative quickly received enthusiastic support from principals, parents and the young achievers it celebrates.

Last school year, eight students from each participating school were selected for this prestigious honor. Their special day included a red-carpet walk leading to a limousine that whisked them away to a restaurant, where they enjoyed lunch with Mayor Derrick L. Henry, former Assistant City Manager Bettye Goodman and Educational Enrichment Coordinator Meryl Hether. Each student was given a goody bag and a certificate to commemorate their achievement.

This year's program is already gaining momentum, with eight local restaurants generously sponsoring the lunches for the honorees:

- Bahama Breeze, 1786 W. International Speedway Blvd.
- Bonefish Grill, 1702 W. International Speedway Blvd.
- Cheddar's, 1770 W. International Speedway Blvd.
- Crabby's Oceanside, 451 S. Atlantic Ave.
- Longhorn Steakhouse, 2504 W. International Speedway Blvd.
- Olive Garden, 1780 W. International Speedway Blvd.
- Outback Steakhouse, 1735 W. International Speedway Blvd.
- Stonewood Grill & Tavern, 2150 LPGA Blvd.

As the program gears up for another year, principals will soon be invited to select this year's outstanding students.

### Lacing up for a good cause

For more than 30 years, city employees have participated in the annual Volusia-Flagler Heart Walk, which raises money for the American Heart Association (AHA). This year's walk is 5:45 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, at Daytona International Speedway.

**The city has five teams with a fundraising goal of \$7,500.**

Longtime city employee Toni Hollis shared her journey and the crucial role the AHA has had in her life.



"I've worked for the city since 2000, currently in Fleet Maintenance. **At age 2, I was diagnosed with a third-degree heart block**, and in 1965, medical options were limited. At 29, my pulse dropped to 28, leading to emergency surgery for my first pacemaker. Since then, I've been 100% dependent on it for survival.

**I'm deeply grateful for the AHA, whose efforts allow people like me to wake up and appreciate each day. Thank you for your support and the life-saving work you help make possible."**



By registering for the Heart Walk today, you are taking the first step to save lives. **Every walker who joins, and every dollar donated** means more research, more people trained in life-saving CPR, more medical breakthroughs and more champions for equitable health.

# IN THE WORKS



## **"Still My Guitar Gently Leaps" mural** *(under construction):*

Earlier this summer, work started on a vibrant mural on the exterior wall at Total Entertainment, a long-standing business in the Midtown Redevelopment Area. Located at 501 W. International Speedway Blvd., the mural features colorful musical instruments on the business' west-facing wall. Expected to be finished by October, the mural is a collaborative effort between property owner Steve Weinreich and local artist Natasha Azari. This is the seventh mural sponsored by the city and is funded from its American Rescue Plan Act funds.

## **Main Street Arch Beach Approach** *(under construction):*

An emergency purchase order has been put in place to address structural issues at the iconic Main Street Coquina Arch at the beach access ramp. Demolition is expected to begin in the next few weeks. New internal concrete beams and external coquina rock will be installed as part of the emergency work. The existing walkway and north stairwell will stay in place. The \$830,000 project is expected to be finished by summer 2025.



## **Sidewalk upgrades around Midtown schools** *(upcoming):*

Construction to improve the sidewalks around Turie T. Small Elementary School and Campbell Middle School will begin in spring. Improvements are intended to provide safer routes for schoolchildren and their parent escorts who walk and ride bicycles to school.

**Sidewalks will be repaired, widened and made ADA-compliant on the following streets:**

Cedar Street, from Jean Street to Keech Street  
Keech Street, from South Street to Cedar Street  
South Street, from Keech Street to Cedar Park Drive

The tentative construction start is March 2025, with completion in January 2026. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant from the Florida Department of Transportation is funding the \$1.6 million project. The SRTS is a statewide initiative designed to give funds to local municipalities to improve pedestrian safety near schools.

# UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS



## Youth basketball training offered

*at Cherry Cultural & Educational Center*

Elite Basketball Drills & Skills Development will offer free basketball training from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday Sept. 28 and Saturday, Oct. 5.



## The Benefits of Bees

*at Breakers Environmental Learning Center, 13 S. Atlantic Ave.*

Presentation at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 21. Learn all things about bees and their important role in our planet.



## Daytona Beach Police Department National Night Out

*Jackie Robinson Ballpark,  
105 E. Orange Ave.*

Tuesday, Oct. 1, from 5 to 8 p.m. The annual National Night Out event is a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.



## Homework Heroes tutoring

*at Cherry Cultural & Educational Center*

A new free tutoring program starts Monday, Sept. 9 at the Cherry Cultural & Educational Center 5 to 7:30 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**RIVERFRONT**  
SHOPS OF  
DAYTONA BEACH

### First Friday ArtWalk

Sept. 6 at 5 to 9 p.m.

### Downtown Daytona Nights: Food Trucks

Sept. 6 at 5 to 9 p.m.

### Riverfront Market at the Riverfront Esplanade

Sept. 29 at 10 to 3 p.m.



## Cold-Blooded Meet & Greet

*at Breakers Environmental Learning Center*

Meet your favorite scaly friends at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25

*world famous*  
**DAYTONA**  
**BEACH**

*View Online*

