VIRTUAL RECREATION PROGRAM A SUCCESS!

The COVID-19 Pandemic required the City to take appropriate actions to slow the spread of the virus, while creating resources that promote the critical role of parks & recreation in our community.

In order to provide additional recreational activities during this time, the City of DeBary’s Parks and Recreation department kicked off its free virtual programming. Staff created fun things for families to do while they were at home together. Each week in May there was a theme for the activities, including a sport of the week. DeBary families had fun participating in arts & crafts and food crafts projects, Scavenger Hunts, a Fitness Challenge, and several themed activities such as “Quarantine Olympics” and “Nature Bingo”.

Participants in the events sent us their photos along the way for their chance to win prizes. Two of the most popular events were the “Nailed It” Competition where the children of DeBary decorated a Cupcake. The pictures of the amazing cupcakes created were posted on Facebook for the community to vote for their favorite. Walker Meagher age 7 won the “Nailed It” Competition with his Oscar cupcake.

We also had a “Chalk Your Walk” Competition to brighten up the sidewalks of DeBary. Payton San age 4 won the Chalk Your Walk competition with a picture welcoming home her new baby sister.

All the competitions and activities were a lot of fun for the entire community to enjoy!
CITY MANAGER’S CORNER

DEBARY’S COVID – 19 EXPERIENCE

In my 36 years of government management experience, I have led organizations through forest fires, hurricanes, tornados and floods, but never a pandemic. My article today is to provide you an insider look how local government manages the challenges of not only keeping the public safe, but our own employees as well.

I can tell you that the communication, coordination and teamwork among all of the leaders of Volusia County and the 16 municipal governments was outstanding. Chairman Ed Kelley and all of the Mayors had multiple conference calls every week. City Managers conferenced three times a week to discuss vital issues, strategize public action plans and promote consistency. These leaders did a great job deciphering the overwhelming change in policy and regulations coming simultaneously from three levels of government and each of their agencies. The implementation at the local level was extraordinary.

In DeBary, we took a common sense approach. Even though the Governor’s Executive Order 20-91 encouraged residents to stay-at-home and restricted business activity, we decided to keep our parks open. We strongly believe that our residents could enjoy our parks while meeting the social distancing guidelines and sanitation requirements. We did close playgrounds for a short period of time as a precautionary measure to protect kids.

We were disappointed that we had to cancel our Fourth of July Celebration. With every municipality cancelling their fireworks within a 30-mile radius, the anticipated volume of traffic and spectators, especially out-of-towners, would have overwhelmed our staff and community logistically.

Our businesses were impacted as well. We temporarily relaxed our sign regulations to assist restaurants and other retail establishments in their quest to survive in a take-out or drive-up only world. As Phase 1 was implemented, we again allowed restaurants and retail establishment to temporarily expand their footprint and use their sidewalks and parking lots for seating, signage or merchandise display. We worked with Volusia County to establish a grant program for businesses that were impacted financially by COVID-19. We reached out to nearly every brick and mortar business in DeBary to notify and assist them in applying for this grant. To date, over 75 DeBary businesses applied for this grant. Probably our greatest success, most, if not all of our businesses are still open today. This can be greatly attributed to you, our residents, who came out and supported them during this tough time.

I would be remiss not to mention the great job our employees did during this time. Through the periods of information overload, rapid pace of change, alternative work sites and more, they delivered. I cannot say enough about our brave first responders who kept our community safe and our employees who assured government services were provided. Knock on wood, none of our first responders or employees have been affected by COVID-19. A blessing to say the least.

In the community, time and time again, we saw DeBarians helping each other, giving free meals and toilet paper, sewing masks, and sharing information to keep our residents safe and help them through tough economic times. It is what a small town community is all about.

Today, our City Hall, parks, playgrounds and splash pad are all open. Babe Ruth is restarting their baseball and softball seasons. As we move towards getting back to normal, we have still more work to do. We know many you may have questions on where to turn for resources such as financial impact and health related concerns. We have added much of that information in this newsletter. In addition, our website, DeBary.org has a COVID-19 page listing all the resources available including rent/mortgage/utility assistance, business assistance, testing information, and more. Just click on the red banner up top. If you are on Facebook or NextDoor, be sure to follow us for the most update to information as well. Rest assured, your City government is poised and ready. Take care.

Carmen Rosamonda
City Manager
The county contracted with the United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties to administer the grant program, which is funded as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ("CARES") Act federal stimulus package. Funds shall be used to assist in recovery from the negative financial consequences resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and to relaunch their Volusia County nonprofit. For assistance and additional information, call 386-253-0563.

**MORTGAGE, RENTAL AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE**

Volusia County’s Community Assistance Division is able to provide up to $2,000 in rent and utility assistance. Call 386-239-7757 to schedule an appointment.

Volusia County is providing mortgage assistance for qualified homeowners. More information for the program can be found [https://www.volusia.org/services/community-services/community-assistance/housing-and-grants-administration/c19ma.stml](https://www.volusia.org/services/community-services/community-assistance/housing-and-grants-administration/c19ma.stml)

The State of Florida will allow the County to provide up to 3 months rental assistance to eligible individuals and families. Applications may be submitted electronically at [www.volusia.org/C19RA](http://www.volusia.org/C19RA).

**FOOD ASSISTANCE**

CUMC DeBary Food Pantry is open each Wednesday and the 3rd Saturday of each month 9:00-10:30 AM to distribute bags of groceries to those in need. CUMC is located at 41 West Highbanks Road, DeBary.

**Food Pantry**

Community United Methodist Church
41 W. Highbanks Road • DeBary, FL 32713
386-668-4805
hungerministry@cumcdebary.org

The food pantry at Community United Methodist Church is open from 9:00 am to 10:30 am every Wednesday and every third Saturday serving residents of DeBary and Orange City. During this social distancing period, we are distributing in the driveway. A guest only needs to pull up, register, have groceries loaded into vehicle and be on their way. Walkers and bicycles are also welcome.
Throughout the Pandemic, our parks remained open for our residents to enjoy the outdoors, while maintaining safe social distancing guidelines. For health reasons, our playgrounds were closed but reopened on May 29th and will continued to be sanitized on a regular basis. Our splashpad reopened on May 30th and will be open Tuesday – Sunday, from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm. It will be closed on Mondays for regular maintenance. Again, social distancing guidelines are in place.

With the health and safety of our residents and staff our foremost priority, the City of DeBary, along with many other cities in Volusia, canceled the July 4th program and fireworks. We look forward to next year to build on the success of the 2019 program.

As we continue to move forward, we are devising plans for a safe relaunch of our activities. The City offers several Youth and Adult Recreation programs all year round and we hope to open these soon. Please check debaryrecreation.org later this summer for updates, season and registration dates on our Fall programs and more!

**YOUTH SOCCER**
- Ages: 6-14 years
- Fee: $30 for 3-5 year olds
- $60 for 6-14 year olds

**YOUTH TUMBLING**
- Ages: 3-12 years
- Fee: $30 for 3-5 year olds
- $60 for 6-12 year olds

**ADULT KICKBALL**
- Ages: 18 and Up
- Fee: $300 Per Team
As COVID-19 began impacting our community, DeBary staff immediately implemented programs in order to keep our citizens informed, and both residents and staff safe.

A new page was created on our website containing information on CDC guidelines, symptoms, testing, and other important facts about the virus. As we moved through the crisis, information on grant assistance, for both individuals and businesses was added. This page is a “One-Stop-Shop” for all federal, state, and local resources, providing direct links to applications.

The City also launched its live stream infosessions in order to ensure DeBary residents have the most updated information on the situation. Presented weekly, the session featured an update from City staff along with a guest to provide detailed information on a specific topic. Guests included Congressman Mike Waltz, Representative David Santiago, Sheriff Chitwood, Volusia Council member Barbara Girtman, and others who had vital information. The sessions can be viewed at livestream.com/debary.

As we continue to move forward, these sessions are transitioning to monthly sessions, with the June session focusing on Hurricane Preparedness. It featured Volusia County Emergency Management Director Jim Judge, providing important information as Hurricane Season begins.

We hope our residents find these sessions useful. They are held typically on Tuesdays at 11:00 am. Please be sure to follow us on Facebook (@cityofdebary) and NextDoor (CityofDeBary) to ensure you are receiving the most up to date information.

**Know Your Watering Days**

**Watering Restrictions**

Watering is only allowed before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of year</th>
<th>Odd numbered or no addresses</th>
<th>Even numbered addresses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daylight Savings Time</td>
<td>Wednesday/Saturday</td>
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<td>(Spring &amp; Summer)</td>
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<td>Eastern Standard Time</td>
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<td>(Fall &amp; Winter)</td>
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For information about the watering restrictions and exceptions, visit www.sjrwmd.com/wateringrestrictions
DeBary congratulates our 2020 Seniors!

Gavin Willhelm Aagaard
Brooke Ashlee Adams
Reagan Elise Adkins
Nicholas Andrew Adorno
Yanileysi Algarin Martinez
Yaniska Algarin Martinez
Austin Bergevine Amaral
Halie Jo Amodeo
Serena Faith Anderson
Jaycen Jevon Andrews
Ian Michael Arnold
Chandler Blake Arthur
Isabel Marie Astacio
Jackson Bennett Baker
Raven Galatea Ball
Evan Hong Hung Banh
Chandler Kenneth Bare
Austin Reid Barrett
Christopher William Barry
Emily Basdeo
Shane Austin Beaudoin
Bryson Samuel Becker
Alec Michael Becks
Katelyn Nicole Beegle
Ashlynn Bender
Weston Robert Bergman
Candace Michelle Beske
Krysta Lynn Beske
Julian Taylor Bonner
Celecia Nicole Booth
Dylan Alexander Breton
Cassidy Marie Broome
Taylor Alexis Brown
Kyrah Cathryn Burch
Ricardo Leon Burney
Robin Leigh Caldwell
Angel Antonio Candelario Pagan
Alexandra Grace Carroll
Jake Dominic Cianciotto
Lanny Alan Clark
Anjali Aneesh Collins
Michael Krishna Collins
Alicia Katelyn Concannon
Nevaeh Brittany Connolly
Hailey Elizabeth Conrad
Alexandra Grace Conti Benkert
Cade Augustin Couvillon
Aiden Lewis Cover
Ethan James Crane
Shayron Ramysh Cruz Baez
Adam Mitchell Dasch
Makayla Lynn Davis
Michael Richard Davy
Jorge A Dean
Alfonso Alberto De Castro
Kaden James Deemer
Jack Dylan D’Errico
Brianna Nicole Diehl
Anna Colette Dillenseger
James Michael Dorton
Karina Amaris Duque
Tyler Benjamine Eckman
Anastasia X Ehling
Ashley Nicole Ehlinger
Coral Dawn Estes
Veronica Fernandez
Madison Marie Fields King
Abigail Figueroa
Kellan Ryan Flanary
Makayla Rose Franco
Genevieve Nicole Frederiksen
Angel Jonathan Garcia
Did you know that the City of DeBary may require permits for clearing natural vegetation? All land clearing is prohibited without first obtaining a development order, or building permit. This includes the removal of any wetlands, wetland vegetation, vegetation in its natural state, brush and trees of any size. In order to “clear” or “mow” under brush, or other natural vegetation, a property owner must first obtain the proper permits. By clearing the natural vegetation of the land in any way, it’s considered development, which requires a permit. Development of land includes clearing, scraping, grubbing, killing, or otherwise removing vegetation from a site.

The reason for these requirements is, that if someone “mows” or “clears” the underbrush, it potentially destroys the habitat of threatened or endangered species or environmentally sensitive wetlands that may be protected under state or federal law. Therefore, it’s important that an environmental professional be hired by the landowner to perform an assessment and confirming the presence or absence of wetlands or protected species on the property as part of the permitting process prior to any disturbance.

There are even instances where subdivisions were developed and conservation easements were dedicated across certain areas of residential lots (typically along the rear of the properties). This is usually identified on a plat that is recorded with the Volusia County Clerk of the Court. By contacting the City before clearing any natural vegetation first, you can help to ensure that no local, state or federal codes are violated.

For additional information of permitting requirements, please contact the City Growth Management Department at 386-601-0238.

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After a severe storm, garbage services may be disrupted. Residents should follow regular service schedules, and watch for service changes published in the local news media or on the city web-site. The City of DeBary will follow best management practices, and depending on the severity of the storm there may be only one debris pick up, or there may be a delayed pick up. Areas of the city that are hardest hit will be assigned a higher degree of urgency. Neighborhoods that are not as bad will have to be patient for debris pick up. The entire city will receive a first pass before crews make a second pass, if necessary.

Storm debris should be placed in your yard near the road. Don’t place hurricane debris in the roadway as it obstructs traffic, hinders cleanup and power restoration efforts, and makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to pass. Avoid placing debris next to fire hydrants, over storm drains, or in a position where the claw truck may not be able to reach due to overhead obstructions. If your yard is a higher priority, residents may take storm debris to the landfill at the residents cost.

Construction debris is not included in normal collection service. Vegetative debris (leaves, logs, plants, tree branches, etc.) will not be picked up if it is mixed with construction and demolition debris (building materials, asphalt shingles, drywall, lumber, metal, plastics, etc.).

If you hire a contractor to take down a tree, handle large tree debris, or manage household damage, the contractor is required by law to take the debris to the proper landfill. The contractor must pull a city permit prior to any tree removal. The contractor cannot place debris next to the roadway, and if the contractor fails to remove the debris the cost and responsibility to remove the debris is the residents. If the situation is an emergency than a city official may provide immediate authorization upon inspection.

FEMA guidelines for debris and debris management are very specific. The City of DeBary must follow the established FEMA guidelines.

Commercial establishments are responsible for arranging for their own storm debris pickup and disposal.
LOCK IT to STOP IT!
Criminals like ‘Easy’

Car thieves, like home burglars, look for easy targets. Too many vehicle owners obligingly leave doors unlocked, windows open, or their keys in the vehicle. Criminals usually do not want to be seen, heard or take an excessive amount of time to break in.

You might think it won’t happen to you. Most victims of vehicle burglaries and thefts thought the same thing when they left their doors unlocked. Don’t sacrifice security for a few seconds of convenience!

**Tips for Prevention**

- Lock your vehicle, take your keys with you.
- Park in a garage whenever possible.
- Activate an alarm.
- Never leave valuables in plain sight.
- Remove your garage door remote.
- Remove number codes from your keys.
- For truck owners, lock your vent windows. When equipment or tools must be kept in vehicles, use a strong-walled, tamper-proof box that can be bolted and secured.
- Leave only your ignition key when your vehicle is serviced.
- Remove spare keys hidden in/on your vehicle. (Consider your wallet or another location).
- At work, and in commercial areas try to park in well-lit areas, close to entrances, and near pedestrian traffic.
- Know your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).
- Carry a copy of your registration in your wallet or purse in case of theft.
- Place additional identification marks on your vehicle – e.g. on tailgate, spoiler, under the hood.
- Take a photo of your vehicles with license plate visible.

If your vehicle is broken into or stolen, please inform local law enforcement immediately!
Volusia County's Human Services Office is sponsoring a Summer Food Service Program from May 18 through Aug. 14 to provide free breakfast and lunch meals for children ages 18 and under. The program, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides nutritionally balanced meals during summer break when schools are closed. For DeBary, pick up can be made at the site below:

**DeBary Hall Historic Site**, 198 Sunrise Blvd. (June 8 through July 31)
Breakfast: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.; lunch: noon to 1 p.m.

The site will be providing the stated meal at that time and the meal must be eaten on site. Additional sites, including grab and go sites can be found at the website below:

[https://www.summerbreakspot.org/](https://www.summerbreakspot.org/)

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**Information on Trash and Recycling**

For questions concerning trash and recycling, including missed pickups, schedules, etc., please contact Waste Pro at 386-788-8890.

**Garbage** — Waste Pro will NOT pickup Garbage that is:
- Mixed with yard waste
- More than 5 feet from the curb
- Exceeds 60 lbs
- Exceeds four 32-gallon containers
- Not containerized
- Unacceptable/hazardous materials

**Yard Waste** — Waste Pro will NOT pickup Yard Waste that is:
- Mixed with garbage
- More than 5 feet from the curb
- Exceeds 60 lbs
- Exceeds four 32-gallon containers
- Exceeds 4 feet in length and/or 6 inches in diameter per branch
- Not containerized/bagged/tied
- Unacceptable/hazardous materials (treated lumber or construction materials)

**Recycling** — Waste Pro will NOT pickup recycling that is:
- Mixed with garbage or yard waste
- More than 5 feet from the curb
- Unacceptable Materials

(visit [https://debary.org/community/page/trash-and-recycling-information](https://debary.org/community/page/trash-and-recycling-information))
COVID-19 social distancing requirements forced municipal officials nationwide to determine new mechanisms to ensure the public can continue to interact with their government. In response, DeBary put in place “zoom” council meetings with council members, and staff, participating from separate locations. To ensure citizens were able to participate, the City set up phone, email, and in person options.

As we move forward in the Governor’s Safe. Smart. Step by Step plan to reopen, guidelines will continue to evolve in regards to public participation. As of June 1, the public may participate in person through a modified process. In person attendance will be at Florence K. Little Town Hall where attendees may watch via livestream in accordance with social distancing guidelines. Citizens wishing to participate will be directed to City Hall at the appropriate time.

Thank you to all our community members for their understanding as we navigate through this public health emergency. Our top priority will always be ensuring the health and safety of DeBary citizens.