

# DEBARY DIGEST

Building Our Community

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## HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST



(1st Place South Sector)



(1st Place North Sector)

Each year, the City of DeBary Parks & Recreation Department hosts a Halloween Decorating Contest! Residents from all over the City take part and deck out their homes in Halloween lights and spooky decorations. The houses are then judged on creativity, use of decorations, and overall appearance. This year we had 19 houses participate and 8 winners!

Parks & Rec will be hosting another contest for the winter holiday season. Registration ends on December 3rd. Participating houses will be announced so that all residents can visit the homes and check out their decorations!

## GOLF CARTS



The City recently appointed a Golf Cart Committee to develop recommendations for Golf Cart usage within the City. **The City currently has no ordinance that allows golf cart use on designated city streets or sidewalks.** The exception is DeBary Golf and Country Club whereby golf carts are authorized in their subdivision covenants. For more info, visit [DeBary.org/golf](http://DeBary.org/golf)

# CITY MANAGER'S CORNER

## GROWTH & SCHOOLS: DEBARY ELEMENTARY TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT



Since the arrival of the newly elected City Council and myself in the beginning of 2019, we have been laser focused on resolving long standing issues in DeBary. After 6-7 prior years of erratic City leadership, we found the City in poor financial shape, fire services were not keeping up with growth, the stormwater program had a 15-year backlog, and the school traffic problem was more than 10 years old and getting worse. Current City leadership has taken the bull by the horns, made tough decisions and have gotten results. I am proud to say all of these issues have been solved or in-process of being solved shortly.

Improving school traffic requires a partnership between the City and Volusia County School Board (VCSB) because the road improvements are on properties owned by both entities. Prior to 2019, all previous attempts to improve traffic at the school failed, primarily due to poor strategy, unrealistic and expensive design concepts and the City demanding VCSB to pay for all improvements. With all 88 County schools having growth demands, traffic improvements for DeBary Elementary was a low priority for VCSB.

One of my first tasks as City Manager was to resolve the school traffic issue. I went to our traffic engineers to re-engineer and simplify traffic patterns reducing costs from \$1.4 million to \$900,000. In October 2019, I presented the new design concept to City Council and the proposal to financially participate in the project. The City Council approved the \$125,000 in the FY 2019-20 budget for design and engineering. This statement made by our City Council set the stage for me to re-establish negotiations and hopefully move the project forward. At this point, we were still at ground zero with the VCSB.

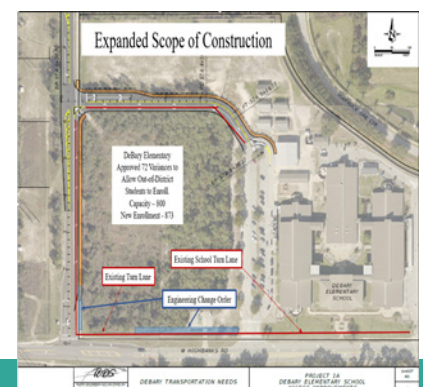
Working diligently with School Board Member Jamie Haynes and school staff, we came to an agreement with the new design concepts and proposed sharing the cost of the project. The big question was, when could the School Board fund this project with their massive list of county-wide needs and priorities? This project was a high priority for the City, but for VCSB, the DeBary Elementary Traffic Improvement project was not even on their five-year capital improvement plan.

In July 2020, we were successful in getting the DeBary Elementary Traffic Improvement project in the VCSB proposed budget. In October 2020, VCSB and the City of DeBary approved their final budgets which included a 50-50 cost share. It was a tremendous feat accelerating this project from last to first in one year! The agreement was approved by each party and signed in January 2021. This project will serve as a model since it is the first time a 50-50 partnership between the VCSB and a municipality has been executed on a school capital improvement project. VCSB agreed to be the project manager. Construction will occur from December 2021 – March 2022

The first day of school had new challenges with double the normal cars on Highbanks Road waiting to pick up students. On the second day, we worked diligently to find the root cause for the large increase. Without communication to the City, Volusia Schools, through their new variance program, approved 72 out-of-district students to attend DeBary Elementary. These students are not eligible for busing, adding more cars to the road. With these variance approvals, enrollment increased to 873 students or 109% school capacity.

DeBary Elementary, the Volusia Sheriff's Office, and I worked diligently through a number of alternatives and resident suggestions. Ultimately, we customized a plan utilizing Rob Sullivan Park to stage cars to efficiently process over 150 cars, while keeping Highbanks Road open. Once the gate opens for student pickup, we process all 150 cars in less than 30 minutes. It is a tremendous effort by the staff to design, implement and execute on a daily basis this solution. It will serve us well until the road construction is complete.

Due to this experience of increased enrollment, we increased our road project to include more car staging. A dedicated school lane will now run from the front of the school continuously circling the school (red line). There will be some temporary traffic slowdowns and interruptions during construction. This is a shining example how our great City leadership is agile enough to accommodate rapid and unexpected change. We look forward to March 2022!



# CITY OF DEBARY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## Senior Game Day

On the first Thursday of the month from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Florence K. Little Town Hall. Free and open to those 50+ and older. No registration required.

## Chili Cook-Off and Tree Lighting Ceremony

at Gateway Park from 2-6pm on Saturday, December 4, 2021. Chili Registration October 25-December 3. FREE to Enter!

## Winter Walk of Lights

at Gateway Park December 5th-December 12th from 6:30-8:30 pm each night. Walk through light displays for all to enjoy!

## Youth Dodgeball

Bill Keller Park on Saturdays January 8-February 19, 2022. Grades 1st through 9th. Registration: November 8, 2021-January 5, 2022. \$60/child.

## Senior Pot Luck

Friday, November 19th from 6-8pm at the Florence K. Little Town Hall. Bring a dish to share and listen or dance to DJ Dave Perez. Open to 50+ and older. Free admission, ticket required. Tickets available November 1st-18th at City Hall.

## Parents Night Out

Friday, December 3rd from 6-9pm at the Florence K. Little Town Hall. Movie, pizza, music and games. Kids 1st through 5th grade and \$15.00/per child. Registration November 8-December 1.

## Youth Kick Ball

Rob Sullivan Park on Tuesday and Thursday evenings January 11th-February 22, 2022. Grades 1st through 9th. Registration November 8, 2021 – January 5, 2022. \$60/child.

## Youth Tumbling

Florence K. Little Town Hall on Mondays for 3- through 5-year-olds (\$30/child) and Wednesdays for 6- through 12-year-olds (\$60/child) January 10-March 2nd. Registration November 8, 2021 – January 5, 2022.

## Annual Holiday Light Display Contest

Open to DeBary residents and HOA's. Judging will be December 9th-12th from 6:30-8:30pm. Awards for winning homes in each sector. Registration October 25-December 3. FREE to Enter!



## Winter Adult Kickball

Friday nights at Rob Sullivan Park January 21-April 8, 2022. Pre-formed co-ed teams of 10-14 players. Teams must have at least 4 female players. Cost per team is \$350.00. Registration November 15, 2021-January 7, 2022.

## WINTER WONDERLAND CHRISTMAS PARADE

Sunday, December 12th starting at 3:00 pm on 17/92. Float Registration October 25 – December 6. FREE to Enter!

All dates and times subject to change. Space is limited! More information on all programs and events can be found at [www.debaryrecreation.org](http://www.debaryrecreation.org). All registrations can be done with the Parks and Recreation Department at City Hall. If you already have an active account with the City you can register online. Any questions, please contact the Parks & Rec Dept. At 386-601-0206



# CITY MOVING TO ONLINE PERMITTING AND PAYMENTS



Recently the City Council approved a new project to provide online access to City services including Permitting, Planning & Zoning, Business Tax Licensing, credit card payments, code enforcement requests, as well as other online services. With this comprehensive permitting software solution, citizens, contractors, inspectors, and City staff can all stay on the same page at the same time, resulting in an expedient and efficient permitting process from beginning to end. Permits can be applied and paid for online and applicants can interact with inspectors and have access to the most up-to-date

review status information. Citizens and contractors will be able to apply, pay for, and upload plans—as well as any accompanying documents through the online portal. The new system will also allow users to request inspections online, which are automatically routed to the correct inspector for scheduling and review. Business owners will be able to go to the City’s website to submit new or renewing Business Tax Licensing applications and pay their fees through an online portal. Soon you will be able to access these and other services online. Stay tuned for more updates!

## NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Our Neighborhood Improvement Office identifies and corrects violations of the city building and zoning ordinances, such as property maintenance and unlicensed/inoperable vehicles. Our staff operates on a reactive basis. That means we concentrate on responding to citizen complaints, rather than randomly searching for violations. So, if you are wondering why the grass is high at a neighboring property or other violations of codes, it is more than likely that it has not been reported.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Can I remain anonymous when I make a complaint?** A recent state law change now requires a person to provide his or her name and address when submitting a complaint, and any information you provide will become public record. However, complaints can be made anonymously if the violation presents an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare or imminent destruction of habitat or sensitive resources.
- 2. How do I submit a complaint?** You can contact us directly at (386) 601-0209 or file a complaint on our website.
- 3. How do I follow up on a complaint I have made?** You can call us at (386) 601-0209 or (386) 601-0210 and request an update. You will need the address of the complaint.

## COUNCIL IN THE COMMUNITY



City Council gathers on stage at the 4th of July Freedom Fest for the count down to the nighttime spectacular. *July 4 2021*



Council pictured with boat naming contest winner, Kristin Beller (far right) after christening the Orange City Fire Department’s new rescue boat at Lake Monroe Park in DeBary. *July 22 2021*



City Council with State Representative Webster Barnaby celebrating Ultimate Medical Clinic’s new offerings with a ribbon cutting event.

## BUILDING & GROWTH MANAGEMENT

**Did you know?** A building permit is *required* for installing any new structure on your property like fences, sheds, carports, detached garages, patios, driveways etc., as well as removing trees in most cases. Once a building permit application is submitted at the City, the permit is reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Department for compliance with the Land Development Codes and the Building Department for compliance with the Florida Building Codes and regulations. If you have any questions, call (386) 601-2040 or email [info@debarry.org](mailto:info@debarry.org).

### ***Do you own a property that is vacant now?***

The Growth Management Department takes every effort to ensure that any development in the City of DeBary is environmentally sensitive and is compliant to the Land Development Codes, Comprehensive Plans and the Florida Building Code. Any kind of development on a vacant property, which includes mowing, clearing, grading, etc. requires a development order or permit with the City. As part of the permit requirements, an environmental report determining the potential occurrence of wetlands or threatened and endangered species would be required to confirm that no major disturbances are triggered due to the proposed development.

### ***Are you building a new home on an infill property?***

There are remaining vacant lots that were platted prior to 1990, before stormwater design criteria were required. If you're planning to build a home on a vacant lot that was platted before 1990, you will be required to obtain additional permits. Along with the standard building permit application requirements, you are also required to submit an environmental report, tree removal permit application and storm water management application. The permits are reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Department, the City Engineer and the Building Department after which the permit package is issued to the applicant. If the removal of historic trees is involved for the purpose of the proposed development, then the tree removal permit would also entail an additional approval by the City Council. Once all the construction inspections have passed and all necessary documents have been submitted a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) is issued.

## STORMWATER & ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

As a reminder, projects are prioritized by many variables including flooding or functional impact to other systems such as drain fields, road hazards, or actual home flooding. The normal process for completing a project follows the Design-Bid-Build model as outlined in the Florida Statutes. Depending on complexity, project durations may take a few months or even a few years from start to finish. Each project generally requires funding, permitting with the State and public input at each stage (design, construction). Recently material and labor shortages have caused additional delays.

**City's 5-Year Stormwater List Update:** Of the remaining 39 projects, the City has consolidated some projects due to proximity. Current status is 24 out of quote, 9 are in In-Progress,

No new projects have been identified however there are still a number of projects not listed that are typically smaller or emergencies that are acted on without adding to the list. Other problem areas are absorbed into development projects where applicable.

- **South Pine Meadow Drive Pipe Replacement** – The Pre-Construction Meeting was held 10/18. Unfortunately material delays have pushed back the actual construction start date, now expected to commence the 1st week of November.
- **West Highbanks Road (South Drainage System)** – The project design is still in permitting, but is still on track for final construction documents by the end of this year.
- **Bass Lake Road, Deleon Road, and May Place – Woodbound Lake plans Phase 1** – The stormwater force main construction has been completed and has already been put to use.
- **Bass Lake Road, Deleon Road, and May Place – Woodbound Lake plans Phase 2** – A 3rd phase has been added to the project which connects the Phase 1 force main line to an existing force main at Bill Keller Park. Permitting efforts continue for this Phase 2 & 3 with the St. Johns Water Management District

# Lock it to STOP it

Car thieves, along with home burglars, look for easy targets. Too many vehicle owners willingly 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!

## Don't give 'em the chance

Lock your vehicle, take your keys with you.

Park in a garage whenever possible.

Activate your alarm.

Never leave valuables in plain sight.

Remove your garage door remote.

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 the tailgate, spoiler, under the hood.

Take a photo of your vehicle with a license plate visible.

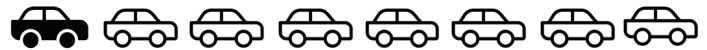
25% of vehicle theft had purses/wallets in plain sight



50% of stolen cars are unlocked at the time of the theft



1 in 8 have keys left inside



### Volusia County Sheriff's Office

MICHAEL J. CHITWOOD, SHERIFF

**CALL 911 IN AN EMERGENCY**

Non-emergency contact:  
DeBary: (386) 668-3830

[www.volusiasheriff.org](http://www.volusiasheriff.org)

### CRIME STOPPERS:

Volusia & Flagler Counties

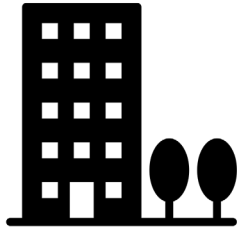
**1-888-277-TIPS** Toll Free

[www.Volusiacrimestoppers.com](http://www.Volusiacrimestoppers.com)



# PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

## ONE STEP AT A TIME



1. Never dump anything in a storm drain or into a drainage ditch.
2. Clean up after your pet. Pet waste is a significant source of pathogens.
3. Throw litter in its proper place. If you see garbage near a storm drain, pick it up.

4. Never pour household hazardous wastes into storm drains, down the sink, or on the ground. Volusia County offers convenient locations for the disposal of household hazardous waste during Hazardous Waste collection events. Don't forget! Residents also may drop off household hazardous waste at the Tomoka Landfill and the West Volusia Transfer Station.

5. Do not put greasy food items down the drain or garbage disposal. Wipe dishes, pots and pans with a paper towel to remove excess grease before washing.

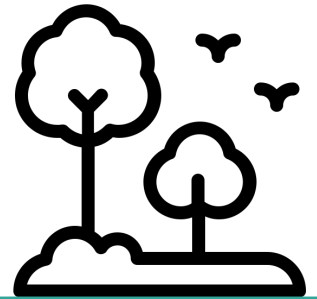
6. Maintain septic systems regularly.

7. Regularly check your vehicles for leaks (and repair them).

8. Compost yard wastes. Use compost grass, leaves, and shrub clippings as mulch to supplement fertilizers. Do not blow or rake these materials into roadways or swales.

9. Motor oil is banned from landfill disposal and cannot be placed with your garbage. Recycle used motor oil and other automotive fluids at the oil recycling "igloos" at most Volusia County fire stations

10. Use fertilizers and pesticides only when other methods fail, and always follow the label instructions. Do not apply them when rain is in the forecast.



11. Wash vehicles in the yard, not on pavement. Better yet, take your car to a car wash, where all wastewater flows into the sanitary sewer system for treatment.

12. Report illegal dumping immediately.



# GEMINI SPRINGS



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**  
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kchasez@debary.org



**Vice Mayor  
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