



# DeBary Digest

*Building Our Community*

Spring 2021 | DeBary.org

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## DeBary remains Safest City in Volusia

On Wednesday, February 3, Volusia Sheriff Mike Chitwood joined with Captain George Maddox of the Volusia Sheriff's Office DeBary Substation to provide their annual Crime Data End of the Year report. We are proud to maintain our status as the safest city in Volusia.

Our biggest safety issue continues to be thefts from unlocked vehicles. We encourage everyone to continue to Lock It To Stop It!

You can see the entire presentation by viewing the livestream for February 3 at [livestream.org/debary](http://livestream.org/debary)



## Congressman Mike Waltz visits DeBary



Congressman Mike Waltz visited DeBary City Hall on February 16 and joined City Manager Carmen Rosamonda and staff on a visit to the Riverbend South property the City hopes to acquire through grants. The Congressman was enthusiastic in his support for this project and has already taken steps to pledge his support. We are continuing to work with his office as we move forward through this process.

# CITY MANAGER'S CORNER

## OUR COMMUNITY - "A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY"



With all the things going on in DeBary, I thought it is an appropriate time we take a moment to Celebrate DeBary! We often get asked by potential builders, businesses and residents, "Why DeBary?" "What does DeBary have to offer? That's when I get my pen and paper out! Recently, I presented the slide below capturing some of the best qualities of our great community.

**Live.** We are a very family-oriented, close-knit community. We are not only the safest City in Volusia County, but one of the safest in Florida. All our schools are "A" rated. We have good infrastructure and a clean, healthy environment which we are continuously improving. DeBary has a rich sense of history and pride. It is a great place to live.

**Work.** DeBary's location allows us to be a bedroom community, while enjoying the access of good paying jobs in the Orlando/Daytona Beach market. The median income in DeBary rose 11% last year and we anticipate another 7-10% this year. We have excellent small business opportunities. Today, our Highway 17/92 commercial rental corridor is 98% full. Prospecting on building commercial space for small businesses is at an all-time high, including Main Street. Because of our loyal, proud customer base, business demand is strong. Do you know we lost only one food establishment in our City during the COVID pandemic? It is a great tribute to our residents and has not gone unnoticed by our business community.

The City of DeBary is one of the most efficient and effective local governments in Central Florida. We operate a full-service organization with just 43 employees, nearly one-tenth the employees of DeLand. Our ad valorem tax rate is 2.9247, which is 59% less than all other cities in West Volusia.

**Play.** The City of DeBary has 12 sports and neighborhood parks that provide a plethora of activities. Rob Sullivan and Bill Keller Parks are award winning parks that serves over 700 children in baseball and softball leagues. Gateway Park not only houses our fantastic Cultural Arts Center, but an award winning playground for our children. We have two golf courses and 36 holes of Disc Golf at the internationally renowned River City Nature Park. The City has nearly 30 recreational programs for all ages.

DeBary has 9 miles of riverfront. As our master plan develops in the southern area of DeBary, so will our eco-tourism activities. The State of Florida is currently building 3 bike trails consisting of 660 miles in north Central Florida. All 3 of these trails converge right here in DeBary making us the trail hub of Central Florida. These activities include nature trails, biking, boating, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and camping. There is much more to come.

This is why we Celebrate DeBary. **DeBary, Naturally..... More Than You Imagined!**



## Our Community

"A Great Place to Live, Work and Play"



Carmen Rosamonda  
City Manager

High Quality of Life		
Live	Work	Play
Great Place to Raise a Family	Access to Good Paying Jobs	Recreation Parks and Programs
Safe City/Low Crime	Rising Median Income	Golf & Disc Golf Courses
"A" Rated Schools	Business Opportunity	Cultural Arts Facilities & Programs
Close-Knit, Village Community	Loyal, Proud Customer Base	Eco-Tourism Activities
Good Infrastructure	Best City Government	Social Clubs & Activities
Good Clean, Healthy Environment	Low Taxes	Place Making/Community Events
Historical Centerpiece	Value in Property	Access to Destinations

**Celebrate DeBary**  
The Best is Yet to Come

# CITY HALL & STAFF UPDATES

## DEBARY RECOGNIZED AS FLORIDA'S BIKE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

The City of DeBary has been designated "Bike Friendly Community of the Year" by the Florida Bike Association. The awards are presented annually by the Association to recipients for their contributions to bicycling. Through their education and advocacy programs, the Florida Bike Association encourages more people to bicycle and create great places to ride. The purpose of the awards is to bring attention to the efforts and achievements of groups, organizations and individuals that help shape the Association's vision for all Florida bicyclists to be safe, respected and encouraged to bicycle for transportation and recreation.



DeBary is the trail hub for the three major Central Florida trails: The Coast to Coast, The Heart of Florida, and the St. Johns River to Sea Loop. It the only location where all three trails converge.

## MEET DEBARY'S NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



In October, Wayne Clark joined staff as the City's new Economic Development Director. Wayne has over three decades of experience in local government in 5 communities including Coral Springs and Port Orange Florida.

Throughout his career, Wayne has led a variety of development-related departments and functions including – Economic Development, Planning, Engineering, Building, Code Enforcement, Traffic Engineering, Housing, Metropolitan Planning Organization and Transportation Capital Projects.

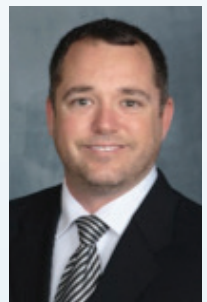
Wayne's philosophy centers on his focus on leading fair, efficient, predictable and professional development review processes. He takes pride in creatively working with stakeholders to arrive at unique solutions to keep and attract jobs/businesses while maintaining the vision and integrity of the community.

## CITY CLERK ACHIEVES DESIGNATION



Congratulations to DeBary City Clerk Annette Hatch on achieving the prestigious Certified Municipal Clerk designation. The CMC program prepares applicants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the Municipal Clerk by providing them with quality education in partnership with institutions of higher learning, as well as State / Provincial / National Associations. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must have significant and pertinent experience in a municipality and must attend extensive education programs. There are only 4,700 Certified Municipal Clerks worldwide and DeBary has one!

## PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR HONORED



DeBary's Parks and Recreation Director Jason Schaitz was named to Volusia/Flagler's 40 under 40 honorees. Conducted by the Daytona News-Journal, the program recognizes forty young professionals selected from all nominations received within the two counties. Schaitz was selected for his leadership in revitalizing the City's Parks and Recreation Department, instituting better budgeting processes and creative and innovative programming. While typically Parks and Recreation programming can have a negative impact on a municipality's budget, Schaitz's financial management, including grant awards, greatly minimized costs to the City, allowing for expanded programming. Further, the new programs he and his team have implemented means greater participation across a broad spectrum of residents.



# SEPTIC TO SEWER CONVERSIONS IN DEBARY

In 2016, the Florida Legislature passed the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act, mandating the protection and restoration of polluted Florida Springs, which includes Gemini Springs in DeBary, Florida. The State of Florida established Primary Focus Areas (PFA's), where by residents within these areas are required to replace their current septic tank with an Advanced Treatment Septic System or join a central sewer system within the next 5-20 years.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) tested Gemini Springs and determined that 86% of the contaminants were nitrates. Further, they determined that 40% of the nitrate contamination was linked to septic tanks. FDEP has designated a Primary Focus Area (PFA) which includes all properties under 1 acre south of Highbanks Road in DeBary. NOTE: **Not all septic users in DeBary are impacted. Please check your address at [www.debary.org/sewer](http://www.debary.org/sewer).**

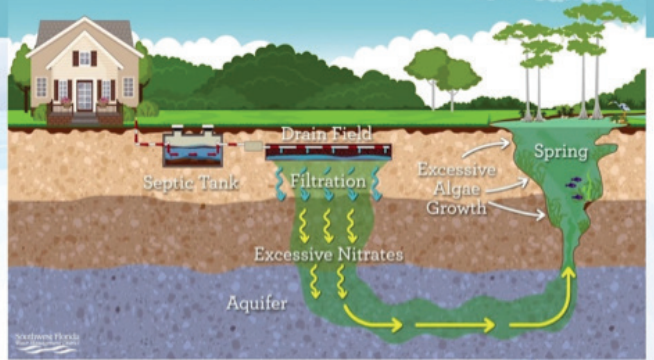
Workshops were held on January 27th for DeBary City Council and for residents the primary focus area on February 4th with Volusia County Water Utilities and the Department of Environmental Protection, which outlined the County's remediation plan to reduce the nutrient load coming from septic systems. A video of this workshop is located on our website at [debary.org/sewer](http://debary.org/sewer) and provides important details of this project.

**Also on the web page, residents will find the following information:**

- Powerpoint show at the January 27th and February 4th meetings
- **Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act** Statute mandating the conversion
- Department of Environmental Protection's methods for assessing nutrient pollution is explained in their 2017 report for DeLeon and Gemini Springs
- Basin Management Action Plan and Primary Focus Area for Gemini Springs
- A link to a list of addresses in the Primary Focus Area
- Frequently asked questions

We understand that residents have many questions. This project is in the pre-planning stages and **we are involving our residents in the primary focus area in this process.** While we are developing a plan, there are no specific costs or steps known. Once the plan is developed, with resident input, we will be able to provide more specifics as to the process and costs. After reviewing the information at [debary.org/sewer](http://debary.org/sewer) residents with questions may email [sewer@debary.org](mailto:sewer@debary.org)

### How Septic Systems Impact Springs



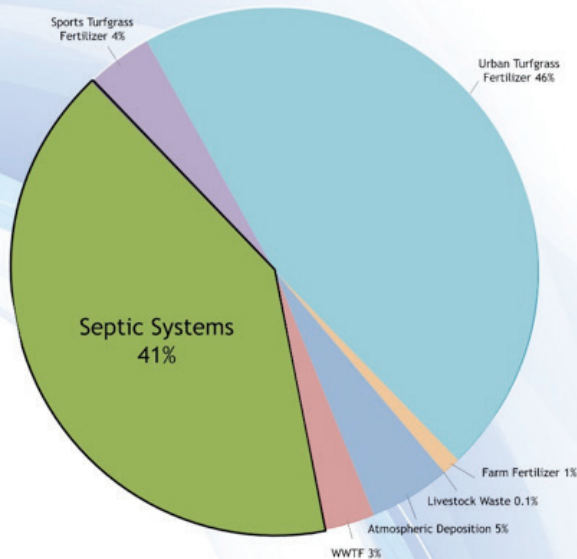
- Conventional septic systems are designed to protect human health, not to remove nutrient pollution.
- Septic systems on average contribute a load of 8.2 lbs-N/year per system to the springs.
- Septic systems work by slowly releasing wastewater through a drainfield, or soil absorption field.
- With over 2,000 septic systems currently in use in the Gemini Springs PFA, the nitrogen is polluting our springs and leaching into our groundwater - our drinking water source.



**STAY UP TO DATE: Residents can sign up for our listserv at <https://debary.org/newsletter/subscriptions>. Please select *Septic to Sewer Information* and enter your email information.**

# GEMINI SPRINGS TMDL AND BMAP

- Final TMDL adopted 2017
- Water quality impacts were identified
- BMAP finalized June 2018
- Total Current Load 20,496 lbs-N/year
- 14,270 lbs-N/year reduction required
- Major Nitrogen contributors:
  - Urban Turfgrass
  - Septic Systems



Nitrogen Loading in the Gemini Springs BMAP Area per FDEP's Gemini Springs BMAP (2018)

6

## FERTILIZER MITIGATION FOR GEMINI SPRINGS

In 2016, the Florida Legislature passed the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act, mandating the protection and restoration of polluted Florida Springs, which includes Gemini Springs in DeBary, Florida. Gemini Springs was identified by the legislature as an impaired second magnitude, Outstanding Florida Spring that requires additional protections to ensure conservation and restoration for future generations.

Fertilizer nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, can end up in our surface and groundwater, where they feed algal blooms that deplete oxygen, kill fish, and make the water unswimmable. Over 46% of nitrogen pollution in Gemini Springs comes from urban turfgrass fertilizer.

The County of Volusia and the City of DeBary have embarked on a remediation plan that will significantly reduce phosphates and nitrogen in Gemini Springs. In 2017 the City passed one of the strongest ordinances in the State. The fertilizer ordinance sets out the following steps:

1. No fertilizer in the summer, June through September
2. Fertilizer applied October through May must be at least 50% slow release Nitrogen.
3. Do not apply phosphorus to your lawn without a soil test.
4. Fertilizer must be kept at least 15 feet away from any body of water
5. Fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus shall not be applied before seeding or sodding a site, and shall not be applied for the first 30 days after seeding or sodding.

The County has also launched its BeFloridianNow campaign. Information about this campaign can be found at [volusia.org/befloridiannow](http://volusia.org/befloridiannow).





# CITY OF DEBARY PROGRAMS/EVENTS

## JAZZERCISE (ADULTS)

Instructor: Adrienne Austin  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00 am – 12:00 pm thru May  
Phone: 386-451-8573  
Location: Florence K. Little Town Hall  
Contact Instructor for Details.

## LEARN LINE DANCE WITH LYNN (ADULTS)

Instructor: Lynn Luccisano  
Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Location: Florence K. Little Town Hall  
Phone: 407-719-8744  
Contact Instructor for Details.

## DEBARY SOCCER ACADEMY (AGES 6-14)

Instructor: David "Skip" Gardner  
Location: Rob Sullivan Park  
Phone: 321-277-7966  
Contact Instructor for Details.

## INTRODUCTION TO YOGA (ADULTS)

Instructor: Darlene Taylor, RYT500  
Mondays 11:30 am – 12:30 pm  
Session 2: March 20 – May 3

Location: Florence K. Little Town Hall  
Phone: 423-384-6440  
Contact Instructor for Details.

## PICKLEBALL (50 AND OVER)

Tuesdays 8:30-10:30am  
January 5-May 18, 2021  
Location: Bill Keller Park  
Free Drop In Program

## SUMMER CAMP (KIDS ENTERING 2ND – 6TH GRADE)

Summer Camp will run weekly from June 7 – August 6, 2021  
Check [debaryrecreation.org](http://debaryrecreation.org) after spring break for updated information!  
Cost: \$85.00 per week  
Contact Parks and Recreation at 386-601-0206

## PARENTS NIGHT OUT (KIDS 6-11)

Friday, May 21 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm  
Location: Florence K. Little Town Hall  
Cost is \$15.00/ per child

Call Parks and Recreation at 386-601-0206 to register

## SPLASH PAD OPENING

Friday, March 19, 2021  
Open: Tuesday – Sunday from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Location: Community Park  
The Splash Pad will be closed on Mondays for Maintenance



**Contact Parks & Recreation at 386-668-2040 x4**  
**City Hall, 16 Colomba Road, Debary, FL 32713**  
**[www.debaryrecreation.org](http://www.debaryrecreation.org)**

# COUNCIL IN THE COMMUNITY





## STORMWATER AND ROAD PROJECTS STATUS

The City has undertaken an aggressive strategy to resolve long standing stormwater and infrastructure issues around the City. We prioritize projects by severity of flooding or functional impact to other systems such as drain fields, road hazards, or actual home flooding. Ultimately we weigh the many variables of each area of concern to then assign that project a priority. The normal process for completing a project follows state regulations, the Design-Bid-Build mode, 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, and public input at each stage (design, construction) which also impacts the timeline.

The City identified 72 projects, 22 which are now completed, 9 projects underway, 41 projects remaining. Below are a few of the projects completed, nearing completion or underway:

- **Floridana** completed April 2020.
- **South Pine Meadow Drive Pipe Replacement** – approaching request for contractor bid proposals to begin construction.
- **Lantana Road Drainage Pipe Replacement** – recently completed, only finish ground surface work left.
- **West Highbanks Road (South Drainage System)** – construction plans are near 100% completion.
- **Woodbound Lake** – plans, the force main portion is being priced for construction. The remaining portion is near 100% complete and on-going coordination efforts with the St. Johns Water Management District.
- **Ft. Florida Road/Hwy 17-92 Intersection Widening** – construction is underway and is currently scheduled to be complete by mid-April.
- **Valencia Road Drainage Improvements** – Construction is underway and nearing completion.





16 Colomba Road  
DeBary, Florida 32713-3264

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 13137  
MID-FL, FL

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

City of DeBary Contact Information			
<b>CITY HALL MAIN PHONE</b> (386) 668-2040	<b>RECEPTION</b> (386) 601-0238	<b>MAIN FAX</b> (386) 668-4122	<b>WEBSITE</b> www.DeBary.org
<b>BUILDING DEPARTMENT</b> (386) 601-0212	<b>BUSINESS TAX RECEIPTS</b> (386) 601-0204	<b>CITY CLERK</b> (386) 601-0219	<b>CITY MANAGER</b> (386) 601-0217
<b>CODE ENFORCEMENT</b> (386) 601-0209	<b>FINANCE</b> (386) 601-0222	<b>GROWTH MANAGEMENT</b> (386) 601-0210	<b>PARKS &amp; RECREATION</b> (386) 601-0206
<b>PLANNING &amp; ZONING</b> (386) 601-0204	<b>PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS</b> (386) 601-0225		<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b> (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**  
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