

DEBARY DIGEST

IN THIS ISSUE:

Summer Camp

Storm Water and Road Resurfacing Projects

Spring 2023 Citizen's Academy

FAQ's and Community Contacts

Council in the Community



A NEW PARK COMING TO DEBARY!



ALEXANDER ISLAND AKA RIVERBEND SOUTH

- Public River Access
- Eco-Tourism Recreation
- Natural Riverfront berm trail for hiking and biking
- Fresh Water research and education center

Read more on pg. 5

Did you know
DeBary turns 30
this year?!



Stay tuned for upcoming
events and contests
associated with our 30th
anniversary celebration!

Visit debary.org/30th for
more info

CITY MANAGER'S C O R N E R

DEBARY'S GROWTH MANAGEMENT :



DEBARY CITY MANAGER
CARMEN ROSAMONDA

When this City Council and I arrived in 2019, we were in serious trouble of out of control and inconsistent growth. In 2010, when the SunRail station was approved, the City of DeBary established a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) District around the SunRail Station changing the future land use to Mixed Use (Commercial & Residential). The approved density in the Core TOD is 32 living units per acre and Non-Core TOD is 20 living units per acre. These are typical density configurations for apartments around all SunRail Stations in Central Florida. It is a lot of density, but unfortunately the property is already zoned and cannot be taken away. As I described before, Florida is a strong property rights State. Any property owner meeting the zoning, land development codes, and the building codes cannot be legally stopped from developing and building on their residential, commercial or industrial property. It is a fundamental right.

Main Street Project

With the high density zoning already in place and poised for inconsistent growth, we turned this problem into a City asset, DeBary's new downtown. With a vision and master plan in place, we executed a series of strategic actions creating the opportunity. Rather than hodgepodge of apartment complexes near the SunRail Station, we now have our Main Street Project, bringing retail and restaurants to our town, and is now under contract. The developers, who are going through the development review process, must built our Main Street in the DeBary image. I am confident we will be breaking ground in 2023.

DeBary Main Street South
Construction Starts in 2023!



45,000 s.f. Commercial Retail on First Floor
1-2 Bedroom Apartments on 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Floors
Brownstone Apartments



Balanced Growth

Our master plan includes offsetting this high density zoning with increasing our green space and taking advantage of our unique ecotourism assets and activities. On February 1, 2023, the City purchased Alexander Island, 170 acres of pristine property along the St. Johns River. Once destined for home construction, this property will become one of DeBary's greatest assets, a one-of-a-kind passive nature park with nearly 2 miles of riverfront access. In this newsletter edition, there is an article about

Alexander Island. With the addition of Alexander Island, we will have 624 acres of parks, all within one mile of the SunRail Station and Main Street.

Transportation and Connectivity

Another one of our strategies in the master plan is to improve connectivity. We are working diligently to improve our transportation network. In-process is the engineering for the reconstruction of Ft. Florida Rd (Barwick to the RR tracks) and Benson Junction Rd (Hwy 17-92 to S. Shell). We are seeking a number of grants to accelerate these projects to keep pace with growth. In addition, we are working with FDOT on rescoping Hwy 17-92 from Saxon to the St. Johns River bridge, which will update and modify the corridor to today's traffic standards. FDOT is conducting a traffic study from Plantation Rd to the bridge to reduce the speed limit with the planned upcoming growth in the TOD area. We are also conducting a study through a Florida Department Economic Opportunity grant to improve pedestrian and bike safety in the TOD District. Finally, the City was designated State of Florida's 12th Trail Town in April 2022. We are in process of linking all of our assets with multi-use trails to improve mobility for pedestrians, bicyclists and golf carts.

My fellow DeBarians, given the circumstances in early 2019, the City Council and I have been focused on managing and balancing growth and turning these problem areas into assets for our community. Based upon our successful growth management efforts over the last 3 years, we have given numerous presentations throughout Central Florida to reveal our plan, strategies and actions. We are now proudly identified as a model city and best practice. Stay tuned as our vision becomes reality. DeBary... Naturally. More Than You Imagined! Take care.



ROAD RESURFACING

Highbanks Road widening from S. Shell Road to US Highway 17-92

The consistently high volume of vehicle, golf cart, and foot traffic moving through West Highbanks Road has necessitated a road construction project. The project will add one left turn lane for westbound traffic turning south onto S Shell Road and increase the length of right turn lane for eastbound travel onto US Highway 17-92.

In order to safely construct the proposed road widening improvements, the City will require that West Highbanks Road be closed from US Highway 17-92 to S Shell Road weekdays from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM beginning June 5, 2023 and ending on or before Friday August 4, 2023.

Detour routes will be established and clearly marked with signage to guide traffic around the road closure area. Golf carts, bicycles, and pedestrians will have access to travel through the West Highbanks Road closure area on the sidewalk.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES:

The City is constantly upgrading and improving services and infrastructure to keep up with the growth of our City!

STORMWATER:

As a general reminder, the City prioritizes projects by severity of flooding or functional impact to other systems such

as drain fields, road hazards, or actual home flooding. The many variables of each area of concern are weighed and a priority is assigned to each project.

The normal process for completing a project follows state regulations, the Design-Bid-Build model, which, depending on the complexity, may take months or even a year or two for any given project. Each project requires funding, permitting with the State, public input, design, and construction.

The City's 5-Year Stormwater Projects: Currently we have most of our 22 stormwater projects at or nearing the 60% design completion and beginning their individual state permitting phase.

Below is a status update on major projects:

- **W. Highbanks Rd. (s. drainage system)** - Permitting and supply chain delays have extended the timeline for this project
- **Woodbound Lake Pump Station** is coming to its construction completion. This construction completion has also been delayed due to supply chain issues and material availability of the electrical components.
- **Ft. Florida Rd. Reconstruction (from Barwick Rd. To SunRail)** - Design is currently at 60% and permitting is about to begin. Project is being coordinated with Rivington Phase 4 and the SunRail extension projects
- **Glen Abbey and Summerhaven Stormwater rehabilitation.** The City will utilize or "piggyback on" one of the County's existing contracts for storm sewer repairs and lining - allowing us to take advantage of an already low, negotiated price.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS IN

DeBary, FL

Splash Pad Opening

Friday, March 10 - Sunday, October 29, 2023

Tuesday - Sundays | 10am-6pm

The Splash Pad at Community Park will be reopening for the season beginning March 10 from the hours of 10am-6pm. The Splash Pad will be closed on Mondays for maintenance.

Movie in the Park

Friday March 11 | 7-9pm

Gateway Park

Minions: Rise of Gru is scheduled for Friday, March 11, 2023 at Gateway Park (88 U.S. Hwy 17/92).

Jazzercise (Adults)

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 11am

Town Hall | 12 Colomba Road

Jazzercise runs through May 26, 2023. Contact Adrienne Austin for more information: 386-451-8753

Father-Daughter Dance

Friday, April 21 | 6-9pm

Town Hall | 12 Colomba Road

The dance is for DeBary residents ONLY | Grades 1st-5th | \$10/person | Tickets will go on sale March 13th. The theme this year is Ties & Tiaras.

Arbor Day Tree Giveaway

Saturday April 22 | 8am-12pm

City Hall Parking Lot

Proof of residency required | While supplies last
Cars will line up along Naranja Road to enter the lot

Pickleball (Ages 50+)

Tuesdays | 8:30am-10am

Bill Keller Park

This is a free, drop-in program | no registration needed

For more information on all of our programs and events, visit www.debaryrecreation.org

GATEWAY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LOCATED AT 880 N US HIGHWAY 17-92 DEBARY, FL

Register at www.gatewaycenterforthearts.org/
For more information and volunteer opportunities,
call (386) 668-5553

Youth Singphony Concert

April 6th | 7pm

Register for youth choir online

"The Crew"

Big Band Concert

March 18th | 2:30pm

\$20/person





DeBary Summer Camps

SUMMER IS CALLING

Summer Camp is expanding in 2023 and will have two locations! Camp is on weekdays from 7:30am-5:30p

K-2nd grade will be held at River City Church
Cost is \$85/week with 1 field trip per week

3rd Grade-6th Grade will be held at Florence K Little
Town Hall (12 Colomba Road)
Cost: \$100/week with 2 field trips per week

June 12th - August 4th



SUMMER CAMP

Registration starts Monday, March 27th for **DeBary Residents only**. Registration will open up to the general public on April 10, 2023. Each week is pre-paid to reserve your spot and registered separately. Space is very limited!

SUMMER SPORTS CAMP

Summer Sports Camps will be back again this summer for weekly half-day sports camps at Rob Sullivan and Bill Keller parks. More information will be available soon on our website.

For more information on summer camp, call 386-668-2040 option 4



Volusia Students Create Art

March 26th | 2pm
Free admission

Sip n' Splatter Paint Class

April 13th | 6-8pm
\$40/person

The Saturday Scene

March 25th | 2:30pm
Live Comedy Show - \$12/ticket

The Comedy Chaser

March 10th & April 14th | 7:30pm
Live Comedy Show - \$12/ticket

CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

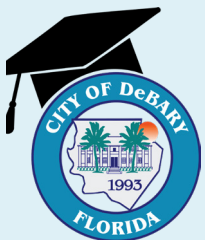
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



Citizen's Academy is an eight-session, weekly program that teaches residents about our local City government. The academy provides residents with the information, resources and tools to become knowledgeable community members and effective neighborhood leaders. Students will gain a better understanding of the various services and function provided by City departments.

Classes begin on April 4th and take place on Tuesdays until May 23rd from 6-8pm. Sessions

are held at various locations within DeBary, with the majority of classes at City Hall (16 Colomba Road).



Stop by City Hall to register, or register online!



Registration ends on March 24th (or until class is full). Visit DeBary.org/pi/Academy for more information.

ONLINE PERMITTING & CODE COMPLAINTS

As of February 1st, 2023 the City of DeBary is live with our online permitting software, Citizenserve. Going forward, all building department, code enforcement, and business tax receipt operations will be done through this online software.

Please use the QR code to the right to register an account or login to access your account. Once logged in you will be able to apply for building permit applications, business tax receipts, and submit code enforcement complaints



Alexander Island: On February 1, 2023, Mayor Chasez officially signed the closing documents for the City's purchase of Riverbend South/Alexander Island. The 170 acre property, originally slated for residential development, will now be a passive recreation park for all DeBary residents and guests, providing public access to the river and a myriad of eco-tourism activities such as kayaking, fishing, biking, hiking and birdwatching .

The park contains a 2 mile long berm which will become a bicycle and hiking trail connecting to DeBary's trail system. City staff is already at work making the trail more accessible and safer. The park will also include a freshwater research and education center that will conduct nature surveys, river cleanup programs, environmental research, and educational programs. Obtaining and preserving this pristine property was one of Council's top priorities. Tours of the property will be conducted on April 1, 2023. Residents can register for the tour on our website at debary.org. We look forward to welcoming residents to their new park and seeing all their beautiful pictures.

COUNCIL IN THE COMMUNITY



Councilmember Pappalardo and Councilmember Sell (not pictured) taught the University High School Government class about our DeBary City Council



The entire DeBary City Council stopped by Rob Sullivan Park to celebrate the installation of the new bike repair station on January 9th.



City of DeBary

F.A.Q. & Important Community Information

Highly requested information by residents just like you!



Q. WHEN ARE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD?

A. Council meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers at DeBary City Hall, and a *special* Council meeting is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. These meetings are open to the public and can be found on the City's official calendar on Debary.org. Council meetings may also be viewed online at livestream.com/debary.



Q. Who is DeBary contracted with to provide recycling and waste disposal services?

A. DeBary (With the exception of those residents in Highland Country Estates) is contracted with WastePro. WastePro may be reached at (386) 788-8890. They can tell you when your pickup days are, provide recycling bins, and assist with any other matters related to trash collection. More information can be found at Debary.org/wastepro.



Q. Who do I notify in the case of a street light outage?

A. Street light outages must be reported directly to Duke Energy. The process is quick, easy, and gives you the option of receiving real-time notifications of the current progress of the work order so that you may stay informed if you so choose. Please scan the QR code to the right to be directed to the appropriate webpage.



Q. What is the process for receiving a golf cart permit?

A. In order to legally drive a golf cart on city roads in DeBary, you must register for a golf cart permit. The registration packet may be found on the City of DeBary's website (Debary.org/golf), or you may pick one up at City Hall. The packet must be filled out entirely and submitted in person or via email (GCartPermit@DeBary.org) along with a copy of your driver's license and proof of insurance. Once your request for a permit has been approved, you will be notified via email that it is ready for pickup. At that time, you will be asked to pay the \$25.00 permit fee by check, money order, or card. The permit is good for 2 years, after which it will need to be renewed.



Q. How can I stay up to date with what is happening in DeBary?

A. There are multiple options and opportunities for residents who wish to stay in the loop with everything happening in the City. The City of DeBary maintains official social media accounts on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Please see the labeled QR codes to be directed to these accounts. The City of DeBary also has an E-Newsletter, DeBuzz, which you can subscribe to in order to receive updates directly in your inbox.

The DeBary Digest, which happens to be the magazine you are currently reading from, is the City's award-winning magazine which is sent out thrice yearly in March, June, and November to all residents, is also a wealth of information.





16 Colomba Road
DeBary, Florida 32713-3264

CITY OF DEBARY CONTACT INFORMATION

CITY HALL MAIN PHONE (386) 668-2040	MAIN FAX (386) 668-4122	WEBSITE www.DeBary.org	FACEBOOK @CityofDeBary
BUILDING DEPARTMENT (386) 601-0212	BUSINESS TAX RECEIPTS (386) 601-0204	CITY CLERK (386) 601-0219	CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE (386) 601-0238
CODE ENFORCEMENT (386) 601-0209	FINANCE (386) 601-0222	GROWTH MANAGEMENT (386) 601-0210	PARKS & RECREATION (386) 601-0206
GROWTH MANAGEMENT (386) 601-0204	PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS (386) 601-0225		PUBLIC WORKS (386) 601-0207

MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL



**Mayor
Karen Chasez**
Seat #5
kchasez@debary.org



**Vice Mayor
Phyllis Butlien**
Seat #4
pbutlien@debary.org



**Council Member
Patricia Stevenson**
Seat #3
pstevenson@debary.org



**Council Member
Jim Pappalardo**
Seat #2
jpappalardo@debary.org



**Council Member
William Sell**
Seat #1
wsell@debary.org