



Volusia Matters Newsletter

Jim Cameron Consulting LLC

February 2025

JIM CAMERON CONSULTING LLC has 40 years experience working with local government and is available to serve on a clientele basis regarding local government issues, campaign assistance and more.

For more information, visit www.JimCameronConsulting.com or call me at 386-566-2140.

*"Days, nights, and weekends, **my guarantee still stands.***

If I don't return your call in eight business hours, I will pay you \$1,000 cash."



January 14—County Council took up **County Chair Jeff Brower's** proposal for a temporary moratorium on new residential subdivisions to address flooding concerns however, it would exclude single family homes and commercial projects. Aim was to give the county time to update land development codes, stormwater master plans, and flood vulnerability assessments. Council met 4 to 11:22 PM.

NO MORATORIUM.....Council finally reached this consensus.....

Consensus - staff to bring proposed ordinance recommendations from County's Environmental Natural Resources Advisory Committee to be addressed at a Special Council Mtg on Feb 11.....PLUS 6 recommendations from **Councilman Troy Kent**....

- no more building on any wetlands
- no more paying into a wetland mitigation bank
- clear all county and city canals including Nova Rd.
- purchase homes in low lying lands that constantly flood & turn those areas into stormwater retention ponds

- turn county owned lands near flood prone areas into retention ponds
- meet with cities about apartment complexes

Staff to do legal analysis on stop elevating lands when building new subdivisions

Legal staff noted County can't impose moratorium WITHIN city limits.

The Council will revisit this issue at a Special meeting on February 11.

ON A SIDE NOTE....some additional items MAY come forth when the County's Charter Review Commission begins meeting in March...

Cong District 6 primary Special Election results....

Republican Randy Fine and Democrat Josh Weil will run in the General Election on April 1 along with **Libertarian Andrew Parrot, NPA Randall Terry and Write In Chuck Sheridan.**

Cong Dist 1 in the panhandle, **Republican Jimmy Patronis vs Democrat Gay Valimont and Independent Steve Brody** in the general election. These race are extremely important as the CURRENT US House count is 217 Republicans and 215 Democrats.



Details of January 27-28 Special Session

Gov DeSantis called a special session urging lawmakers to address illegal immigration and voter petition initiatives.

However, the House and Senate convened January 27 and adjourned and immediately convened their own 2-day special session.

S2 by Sen Gruters Undocumented Immigrants entailed -

- establishing the Agriculture Commissioner as the state's chief immigration officer to coordinate state-level immigration enforcement and federal immigration coordination.
- increasing penalties for noncitizens who vote AND for crimes committed by illegal immigrants including death penalty for those convicted of capital offenses,
- repealing in-state tuition at public universities for illegal immigrants
- imposing maximum sentences for illegal immigrant gang members.
- allowing local law enforcement to work together with federal immigration authorities

The House voted 82-30 (Reps Chase Tramont, Webster Banaby, Bill Partington, Richard Gentry voted YES)

The Senate voted 21-16 (Sens Tom Wright, Tom Leek voted YES)

Bill regarding the ballot initiative process entailed -

- increasing number of signatures required for a ballot petition to qualify
- requiring signatures from a broader geographic distribution stricter verification of petition signatures to prevent fraud.
- more detailed financial disclosures from groups sponsoring ballot initiatives.

However, Gov DeSantis said the approved Immigration legislation was not strong enough and that he might veto the bills

The regular Session runs March 4 to May 2.



- **Volusia Economic Q Breakfast**
Friday, Feb 14, 7:30 AM
Daytona Intl Airport
Topic - Entrepreneurship
[Click here to RSVP](#)
- **Volusia State of the County Luncheon**
Tuesday, Feb 25, 12-2 PM
DB Ocean Center
Review of 2024 Accomplishments and 2025 Challenges

Approx 40% of property taxes are paid through mortgages



Jeremy Davies of Spruce Creek HS is Volusia's new Teacher of the Year. He was selected out of 70 nominees selected by their peers from Volusia School District.

Since 2019, he's been an International Baccalaureate (IB) math teacher at Spruce Creek HS (his alma mater) since 2019. In one year, he helped raise his IB Math Analysis course pass rate from 78.5% in 2022-23 to 87.5% in 2023-24. He also is head coach for the boys' and girls' tennis team.

The four other TOTY finalists included...

- **Katie Evans**, fourth grade teacher, Citrus Grove Elementary
- **Melissa Tse**, English language arts teacher, Creekside Middle School
- **Shilpa Sharma**, ESE teacher, Galaxy Middle School
- **Kelli Chehaitli**, gifted teacher, Tomoka Elementary School

The ceremonial dinner was hosted by FUTURES Foundation for Volusia County Schools.

Jeremy will represent Volusia Schools in the State Teacher of the Year competition.

Click link below..... Volusia's [Attainable Housing Dashboard](#)



January 14 - After **Jessie Thompson** stepped down, as Chair, School Board members voted **Jamie Hill Haynes** as new chair. Jessie will remain as board member. **Ruben Colon** was named Vice chair.



Jan 13—**Volusia Elected Official's Roundtable** met and heard from **DB Police Chief Jakari Young** and **Deland Chief JD Umberger**, **Volusia Deputy Sheriff Brian Henderson**. They focused on public safety and challenges such as gun violence, gangs, security of organized events and discouraging pop-up unsanctioned events.

Chair Lois Paritsky announced the formation of a new Stormwater/Flood Management Subcommittee. **John Nicholson** commented that a 1-cent sales tax referendum be considered for the voters with proceeds going to Stormwater management. They reiterated the need for vols on County advisory boards. For more info..go to **Volusia.org**





The **Edgewater City Council** has chosen the executive recruitment firm **SGR** to conduct a nationwide search for candidates for new a full-time manager.

City staff has been collecting background info for a profile brochure for potential candidates. SGR reps have met with staff and Council members to discuss what they want in a City Manager.

Last month, the Council formed a 7-member committee to assist in the search for a new City Manager. The Committee will review the top 15 applications (determined by SGR) and recommend who the City Council should interview. Meanwhile, **Jeff Thurman** is serving as Interim City Manager.

Edgewater will have a Special Election on Feb 18 to take over seat vacated by Rob Wilke who recently resigned.

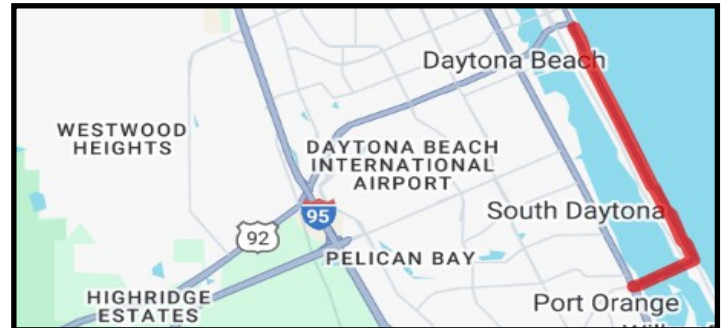
Candidates include Eric Lawrence Rainbird and Renee Sortman.

7,700 (15%) of Volusia County residents don't have health insurance.

A visit to the local emergency room costs an average of \$2,431

FDOT will hold a project open house on Thursday, February 13, 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Shores Community Center, 3000 Bellemead Dr DB Shores.

FDOT is repaving A1A from US 1 (starting mainland at Ridgewood Ave over Dunlawton Bridge (over the Halifax River) to A1A north to Davis St in Daytona Beach. It will add new flashing beacon pedestrian crossings equipped with in-Rd lighting.



It will also upgrade 7 other existing crossings with in-Rd and overhead lighting

Port Orange Fire Rescue's EMS Division has introduced new basic life support (BLS) bags to improve emergency medical



care. These bags contain essential trauma and medical supplies, including nasal Narcan, allowing crews to provide immediate assistance before Advanced Life Support (ALS) teams arrive.

In addition, the EMS Division is awaiting the arrival of new Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). These devices will help ensure a smooth transition of care to ALS providers by maintaining continuous and effective treatment during critical situations.



9/30/2024... Volusia County has a total of \$72,622,219 in debt obligations

Here is a breakdown of the COUNTY debt:

- Tourist Development Tax (TDT) Refunding Bonds and Capital Improvement Revenue Note for the Ocean Center - \$43,402,000 (This debt was taken out for the Ocean Center Expansion and refinance of previous debt. It is repaid from the TDT tax, not property taxes).
- Capital Improvement Revenue Note for Williamson Blvd project - \$990,000 (This debt is paid for using gas tax and/or Rd impact fees, not property taxes)
- Capital Improvement Revenue Note for the Sheriff's Evidence Facility - \$5,305,000 (This debt was for the new Sheriff's evidence facility. A portion of the facility was paid for with General fund dollars and the other portion was paid for with this revenue note and the debt is being repaid with Municipal Service District (MSD) funds which come from property taxes in the unincorporated areas of Volusia County)
- State Loan for Sunrail Phase II North Expansion - \$10,379,333.50 (This debt is paid for using General Fund dollars, property taxes)
- Airport Capital Improvement Revenue Note - \$9,250,000 (Daytona Intl Airport project, debt is paid using DBIA funds, no property taxes)
- Southwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility - \$3,295,885.50 (Debt is paid using the Water and Sewer Utilities fund, which includes payments from utility customers not property taxes)

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Merchant Services
Michael J. Pawelski
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The east ISB revitalization is nearing completion. Construction started about 2 years ago whereby Fla Dept of Transportation (FDOT) and City of Daytona Beach have worked improve safety, accessibility and aesthetics of the City's gateway.

The eight-block project which goes from the Halifax River Bridge to A1A includes:

- widened/resurfaced travel lanes and sidewalks
- raised median to enhance traffic safety
- underground utilities
- improved crosswalks at key intersections

The project's final stages will focus on landscaping the medians while the County is finalizing renovations to the ISB beach approach.

More parking spaces were created, landscaping was expanded, a new restroom building was built, bike racks were added, and sidewalks and lighting were upgraded. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be announced soon.

Look for more Rd improvements in the tourist core Starting this month where FDOT will launch a \$20 million project to resurface and add pedestrian safety features in a 3.6-mile stretch along A1A from East ISB to Milsap Rd. For more info.....click

DaytonaBeach.gov/EastISBRevitalization

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Loretta Arthur
Licensed Real Estate Broker
Founder



City of Holly Hill is studying options to improve LPGA Blvd and would like input on what Rd users (drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, etc) think about the existing Rdway and what they may like to see in a future improvement project.



To take the short two-minute survey, please scan the QR code or click the link to provide your thoughts by February 18, 2025.



Volusia County to Host Community Sessions on Long-Term Coastal Resiliency Strategies

The County will host public informational sessions to discuss long-term beach improvement/resiliency planning. The meetings will provide

- an overview of shoreline trends,
- present findings from the County's Coastal User Survey, (12,000 responses)
- explore potential long-term solutions.

The sessions aim to engage the community in identifying the most feasible/effective strategies for their specific communities.

Attendees will visit different stations to speak with County staff about potential coastal resiliency solutions, historic shoreline trends and other topics,. The public is welcome to arrive anytime during the two-hour session; attendance at the start is not required.

All sessions are **5 to 7 PM.....**

- **Tuesday, Feb 25** Room 103 Ocean Center, 101 N. Atlantic Ave DB
- **Wednesday, Feb 26** DB Shores Community Ctr, 3000 Bellemead Drive, DB Shores
- **Thursday, Feb. 27** Brannon Center, 105 S Riverside Dr, NSB

During the sessions, attendees will have an opportunity to provide input and comments. For those unable to attend, presentation materials and a virtual option for submitting feedback will be available at www.volusia.org after the final session.

Orange City Mayor Kelli Marks announced the Council is seeking an individual to represent District 3 following the death of **Councilman/Vice Mayor Alex Tiamson** (see pg 19 in January VM).



City Clerk Kaley Burleson will be taking applications from Jan 15 to Jan 29. Orange City Council will then interview of possible contenders on a new Councilmember on Feb 11. That individual selected for the Council will serve until November 2026.



The Seminole Tribe has resumed gambling payments to Fla as part of a 30-year deal that includes control over sports betting.

The tribe expects to pay the state at least \$650 million over the next year

County Council Advisory Board Appointments...

The ECHO Advisory committee reviews and assesses ECHO (environmental, cultural, historical and outdoor/recreational) needs. The committee also reviews grant applications and recommends project funding to the county council. The Council appointed the following.....

- Reggie Santilli, (Westside)(Currently on Cultural Council)
- Gerald Fieser (Westside)(Currently on the Agri-Business Inter-Relationship Committee)
- John Macaluso, incumbent (East-side)(Currently on Volusia Forever)
- Pat Drago, incumbent (East-side)
- Gerard Pendergast, incumbent (East-side)
- Doug Pettit (Eastside)

Volusia Forever Advisory Committee assesses/ reviews proposed land acquisitions and makes recommendations to the County Council on environmentally sensitive, water resource and outdoor recreation lands.

- Gerald Fieser (Westside)(Currently on Agri-Business Inter-Relationship Committee)
- Kelly Frasca Incumbent (Westside)
- John Macaluso (East-side) (Currently on Volusia Forever)
- Jessica Gow, Incumbent (Eastside)(Currently on ENRAC)



Jan 7—the County Council voted 5-2 in favor of exploring a public-private partnership for the development/management of a \$39 million sports complex in Orange City which will include baseball and soccer fields, restroom buildings, and parking spaces. The intent would be to generate about \$14 million in economic activity on the County's west side.

Meanwhile, Daytona Beach City Commission is **considering a \$185 million sports complex** on 600 city owned acres in order to generate \$90 million for their economy. More to come....



Lt Gov Jeanette Nunez will be resigning her post soon as she will be taking over as President of Fla International University.

The Fla Constitution, Article IV, Section 2, states that the Governor shall fill any vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor by appointment, subject to Senate confirmation

For the 2026 Ballot....

Smart & Safe Florida has RE-opened a campaign account for the **Adult Personal Use of Marijuana** constitutional amendment in 2026...so be looking for petitions to follow.



Latest Moves/Plans from our Elected Officials



County Councilman Jake Johansson will be running for Fla Senate District 8 currently held by **Sen Tom Wright** who is leaving due to term limits.

Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Nancy Miller filed to run for the

at-large

Volusia County Council seat in 2026.

In addition to her role with the City, she chairs the Volusia League of Cities and Fla League of Mayors.....



Congratulations to Judge Chris Miller on his appointment as Circuit Judge to fill vacancy created by Judge Terrence Perkins retirement. In 2018 Gov DeSantis appointed him a County

Court Judge. We wish him the best of this next chapter of his judicial career!

Judge Miller will be located in the Wm Parsons Court house in Daytona Beach. Meanwhile, his wife **County Court Judge Katherine Miller's** civil division duties take place at the Steven C. Henderson Judicial Center (City Island courthouse).

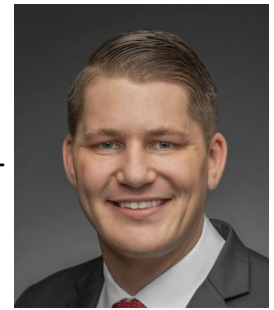
Meanwhile, the Judicial Nominating Commission is taking applications for Judge Miller's County Court seat as well as another Circuit Court vacan-

Local Business People on the Move.....



Renae Ann has just hired as a Talent Acquisition Specialist for Northwestern Mutual – recruiting for their Ormond Beach and St Augustine offices. Wish you the best Renae Ann.

Pryce Hood, Govt Relations Director for DB Area Assn of Realtors will be leaving early February to become Fla Realtors' Regional Government Affairs Director for NE Fla which will encompass

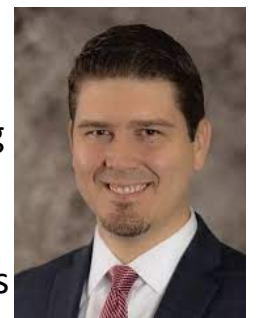


Gainesville, Jacksonville, and Brevard County. He'll be assisting local real estate associations meet fundraising/legislative goals. He'll still be living in the area but change his email to prycedhood@gmail.com



Joel Darr is the new Managing Director of Hard Rock Hotel. He previously was GM at Sage Hospitality Group in Golden, CO. He also worked at Omni Interlocken Resort and B Ocean Fort Lauderdale. He has a Hospitality Mngt degree from Metropolitan State College of Denver.

David Weis has recently been promoted to serve as the president /CEO for the region covering east Volusia, Flagler, St Johns counties at AdventHealth. This new role is part of AdventHealth's regional leadership structure.





MOAS Embarks on Crown Jewel Capital Campaign!

A newly proposed \$175 million “Crown Jewel Capital Campaign” for the Museum of Arts & Sciences has now begun. It will raise funds for a \$75 million building, a \$25 million upgrade to the [museum's current building](#) and a \$75 million addition to the MOAS' endowment fund.

Cici and Hyatt Brown are providing a \$150 million gift towards this venture (\$83.7 million already provided plus a pledge up to \$67 million in 3 for 1 matching donations.

SO...MOAS is seeking \$25 million from local community donations with the goal to make it a regional destination with one of the largest museum endowments in Fla.

The new 60,000-square-foot building facility would be adjacent to the **Cici and Hyatt Brown Museum of Art** off Nova Rd.

The plan would downsize the current 100,000-sq-ft main building to 60,000-sq-feet and relocate part of that building to Nova Rd.

The Lohman Planetarium, Root family train cars, children's museum and other amenities would remain at the current facility.

Next step will include hiring an architect to draft a final design for the new building and the redesign of the existing building with construction planned to commence in 2026 with a 2027/2028 completion date.

The new building is estimated to cost \$1,200 per square foot. Museum trustees and others have pledged \$3.8 million so far.

Hyatt & Cici Brown reiterated that they will match individual donations 3 to 1 until the Community Campaign hits \$25 million. That means a good tax break for you!

Anyone interested in donating can visit www.moas.org or call MOAS Executive Director Tabitha Schmidt at (386) 255-0285.



Congress to Decide Whether to Extend 2017 Tax Cuts Jobs Act (TCJA)

2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) introduced significant changes to the federal tax system.....

- lowered [marginal individual income tax rates](#). *If TCJA expires, rates increase to pre-2017 levels.*
- [increased standard deduction](#) and eliminated personal exemptions. *If TCJA expires, standard deduction for married couple drops from \$30,725 to \$16,525*
- reduced corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% (does not sunset except for minor deduction)
- \$10,000 cap on deductibility of [state / local taxes \(SALT\)](#)
- increased [tax credit for each child under 17](#) from \$1,000 to \$2,000. *If TCJA expires, credit falls back to \$1,000*
- small business income....20% deduction for qualified pass-thru income for sole proprietorships, partnerships, S-corps. *If TCJA expires deduction will no longer be available.*

Pros/Cons of Extending TCJA

- extending the TCJA means govt revenue is reduced by \$4.0 trillion (2025-2034)
- extending the TCJA increases debt with a .2% increase in GDP by 2054. Capital stock and hours worked see modest gains.

Economists have mixed reviews on these two points.

Cong Cory Mills is cosponsoring the TCJA Permanency Act (to make expiring individuals/small businesses tax cuts permanent).

US Federal Reserves Decides to Hold Benchmark Rate Steady

Last week, the Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged amid uncertainty over when borrowing costs for loans, credit cards and auto financing might ease in 2025.

The Fed's benchmark rate will stay in a range of 4.25% to 4.5%, keeping borrowing costs elevated in an effort to curb spending and bring down inflation. Rate cuts might happen in June which would keep borrowing costs high for now. That's because the Fed's benchmark rate directly impacts rates on auto loans, personal loans and credit cards.

The Fed cut rates 50 basis points in September 2024 and 25 basis points cuts in November and December (a 1% decrease over 3 months). This shaved maybe a few dollars off consumers' monthly debt payments — lowering costs for new loans and auto financing while providing some relief on existing credit card balances.

State of the County luncheon will be February 25, 12-2:00 PM at the Ocean Center. Look for invitations and other details later this week.



US economy is showing signs of steady growth and resilience. Here are some key highlights:

- **GDP Growth:** US economy grew at an annual rate of 2.3% in the 4th quarter, with a 2.8% full-year growth rate as consumer spending increased 4.2%.
- **Inflation increased 2.3 in the 4th quarter still slightly above** the Federal Reserve's preferred 2% inflation target..
- **Labor Market**...unemployment rate was 4.1% in December 2024, with significant gains in healthcare, govt, social assistance sectors.
- **Consumer Spending** continues to drive economic growth, with a notable increase in the 4th quarter of 2024.
- **Business Investment** has been mixed...some sectors experiencing growth with others seeing declines.

The economy remains strong, with steady growth, moderate inflation, and a resilient labor market.

There's been a recent increase in 30-year fixed mortgage rates in Florida which can be attributed to several factors:

- Economic growth can lead to higher rates as investors want higher returns.
- Remember, last week when I said December 2024 inflation rate was 2.9% up from 2.7% in November meaning lenders increase rates to compensate for the decreased purchasing power of future payments.
- Increased demand for housing can drive up mortgage rates as lenders adjust to market conditions.



These factors combined have contributed to the recent uptick in mortgage rates.

See Jami Gallagos Real Estate page 12



DAYTONA BEACH
CHILDREN'S BUSINESS FAIR

MARCH 22 9AM-2PM



**RIVERFRONT
ESPLANADE**

SAVE THE DATE - REGISTRATION OPEN

Observe the opportunity for children to launch their very own startup business at the 4th Children's Business Fair featuring up to 90 booths on March 22 from 9am-2pm!

Kids develop a brand, create a product or service, build a marketing strategy, and then open for customers at the one-day marketplace!

This event is sponsored by the Riverfront Esplanade and the generous support of donors and volunteers.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD](#)

THE VOLUSIA REAL ESTATE SCORECARD

VOLUSIA COUNTY SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

Source: Florida Realtors

DECEMBER
2024

CLOSED SALES



680



6.8%
FROM A
YEAR AGO

MEDIAN SALE PRICE



\$355,000



-0.4%
FROM A
YEAR AGO

MONTHS SUPPLY OF INVENTORY



4.4 Mos



UP FROM
3.1 MOS.
A YEAR AGO

DOLLAR VOLUME



\$280
Million



2.2%
FROM A
YEAR AGO

ACTIVE INVENTORY



2,951



%30
FROM A
YEAR AGO

NEW LISTINGS



674



7.7%
FROM A
YEAR AGO

AVERAGE MORTGAGE RATES

Source: Mortgage News Daily

LAST UPDATED
FEBRUARY 5, 2025

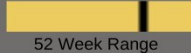
30-YR. FIXED



6.99%

0.11%
FROM 30
DAYS AGO

6.11%



7.52%

52 Week Range

15-YR. FIXED



6.37%

0.12%
FROM 30
DAYS AGO

5.54%



6.91%

52 Week Range

30-YR. JUMBO



7.30%

0.04%
FROM 30
DAYS AGO

6.37%



7.68%

52 Week Range

7/6 SOFR ARM



6.74%

0.30%
FROM 30
DAYS AGO

5.95%



7.55%

52 Week Range

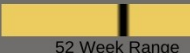
30-YR. FHA



6.37%

0.05%
FROM 30
DAYS AGO

5.65%



7.00%

52 Week Range

30-YR. VA



6.39%

0.06%
FROM 30
DAYS AGO

5.66%



7.03%

52 Week Range

Credit Score
Range

New Car
Loan Rates

Used Car
Loan Rates

781 - 850

5.08%

7.41

661 - 780

6.70%

9.63%

601 - 660

9.73%

14.07%

501 - 600

13.00%

18.95%

BONUS: AVERAGE AUTO LOAN RATES

Q3
2024

Source: Experian State of the Automotive Market Report



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The Volusia Money & Real Estate Scorecard is a monthly report that identifies and tracks various key metrics that are important to Volusia County's economy and consumers. Compiled by Jami Gallegos, MBA, Owner & Lic. Broker of Lifestyle Realty Group, Inc.



A GoFundMe has been set up to help **Pilot Jonathan Campos' mother, Jeannine Campos, with funeral expenses** during this difficult time. Pilot Jonathan Campos was a loving son, boyfriend, and dedicated pilot for American Airlines. Jonathan was Jeannine's pride and joy; everything she did was for her son.

Our deepest and sincerest condolences go out to the Campos family with the tragic loss of Pilot Jonathan Campos of AA flight 5342. May his spirit be eternal. Kindly help out if you can. All monies will go directly to Jeannine... Campos.

To donate...click

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/funeral-expenses-for-pilot-jonathan-campos>

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It's FREE.....unsubscribe at any time.

Click <https://mailchi.mp/jimcameronconsulting/newsletter-contact>



Join Renew Yoga Studio at the Riverfront Esplanade Rose Garden every Monday (weather permitting) at 5:30pm for a relaxing yoga session in Downtown Daytona

Beach! To register and pay online for the yoga class, please

[click here to visit their website!](#)

Location: 255 S. Beach Street, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

The current budget for the U.S. government for fiscal year 2024 is approximately \$6.75 trillion which includes spending on various programs including Social Security, Medicare, national defense, and interest on the national debt.



Since 2022, Charter Spectrum Community Assist program has donated \$192,000 to Brevard Flagler Volusia Careersource via their five-year, \$30 million philanthropic initiative to revitalize local community centers and invest in job training programs in underserved communities where Spectrum operates.

On Saturday, they added a \$32,000 donation for our LOCAL CareerSource will use it to improve its Daytona Beach career center that provides workforce resources and services that help job seekers and employers succeed.

More than 30 volunteers helped with interior painting, assemble new seating and install a projector at the Daytona Beach office. I had the opportunity to attend this event which included Rep Bill Partington, County Councilman Jake Johansson, DBS Mayor Nancy Miller and Charter-Spectrum's Marva Johnson and Kate Wallace and Daytona Chamber's David Robinson.



Call Barbara 386-676-5050 for more info.

8 locations around Volusia and Flagler.

www.storitselfstorageall.com

They're nice people!



Jan 16—Gov Desantis announced her as Fla's next US Senator to take over for the new Sec of State Marco Rubio.

DeSantis said the appt was based "on her track record".

Ashley Moody, who has served as Fla's Attorney General since 2019, has been a staunch supporter of both DeSantis and Trump. Known for her tough stance on immigration and her efforts to combat voter fraud, she has built a reputation as a defender of conservative values. Her appointment is a strategic move to ensure continuity in the Republican agenda in the Senate

The **Governor's Chief of Staff James Uthmeier** will become Attorney General.

A new food truck court will open in March 2025. at Port Orange Riverwalk

whereby 6 food trucks be open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays to provide food, drinks and entertainment.

Coffee and beer (2 things that get MY attention) will be available for purchase in the afternoons and evenings.



Update on US Trade....Tariffs and the Dollar

President Trump has announced plans to impose new tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China protect American industries and reduce the trade deficit....

He has also expressed a desire to weaken the US dollar to boost American exports and reduce the trade deficit.

His economic advisers are considering policies to devalue the dollar relative to other currencies. However, economists argue that while this could make US exports cheaper on the global market, it might also fuel inflation and threaten the dollar's position as the world's dominant currency.

Regarding trade, the US' largest trade deficits are with :

- **China:** \$279.4 billion
- **Mexico:** \$152.4 billion
- **Vietnam:** \$104.6 billion
- **Germany:** \$83.0 billion
- **Japan:** \$71.2 billion
- **Canada:** \$67.9 billion
- **Ireland:** \$65.3 billion
- **South Korea:** \$51.4 billion

US' largest trade surpluses are with

- United Kingdom \$12.5 billion
- Australia \$13.6 billion
- Brazil \$8.1 billion
- Netherlands \$24 billion
- Belgium \$14 billion
- Hong Kong \$23.5 billion
- United Arab Emirates \$15 billion

NEED YOUR HELP!!!

My Volusia Matters podcast and newsletter aims to keep LOCAL business/community leaders and elected officials

informed of governmental, economic development, political news that relates to Volusia County.

VM Podcast is emailed each Tuesday....VM Newsletter is emailed first week each month...NO editorial content or commercials... **it's FREE**

(I am asking you to click the link below to subscribe to Volusia Matters.....It'd sure help me provide YOU the latest/best news that impacts us in Volusia.

And you can **unsubscribe at any time.**

Click

<https://mailchi.mp/jimcameronconsulting/newsletter-contact>

Call me if you have any questions.

Jim Cameron
386-566-2140


Inflation rate for January 2025 was 2.9%...unchanged from December 2024 but slightly higher than 2.8% recorded in November 2024.



Main cost drivers were food, alcoholic AND non-alcoholic beverages and tobacco, and transportation.

THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

View County Data... 

-  TALENT SUPPLY & EDUCATION
-  INNOVATION & SOCIAL DEVELOP.
-  INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP
-  BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS
-  CITIES & GOVERNANCE
-  QUALITY OF LIFE

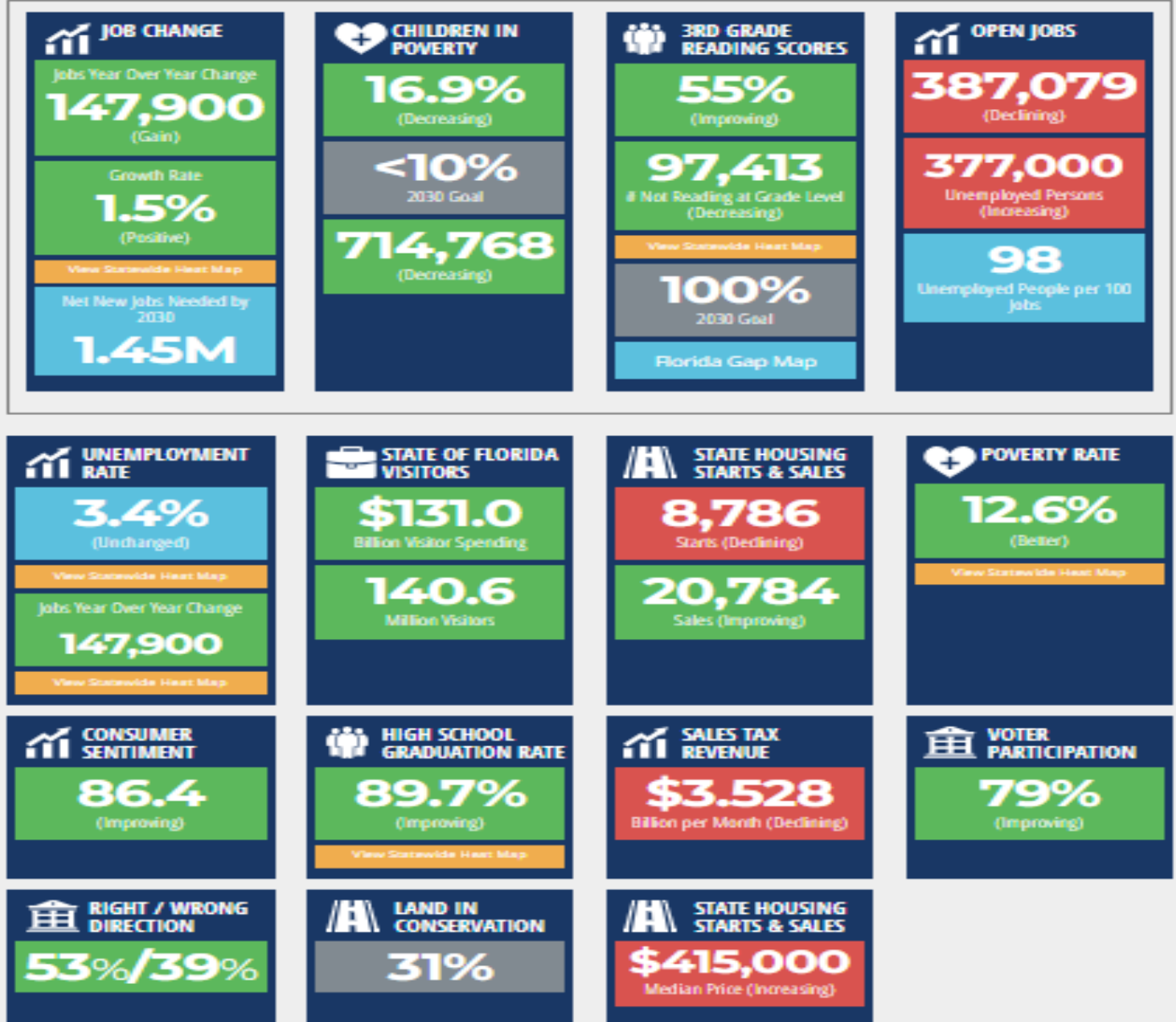
State of Florida Metrics

Click any metric to get more information (What is this?)

Florida FutureCast

FLORIDA POPULATION 02/06/2025

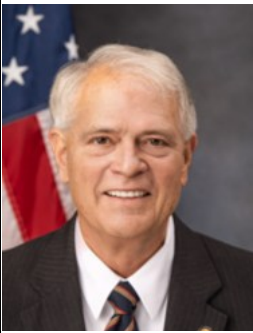



23,451,224



The Fla Scorecard™ is a dynamic online tool that identifies and tracks key metrics that are important to Fla's economy today and into the future.





House Delegation Members

	<p>Rep Richard Gentry R – District 27 1302 Capital Richard.gentry@myFlahouse.gov (850) 717-5027</p> <p>275 S Charles Richard Beall Blvd Unit 108 DeBary, FL 32713-3719</p> <p>Legislative Staff Jerry Bertsch Erika Benfield</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Counsel Oversight Joint Committee • State Affairs Committee • Government Operations Subcommittee • Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee • Industries & Professional Subcommittee • Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee
	<p>Rep Bill Partington R – District 28 1301 Capital Bill.partington@myFlahouse.gov (850) 717-5028</p> <p>Legislative Staff - Sebastian Kenning Sandy Morgan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Select Collective Bargaining • Ways & Means • Criminal Justice Subcommittee • Housing, Agriculture Tourism Subcommittee • Human Services Subcommittee • State Administration Budget Subcommittee
	<p>Rep Webster Barnaby R – District 29 317 Capital Webster.barnaby@myFlahouse.gov (850) 717-5029</p> <p>120 S Fla Ave Deland, FL 32720 736-5042</p> <p>Legislative Staff - Drake Wyman Ryan Veitch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judiciary <i>Vice Chair</i> • Criminal Justice Subcommittee <i>Vice Chair</i> • Ways & Means • Agriculture/Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee • Health Care Facilities/Systems Subcommittee
	<p>Rep Chase Tramont R - District 30 214 House Office Bldg Chase.tramont@myFlahouse.gov (850) 717-5030</p> <p>5889 S Williamson Blvd Ste 201D Port Orange 944-1010</p> <p>Legislative Staff - Duncan DeMarsh Julie Watts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commerce Committee • Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee • Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee • Rules & Ethics Committee • Health Care Budget Subcommittee • Health Care Facilities/Systems Subcommittee

January 2025, median rent for all bedroom counts and property types in Daytona Beach is \$1,700. It's slightly lower than the national average. Rent prices remained stable for the past year.

Federal Reserve sets the federal funds rate...the rate which banks lend to each other

**Volusia Legislative Delegation
2025 Session Dates—March 4 – May 2**

	<p><u>Sen Tom Leek</u> R – District 7 310 Senate Office Bldg (850) 487-5007 Leek.tom@flsenate.gov 780 W Granada Blvd (386) 446-7610 Ormond Beach 32174 Legislative Aides - Danielle Curbow, Michael Murtha, Lynnette Phillips</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commerce and Tourism, Chair • Appropriations Committee on Higher Education • Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development • Community Affairs • Fiscal Policy • Health Policy • Judiciary • Joint Administrative Procedures Committee
	<p><u>Sen Tom Wright</u> R – District 8 412 Senate Office Bldg (850) 487-5008 Wright.tom@flsenate.gov 4606 S Clyde Morris Blvd Suite 2-J Port Orange 32129 304-7630 Legislative Aides - Charlene Gagnier, Christopher Morris, Diane Suddes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security, Chair • Appropriations • Appropriations Committee /Crinal and Civil Justice • Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development • Commerce and Tourism • Rules • Transportation • Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

Price of home insurance increases 3.1%

Home insurance costs in Fla did indeed spike in the 3rd quarter of 2024, with the statewide average pre-

mium for a single-family home policy increasing by 3.1% between the 2nd and 3rd quarters. This follows 2 straight quarters of smaller increases, which experts attributed to a decrease in lawsuits, a mild 2023 hurricane season, and lower hikes in the cost of reinsurance.

However, it's uncertain whether this 3.1% spike indicates a new upward trend for 2025. Factors such as rising home prices, inflation, and contin-

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Congressional Delegation for Volusia County



Sen Rick Scott R

110 Hart Senate Office Bldg Washington DC 20510

Rick_scott@senate.gov 202-224-5274

District Office 225 E Robinson St Orlando

District Director—Barry Cotton

Barry_cotton@senate.gov 407-872-7161—C

Committees

[Foreign Relations](#); [Special Committee on Aging \(Chair\)](#); [Armed Services](#); [Homeland Security](#)/
[Governmental Affairs](#); [Budget](#) ; [Senate Steering Committee](#)



Sen Ashley Moody R

B40-B Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Ashley_Moody@senate.gov 202-224-3041

District Office

Committees

[Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions](#); [Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs](#);
[Judiciary](#); [Joint Economic Committee](#); [Special Committee on Aging](#)



Cong Corrie Mills R

1237 Longworth House Office Bldg Washington DC

Corrie_mills@mail.house.gov 202-225-4035

District Office 1000 City Center Circle Port Orange 386-238-9711

Local Staff - Debbie Phillips

Debbie.phillips@mail.house.gov 386-679-8131

Committees

[Armed Services](#)

[Foreign Affairs](#)



Media Biased Chart

Ratings based on online content..not TV, radio or paper content
 Ratings do NOT reflect accuracy or credibility....they reflect accuracy only.

Left	Lean Left	Center	Lean Right	Right
Alternet	ABC	AP	American Conservative	American Spectator
BuzzFeed News	AP Politics	Axios	The Dispatch	Breitbart
CNN Opinion	The Atlantic	BBC	Epoch Times	The Blaze
Democracy NOW!	Bloomberg	Christian Science Monitor	Fox News	CBN
Daily Beast	CBS	NPR News	Market Watch	Daily Caller
Huff Post	CNN News	Reuters	NewsMax News	Daily Mail
The Intercept	The Economist	Real Clear Politics	NY Post	Daily Wire
Mother Jones	The Guardian	The Hill	Post Millenial	Fox News Opinion
MSNBC	NBC	USA Today	Reason	Federalist
NewsWeek	NY Times	Wall St Journal News	Wall St Journal Opinion	National Review
New Yorker	NPR Opinion	Volusia Matters	Washington Examiner	NY Post Opinion
NY Times Opinion	Politico		Washington Times	NewsMax Opinion
The Nation	TIME			OneAmerica News
Slate	Washington Post			
VOX	Yahoo News			



Volusia Matters podcast is emailed each Tuesday (or Wednesday) and includes local/state, federal, political, business, economic news that you need to know. 30 minutes of time well spent.

Also look for Volusia Matters news on Instagram and X.

December 14 - the Volusia Republican Executive Committee elected new county party officers including Mary Ann Pistilli as the new chair, succeeding Paul Deering, who chaired the group since 2019. Deering announced at the start that he would not seek re-election.

Duncan DeMarsh was elected as Vice-Chair, Cathy DiBernadino as Secretary, John Reid as Treasurer; Erika Benfield as State Committeewoman; as Vic Baker as State Committeeman.



December 9 - Volusia County Democratic Executive Committee recently elected new leadership including Nick Sakhnovsky as the new chair. Past Chair Jewel Dickson opted not to run for re-election. Karen Francis was elected as vice chair, Charleen Smith as secretary, and Richard Thripp as treasurer...Susanne Raines, Danny Fuqua, Gavin Cox, Josephine Pope, Ginger Jabour and Theresa Jerinsky will be Fla Democratic Party executive committee members.



The top 5 countries by Gross National Product (GNP):

- United States:** \$26.89 trillion
- China:** \$18.90 trillion
- Japan:** \$4.86 trillion
- Germany:** \$4.56 trillion
- India:** \$3.63 trillion

GNP is the value of all goods/services produced by these countries, both domestically AND abRd.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of all goods/services produced WITHIN A COUNTRY'S BORDERS in a specific time period.



Scott Bessent is the new US Treasury Secretary who will play a key role in shaping tax and spending policies under President Trump.

This will include overseeing the nation's \$36 trillion debt and manage economic ties with other countries. He supports extending 2017 tax cuts and using tariffs to combat unfair trade practices.

As our top economic official, he faces challenges like rising budget deficits and managing federal cash flows.

2024 was a GREAT year for SunRail commuter rail, the Central Fla Commuter Rail Commission partners and Fla Dept of Transportation (FDOT) – with expanded service, enhanced customer experience, more riders across all stations.



SunRail reached 1.2 million passenger mark in late December representing a 12% growth in ridership from 2023 to 2024. SunRail promoted a combination of routine commuting and local attractions, to grow ridership.

The new DeLand SunRail Station with its improved ticketing system and new mobile ticketing app, introduced SunRail to a new audience.



Colby Allman, a local young business owner, has just released his flagship product, **Sabbatical** that focuses on developing, maintaining, and improving AI systems for businesses.

Sabbatical is a suite of AI systems that enables cutting-edge automation for businesses—saving you time and money. Your website is a critical part of your business' identity and a key gateway to new clients and higher revenue.



However, most websites are messy/disorganized with 1,000 products, property listings, or articles that visitors resent having to filter through to finding what they want.

Most websites are cluttered with scattered or buried information/details resulting in visitors frequently having to peruse multiple pages just to find the key facts they need.....no means of reaching out and grabbing visitors before they get confused or frustrated. Other visitors end up saying, "I'll call/email them later," but never calling you, and go on to a different business.

Sabbatical streamlines your process, reduces your bounce rate, and increases conversion rates. It automatically updates itself with the newest info, products, and listings from your website. It acts as a widget on your website that customers click and converse with.

It asks prospects what they're looking for and suggests items that best fit their needs. It can help retain your visitors by sending them a message first. Sabbatical can provide info to visitors so they don't have to call you or wait for an email back.

It can create appointments inside your existing business calendars, summarize visitor conversations then post info to your spreadsheet or CMS, and research and email your prospects to turn them into clients. It can even integrate with your API creating endless possibilities. AI is not only a powerful tool but now, it's a necessity. To automate your business™ with Sabbatical, click www.sabbatical.cloud.



For safety reasons, Fla Dept of Transportation (FDOT) wants to add new pedestrian crossings and bicycle lanes on US 1 from Beville Rd (SR 400) to north of Fairview Ave as part of a resurfacing project.

FDOT is hosting an in-person project open house about the proposed changes on Wednesday, Feb 12, 5:30 to 7 PM at the News-Journal Ctr, 221 N. Beach St Daytona Beach.

Attendees can view a looping presentation and project displays, speak with project team members, and submit comments or questions.

Visit the project website at your convenience at www.cflRds.com/project/450782-1.



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The Daytona Regional Chamber hosted their 105th Annual Meeting...

2024 Chair Mike Sibley recapped the accomplishments over that past 12 months, including

- Opening to the newly renovated building.....
- 4400 attendees to 43 events...
- recognition for podcast series....
- active in advocacy and candidate endorsements...
- Leadership Daytona Class....
- assisting community withstand hurricanes .



FPL received the Hyatt Brown Enterprise Award

Afterwards, Sibley passed the gavel to **2025 Mike Sznapstajler**.



Cici Brown receives Glenn Ritchey Leadership Award

Congratulations Chamber on a fantastic event!



Jan 23—Mayor Nancy Miller was sworn in as Chair of Volusia League of Cities. This appointment comes as recognition of her dedication and leadership to the community.

She has served as Daytona Beach shores mayor since 2018 and has been instrumental in city accomplishments including opening of Veterans’ Park, Van Alder dog park, and establishing an economic development committee. She's also been active with Florida League of Cities in Tallahassee and the Florida League of Mayors.

As chair, she will continue to advocate for the interests of local governments and in their residents. She has received several awards including the Blaine O'Neill Award of Excellence from the Volusia league of Cities.

With her new role, she is set to bring her vision to the forefront to ensure that the League continues to thrive and serves its communities effectively.

Volusia’s Clerk of Court offers a week-long event every year in the Spring called “Operation Green Light” that waives the collections fee on outstanding past-due traffic citations and criminal case costs and fines

Gov DeSantis wants to overhaul Fla's property tax system. His proposals include increasing the state's homestead tax exemption which currently shields up to \$50,000 of a homes value.



He wants to increase this exemption to help offset rising home costs, interest rates and homeowners insurance.

However, this would require a constitutional amendment that would have to go on the ballot in 2026. DeSantis plans to work with legislators this coming session to develop these reforms.

When Gov DeSantis appointed AG Ashley Moody to US Senate, he plans to appoint James Uthmeier (his Chief of Staff) for Florida Attorney General.

Meanwhile, Uthmeier has opened a political committee, "Friends of James Uthmeier," which signals his intent to run for Attorney in 2026.

DeSantis has named current **ACHA Secretary Jason Weida** as his next chief of staff, after he announced that his current Chief of Staff James Uthmeier will be named next Attorney General.

Some friends we recently lost.....



Beebe White, 82, was married local pediatrician, Dr. Jim White for 58 years. She was President of Volusia PTA Council and served on the State PTA Board. In 1980, she was elected to Volusia Cty School Board where she served 12 years

(8 as chairwoman) and became active with the Fla School Bd Assn.



Lorraine Geiger passed away Feb 1. She resided for nearly the last 30 years in DB Shores where she served on their City Council 2015-2018. She also served on the Shores' Culture/Entertainment Bd

and volunteered at Halifax Hospital, the Peabody, DB Symphony Society, the News Journal Center, and was a member of FAITH and Our Lady of Lourdes.



Sans Lassiter 70 passed away Jan 28. A civil engineer for 46 years, he was President/ Founder of Lassiter Transportation Group (LTG). He was an active member of Team Volusia EDC, VCARD, Daytona Beach Partnership Assn, DB

Downtown CRA Volunteer, ISB Coalition, Champion Elementary School Advisory Committee, and Institute of Transportation Engineers. He was an avid Gator football fan and enjoyed numerous hobbies. Sans was a good friend.



Dal Ritchey 83

passed away Jan 30. He was Exec Director of DeLand Area Chamber, West Volusia Committee of 100 and West Volusia Tourism

Advertising Authority, for 24 years.

He later worked with the regional chapter of the [American Red Cross](#), in Daytona Beach and retired in 2009.



Terry Sanders 69 passed away Feb 1. He began in 1975 as an EMT with EVAC Ambulance and joined Pt Orange PD. He worked over 32 years the Volusia Cty Sheriff's

Office (VCSO), serving under 3 Sheriffs. His roles included Deputy Sheriff/K-9 Handler; Air1 Helicopter Pilot; SWAT Team Commander; Special Services Captain; Patrol District Captain; Judicial Services Captain; and Patrol Major.

His wife Donna Sue is a longtime friend and his daughter Lindsay was my assistant at the Chamber. Terry will be missed.



Volusia Property Data

Info supplied by Volusia Property Appraiser Larry Bartlett

	Residential	Commercial Industrial	# Parcels	# Homesteads	Just Value
Daytona Beach	48%	38%	43,132	14,192	\$15.5 B
DB Shores	84%	12%	8,001	1,989	\$2.8 B
DeBary	54%	7%	13,708	7,504	\$5,04 B
Deland	64%	21%	20,849	9,503	\$6.04 B
Deltona	86%	7%	43,227	26,463	\$10.9 B
Edgewater	72%	16%	14,764	7,413	\$3.5 B
Holly Hill	56%	31%	8,036	2,595	\$1.5 B
Lake Helen	74%	12%	2,103	899	\$408 M
NSB	84%	11%	26,209	11,051	\$11.2 B
Oak Hill	72%	11%	2,095	727	\$425 M
Orange City	32%	48%	7,181	2,391	\$2.0 B
Ormond Beach	67%	23%	26,223	12,504	\$8.79 B
Pierson	43%	14%	1,608	345	\$234 M
Ponce Inlet	93%	1%	4,002	1,498	\$1.9 B
Port Orange	0.67	0.24	32,292	16,272	\$9.3 B
South Daytona	0.61	0.29	7,541	3,256	\$1.6 B



Summary

**Properties Paying No Taxes
2024 Preliminary Tax Roll Counts**

Category	Parcel Count	% Prcl Ct : Real Property	Pay No Tax	% No Tax : Real Property	Pay Tax	% Pay Tax : Real Property
Countywide	308,936	100.0%	24,046	7.8%	284,890	92.2%
Unincorporated	90,885	100.0%	10,094	11.1%	80,791	88.9%
Volusia County Fire District	94,009	100.0%	10,512	11.2%	83,497	88.8%
Municipalities - Total Overall	217,964	100.0%	13,950	6.4%	204,014	93.6%
Daytona Beach	35,558	100.0%	2,432	6.8%	33,126	93.2%
Daytona Beach Shores	6,702	100.0%	209	3.1%	6,493	96.9%
DeBary	11,888	100.0%	826	6.9%	11,062	93.1%
DeLand	17,530	100.0%	1,767	10.1%	15,763	89.9%
Deltona	40,179	100.0%	2,031	5.1%	38,148	94.9%
Edgewater	12,499	100.0%	789	6.3%	11,710	93.7%
Holly Hill	5,980	100.0%	253	4.2%	5,727	95.8%
Lake Helen	1,736	100.0%	131	7.5%	1,605	92.5%
New Smyrna Beach	22,516	100.0%	1,540	6.8%	20,976	93.2%
Oak Hill	1,840	100.0%	187	10.2%	1,653	89.8%
Orange City	4,599	100.0%	365	7.9%	4,234	92.1%
Ormond Beach	20,935	100.0%	1,321	6.3%	19,614	93.7%
Pierson	1,284	100.0%	100	7.8%	1,184	92.2%
Ponce Inlet	3,598	100.0%	230	6.4%	3,368	93.6%
Port Orange	25,357	100.0%	1,517	6.0%	23,840	94.0%
South Daytona	5,763	100.0%	252	4.4%	5,511	95.6%



Countywide

**Properties Paying No Taxes
2024 Preliminary Tax Roll Counts/Values**

Category	Parcel Count	County Taxable Value	Pay No Tax	% No Tax : Real Property	Exempt Value for Properties w/No Tax	% Ex Val : Co Txbl Val
Residential	229,354	42,416,125,320	5,549	1.8%	1,326,291,851	2.3%
Commercial	8,805	9,283,161,328	214	0.1%	287,317,309	0.5%
Industrial	2,185	1,595,809,881	3	0.0%	3,323,180	0.0%
Vacant	44,563	2,187,975,621	2,283	0.7%	59,931,508	0.1%
Governmental	8,617	25,862,470	8,531	2.8%	4,551,650,964	8.0%
Institutional	1,151	575,347,436	802	0.3%	1,324,809,455	2.3%
Miscellaneous	6,615	169,946,325	4,597	1.5%	24,980,858	0.0%
Agricultural	7,646	404,583,052	2,067	0.7%	31,534	0.0%
Total Real Property:	308,936	56,658,811,433	24,046	7.8%	7,578,336,659	13.4%

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SYNERGY BILLING

Countywide
Properties Paying No Taxes
2024 Preliminary Tax Roll Counts

Category	Parcel Count	% Prcl Ct : Real Property	Pay No. Tax	% No Tax : Real Property	Pay Tax	% Pay Tax : Real Property
Residential	229,354	74.2%	5,549	1.8%	223,805	72.4%
Commercial	8,805	2.9%	214	0.1%	8,591	2.8%
Industrial	2,185	0.7%	3	0.0%	2,182	0.7%
Vacant	44,563	14.4%	2,283	0.7%	42,280	13.7%
Governmental	8,617	2.8%	8,531	2.8%	86	0.0%
Institutional	1,151	0.4%	802	0.3%	349	0.1%
Miscellaneous	6,615	2.1%	4,597	1.5%	2,018	0.7%
Agricultural	7,646	2.5%	2,067	0.7%	5,579	1.8%
Total Real Property:	308,936	100.0%	24,046	7.8%	284,890	92.2%
Tangible Personal Property and Centrally Assessed	50,060 1,716		40,731 1,193		9,329 523	
Total Roll:	360,712	100.0%	65,970	18.3%	294,742	81.7%

Total Homestead Count by Volusia County Municipality

Municipality	Total Parcels - Real Property	Homestead Count	Percent HX
Deltona	40,183	26,531	66.03%
Port Orange	25,351	16,354	64.51%
DeBary	11,887	7,536	63.40%
Ormond Beach	20,937	12,539	59.89%
Edgewater	12,497	7,440	59.53%
South Daytona	5,763	3,262	56.60%
DeLand	17,535	9,556	54.50%
Lake Helen	1,738	902	51.90%
Orange City	4,768	2,396	50.25%
New Smyrna Beach	22,536	11,097	49.24%
Holly Hill	5,980	2,612	43.68%
Ponce Inlet	3,598	1,498	41.63%
Flagler Beach	87	36	41.38%
Daytona Beach	35,687	14,257	39.95%
Oak Hill	1,838	730	39.72%
Daytona Beach Shores	6,702	1,998	29.81%
Pierson	1,285	344	26.77%

Source: Volusia County Property Appraiser's Office - 2024 Final Tax Roll

MEET A.L.I.C.E.
2022 data from unitedforallice.org

WHO IS A.L.I.C.E.
129,317 households living in Volusia & Flagler Counties are ALICE or Below

WHAT IS A.L.I.C.E.
Asset Limited Income Constrained Emloyed

44% of Volusia & 41% of Flagler households are A.L.I.C.E or Below

IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

- Increase in housing instability
- Decrease in Mental/Physical Health
- Lack of disposable income
- Lower employee and student performance

FOOD LIMITATIONS
35% of Volusia and Flagler county households have limited access to grocery store which increases food insecurity

RENT BURDEN
55% of Volusia and Flagler county renters are putting more than 30% of their paycheck towards rent.

WORK FORCE
Retail Associates, Customer Services Representative, and Cashiers are the top three occupations that are most likely to be A.L.I.C.E. or below.


HOW CAN I HELP A.L.I.C.E.?

Individual

- Promote 2-1-1 & VITA
- Volunteer with agencies
- Become an advocate for sliding scale services like childcare and health insurance

Company

- Offer hybrid schedule, Competitive Compensation package, or growth opportunities
- Provide paid time off and flex time to support employees with children and family members with health issues
- Partner with local mental health organizations to offer counseling

LEARN MORE: 

unitedwayvfc.org

ALICE stands for Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed.....something that I remember from my Chamber days and it always concerned me. These are the paycheck-to-paycheck families/ individuals who are working but barely have enough income to make it through

the month or sometimes not. They often work 1-2 or 3 jobs to make ends meet but when hours get cut or the car breaks down or a major rent increase occurs.... they're in trouble.

And what does that do to the Christmas budget?

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are groups that operate independently of any government, aiming to improve social conditions. They're usually non-profit entities working work on local, national, or international levels on a wide range of issues humanitarian aid, environmental protection, human rights, and community development..... examples include American Red Cross, Amnesty Intl, Salvation Army. They often rely on funding from private donations, membership dues, and government grants.



Kim Short (Daytona Toyota) JJ Royer (MOAS)



Tracy Williams Karen Eastman (Florida Health Care Plan)



Ben Bartlett (Volusia Cty) Jeff Thurman (Edgewater)



Joyce Shanahan (Ormond Bch) Cheryl Coxwell (NASCAR)



Nancy Maddox (DB Shores)
Jeff Branch (FL League of Cities)



Chris & Stacy Conomos (DB Shores)
Debbie Phillips (Cong Cory Mills)



Marva Johnson (Charter Spectrum)
Rep Bill Partington



Jayson Meyer (Synergy Billing)
Sen Randy Fine



Dave Castaganacci VCARD Exec Kelli Consantino



Ponce Inlet's Skip White, Cty Council's Danny Robins



Merrick Bruncker and Jayne Fifer



Sam Owens Dave Castagnacci at VCARD luncheon



Kate Wallace (Charter Spectrum)
Darlynn Tacinelli (Volusia Cty Schools)



Tom Valley Ormond Beach Mayor Jason Leslie



Cty Council's Matt Reinhart Pt Orange Council's Reed Foley



Ormond Comm Harold Briley NSB Comm Lisa Martin



Pt Orange Council's Shawn Goepfert, Ormond Beach
Mayor Jason Leslie (First Step Shelter Bd)



Cty Chair Jeff Brower
Pierson Mayor Gray Leonhard

Volusia Calendar

Volusia Calendar is a new segment to the Volusia Matters brand It'll include Community and Government sections.... And I need your help.

If your organization has an annual or semi-annual MAJOR event (not monthly), please e-mail me the event name and date. This is to help business/ community leaders plan their calendar AND help organizations avoid scheduling their major events on the same night. Volusia Calendar will appear in Volusia Matters newsletter each month. Again, e-mail your organization's MAJOR events to Jim@jimcameronconsulting.com

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CEO
904.993.3205 Cell
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Community Calendar

February 6....Daytona Regional Chamber Annual Meeting

February 8....First Step Shelter Mayor's Gala – 6 PM DB Hilton

February 8...Halifax Historical Society Annual Gala 5:30 PM HRYC

February 12 – 16....Daytona Beach Speed Weeks

February 16....Daytona 500

February 21....Volusia Economic Q Breakfast 7:30 AM Daytona Intl Airport

February 28 - March 9.....Daytona Bike Week

March 29.... Kaiser Unv Golf Scramble Fundraiser 8:30 AM Shotgun Start Cypress GC

April 19....Easter Beach Run

May 1, 2, 5....Daytona Intl Speedway Plantation Bay & Oceanside GC

May 1....Boy Scouts Golden Eagle Dinner 6 PM Hard Rock Hotel



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February 28 - March 9.....Daytona Beach Bike Week 2025

March 11...United Way Herbert Davidson Dinner – ERAU

April TBD....Pt Orange/South Daytona Chamber Tasteful Affair Restaurant Showcase

May 1-5....Halifax Health 51st Annual DIS ProAm Golf Tournament

June TBA...VCARD Real Estate Values Forum

October 10...Halifax Health Foundation Bahama Casual Dinner

Governmental Calendar

Dec 2 - Feb 17.....Fla Senate Committee Weeks

Dec 9 - Feb 17.....Fla House Committee Weeks

February 25....State of the County luncheon – 11 AM DB Ocean Center

February 27...State of our Schools— 9 AM Superintendent’s Report Brannon Ctr NSB

March 4....Legislative Session Begins

March 10.....Volusia Elected Officials Roundtable – 9 AM

March 27.... Volusia League of Cities Meeting – 6 PM Elected Officials Only

March 30 – April 1...Volusia Days at the Capitol – Daytona Regional Chamber

May 12.....Volusia Elected Officials Roundtable – 9 AM

May 22...Volusia League of Cities Meeting – 6 PM Elected Officials Only

July 24.....Volusia League of Cities Meeting – 6 PM Elected Officials Only

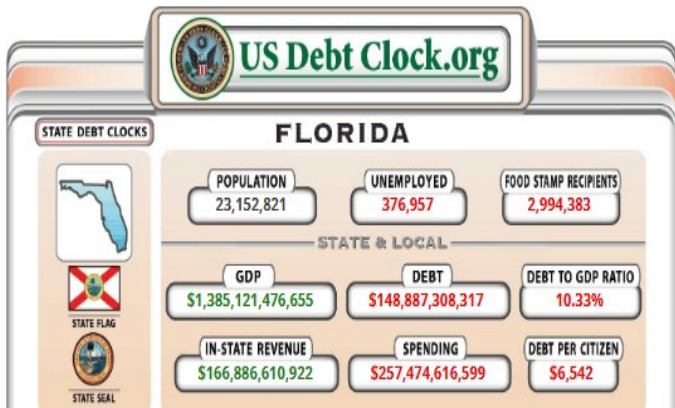
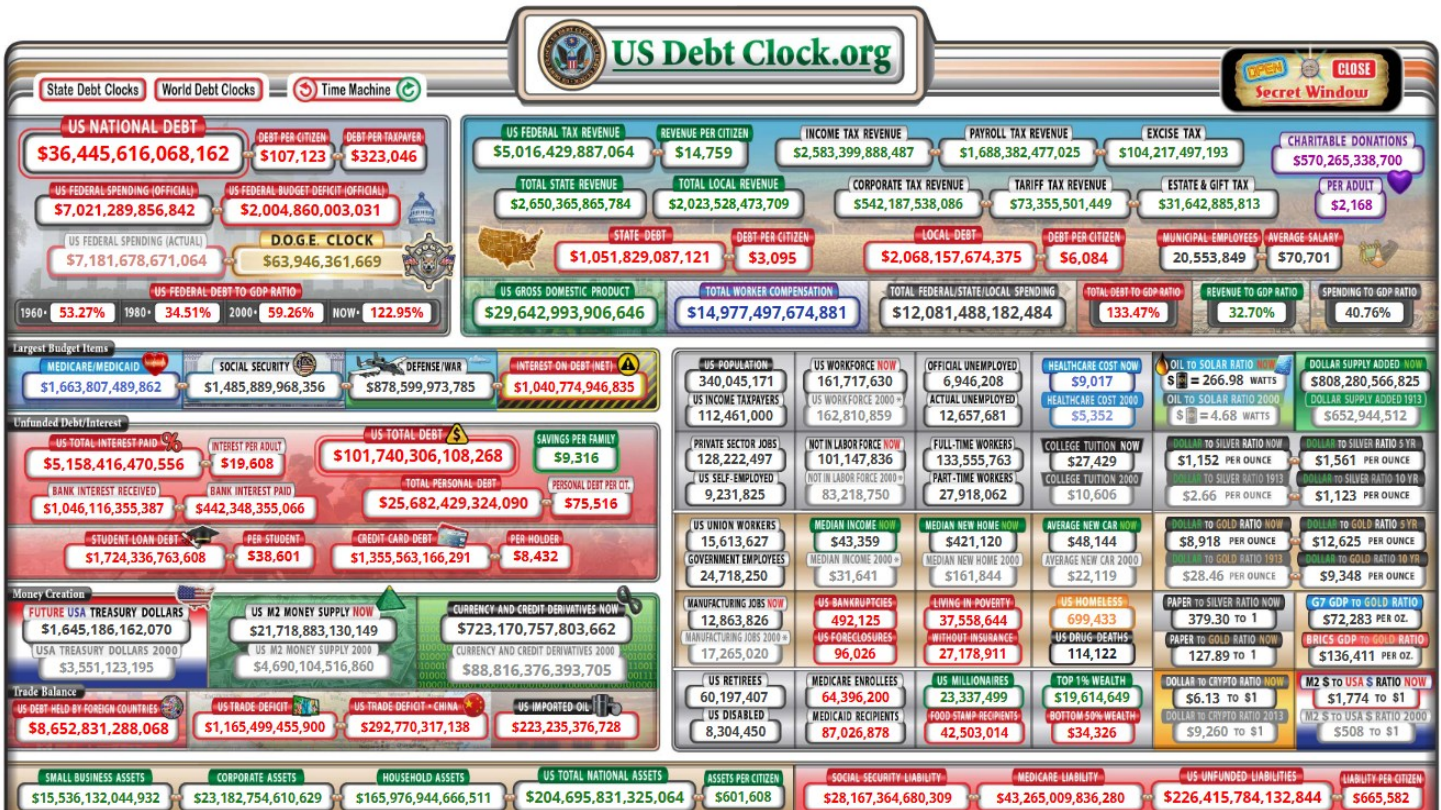
September 8.....Volusia Elected Officials Roundtable – 9 AM

September 25....Volusia League of Cities Meeting – 6 PM Elected Officials Only

November 10.....Volusia Elected Officials Roundtable – 9 AM

December 11....Volusia League of Cities Meeting – 6 PM Elected Officials Only

....when my daughter, Holley was little and wanted something...she'd say, "you don't need money Dad, just write a check" As of 3:52 PM January 6, 2025.....



Recently, US GAO warned the national debt is growing at a rate that threatens the vitality of our nation's economy AND will more than double over the next 30 years ..."posing serious economic/security problems if not addressed".

Most of the growth in government spending is three things.....

- Social Security,
- healthcare (Medicare/Medicaid),
- interest on the debt.

In 2000, US national debt was just \$3.4 trillion..... about one-third of annual gross domestic product. Back then, the Congressional Budget Office felt it could be wiped out completely within a decade.

Today it's \$36.4 trillion....nearly 100% of GDP.... highest level since World War II. On the current trajectory it will hit 200% of GDP by 2050.

Despite economic growth, FY 2024 deficit was \$1.83 trillion, 5th year in a row of a deficit above \$1 trillion.

Projections show the federal government will pay more than \$1 trillion in net interest costs starting in 2029. The recent rise in net interest spending has been driven by higher interest rates.

GAO has previously suggested that Congress develop a plan to address the government's unsustaina-



RIVERFRONT MARKET | JANUARY 26TH | 10AM-3PM | 179 S. Beach St.

Join us for the Riverfront Market at the Riverfront Esplanade! Sip, Shop & Stroll with us....

February 23, 10am-3pm!

Featuring local vendors, music, and FREE yoga with Renew Yoga Studio at 9am in the Rose Garden! Be sure to bring your own mat and water! Mark your calendars and we can't wait to see everyone there!

Property tax is based on a property's assessed value, which is appraised for market value as of January 1 of each year.

Fla homeowners (permanent residences) are currently [eligible for a homestead exemption](#) on first \$25,000 which applies to all property taxes including school district taxes. Another additional \$25,000 exemption applies only to non-school taxes.

Fla Legislature House/Senate Interim Committee weeks set -

Senate

Week of February 3rd
 Week of February 10th
 Week of February 17th

House

Week of February 3rd
 Week of February 17th

2025 Legislative Session begins March 4.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mon - Fri 9am-5pm
 Saturday 10am-4pm

(386) 761-2251 • WholesaleLightingDaytona.com

2500 South Nova Rd., Daytona Beach • I-95 Exit 260A
 1.4 miles off Beville Road

Local Government Links

[Volusia County Council](#) February 4 9 am, 18 4 PM **Special Mtg 11, 4 PM** County Admin Bldg

[Daytona Beach City Commission](#) February 5, 19 - 6 pm City Hall

[Ormond Beach City Commission](#) February 4, 18 - 7 pm City Hall

[Port Orange City Council](#) February 4, 18 - 6:30 City Hall

[Holly Hill City Commission](#) February 11, 25, 6 pm City Hall

[South Daytona City Council](#) February 11 - 6 pm City Hall

[DB Shores City Commission](#) February 4 - 6 pm City Hall

[DeBary City Council](#) February 5 - 6:30 pm City Hall

[Deland City Commission](#) February 3, 17 - 7 pm City Hall

[Deltona City Commission](#) February 3, 17 - 6:30 pm City Hall

[Edgewater City Council](#) February 3 – 6 pm City Hall

[Lake Helen City Commission](#) February 13 - 7 pm City Hall

[New Smyrna Bch Commission](#) February 11, 25 - 6:30 pm City Hall

[Oak Hill City Commission](#) February 13, 27 - 6 pm City Hall

[Orange City City Council](#) February 11, 25 - 6:30 pm City Hall

[Ponce Inlet Town Council](#) February 20 - 2 pm City Hall

[School Board of Volusia](#) February 11, 25 - 4:30 pm Deland

[River to Sea TPO](#) February 26, 9 am DBIA Airlines Rm



City of DeBary is accepting applications for their Spring 2025 Citizen's Academy.

DeBary Citizens Academy is a free, 8-week program to give residents an opportunity to learn about City government functions and services, including relationships between Depts and how services are provided. The aim is to educate citizens on government operations while helping them better understand their role in city government. It may also prepare participants for service on City Council or Advisory boards.

Classes are Tuesdays, February 18 - April 8, 6–8 PM at various locations around the City, but most classes held at City Hall.



FRIENDS OF THE ESPLANADE

Want to become a Friend of the Riverfront Esplanade?

As a Friend of the Esplanade you strongly believe in the work and dedication that has gone into revitalizing the downtown riverfront property into a place Daytona residents and businesses can be proud. A friend of the Esplanade agrees to promote and advocate on behalf of the Esplanade in future challenges.

If you would like to be a Friend of the Esplanade, please share some information by completing the short survey via the link below. We want to know more about you and how you feel we can improve. Thank you for your interest in joining our Esplanade community.

[Take the Survey](#)



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Join Our Winning Team.

[Explore Careers](#)





For more immediate /timely news, check out Volusia Matters podcast...with local political, governmental, business, economic development topics plus interviews with local business/community leaders as well as elected officials....

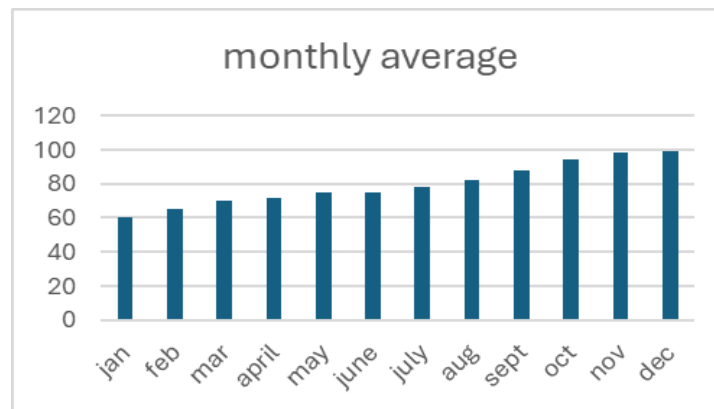
Listen online on your laptop, smart phone or in your car en route to work!

[Click here](#) for recent podcast episodes.....

401 K plans now allow \$23,500. For 2025, annual contribution limit for 401 (k) plans has been increased to \$23,500 for employees under 50. For those aged 50 and over, the catch-up contribution limit remains at \$7,500, making total potential contribution \$31,000.



2024 was First Step Shelter’s busiest year to date. Daily census increased 67% from January (60 individuals) to December at full capacity (100 individuals). FSS had 544 residents in the shelter program (annual total) vs 357 (2023 total). The Rose Ann Tornatore Safe Zone had 844 visitors (annual total) vs 636 (2023 total).



[Click here](#) to RSVP for the First Step Shelter at the annual Mayor’s Gala on Feb 8, 6 PM at the DB Hilton. Event sponsors are still needed!

Volusia Tax collectors also provide State services

- Only official DMV in Volusia Driver licenses/IDs
- Vehicle/vessel registrations/titles
- Concealed weapon licenses
- Disabled parking permits
- Hunting & fishing licenses
- Birth certificates

There are some 2000 spaces in the county’s 65 off beach parking lots.

First Step Shelter Stats—January 2024

Shelter Intakes	2020	2021	2022	2023	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Jan-25	Total
DBPD	54	65	89	123	70	48	82	70	30	631
OBPD	2	2	5	2	1	5	0	2	3	22
POPD	0	2	4	8	2	3	2	2	0	23
DBSPD	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	4
SDPD	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
PIPD	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
HHPD	2	1	6	10	2	4	5	9	0	39
VCSO	3	3	18	36	3	3	5	6	3	80
NSBPD	-	-	-	2	1	1	3	1	3	11
Deland PD	-	-	-	-		1	8	4	2	15
Oak Hill PD								0	0	0
Total Law Enforcement	62	75	125	182	79	65	105	97	41	831
DOC			3	12	3	6	2	0	1	27
Total Hospitals	38	20	50	57	22	33	29	24	11	284
Total SS and Worship	55	145	165	100	24	25	15	15	3	547
FSS Help Line			37	6	0	0	0	0	0	43
Total	155	240	380	357	128	129	151	136	56	1732

Rose Ann Tornatore Safe Zone Referrals—January 2024

Safe Zone Program Referrals	31-Dec	2021	2022	2023	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Jan-25	Total
DBPD	23	2469	252	420	302	69	126	112	43	3816
PIPD	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
OBPD	0	20	20	22	8	4	0	5	1	80
POPD	0	25	21	22	10	3	6	10	4	101
DBSPD	0	20	12	14	0	3	2	3	2	56
SDPD	0	8	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	18
HHPD	7	19	14	38	19	18	15	9	2	141
NSBPD	-	-	-	14	9	3	8	3	4	41
Deland PD	-	-	-	-	3	0	1	0	0	4
Volusia County Sheriff				101	26	12	20	13	6	178
Total	30	2561	329	636	377	112	178	155	62	4440

[Click here](#) for more details regarding First Step Shelter....



What are you reading?

Do you have a book that you're reading now or recently read?
If so, text it to 566-2140

- Abbas Abdulhussein Turning Ordinary Moments into Extraordinary Results
- Alhadi Abdulhussein - The Big Short
- Amanda Thorpe Tattooist of Auschwitz Heather Morris
- Ammie Olson - The Atlas Paradox Olivie Blake
- Anne Ruby— From Wall St to White and Back Anthony Scaramucci
- Ben Johnson - Better Off Dead Jack Reacher Series
- Ben Sedrine Elon MuskWalter Isaacson
- Bill Partington Sr TrafficTom Vanderbilt.
- Billie Wheeler The Women Kristen Hannah
- Bob Apgar Democracy Awakening Heather Richardson
- Bob Williams Hillbilly Elegy JD Vance
- Bobbie Doyle - Heaven and Earth Grocery Store James McBride
- Judge Bryan Feigenbaum - It's Hard for Me to Live with MeRex Chapman
- Brandon Frey-12 Rules for LifeJordan Peterson
- Cathy Washington-Lead Guide or Get Out of the Way Frank Sennett
- Charlene Gagnier—How to Win Friends & Influence People Dale Carnegie
- Chris Via Warrior Diplomat Cong Mike Waltz
- Chuck Gaurra - If These Walls Could Talk
- Colby Allman The Richest Man in Babylon George Samuel Clayson
- Cong Cory Mills—Creature from Jekyll Island Edward Griffin
- Cynthia Slater—Untold Story of Harry Moore America's First Civil Rights Martyr Ben Green
- Dale Ketcham Black Tongue Thief Christopher Beuhlman
- Dan Francati - Killing the Witches Bill O'Reilly
- Darold Schonscheck Prodigal Daughter Jeff Archer
- David Batten-Georgia Bottoms Mark Childress
- Deborah Crock Forrester— Dorito Effect
- Debra Kay Snow— Princesses Behaving Badly
- Didiayer Snyder - Don't Just Stand There Pray Something Ronald Dunn
- Don Burnett Most Dangerous Man in America, Making of Douglas MacArthur
- Donna Brosemer—Patriots Toolbox Heartland Inst
- Doug Daniels After the Empire Emmanuel Todd
- Doug Kosarek M Dollar Weekend Noah Kagan
- Duncan Demarsh Hard Truths....Cong Miichael Waltz
- Elizabeth Albert—You're the Leader You've Been Waiting For.....Eric Klein
- Ernie Audino— A World Split Apart..Alexander Solzhenitsyn
- Erika Benefield—Drive Through Napa Book
- Frank Farmer— A World Undone ...GJ Meyer
- Fred Guzman Debt of Honor Tom Clancy
- Fred Lowry Books of Matthew and Luke
- Georgia Turner Leaving God for God Phil Davis
- Holley Miranda Mother of God Paul Roslie
- Hardy Smith Ego Is The Enemy..... Ryan Holiday
- Hugh Grimes - Teaching Black History to White People...Leonard Moore
- Hyatt Brown - Elon Musk Walter Isaacson
- Jake Johansson Common Sense Thomas Paine
- Jami Gallegos - Creative Destruction of Medicine Eric Topol
- Jayson Meyer Going Infinite Michael Lewis
- Jeff Brower Great Land Hustle Morton Paulson
- Jenny Nazek - Nation of Strangers Vance Packard
- Jesse Thompson - David and Goliath..
- Jessica Lovatt— Future is Faster than You Think..
- Jim Tobin The Firm..... John Grisham
- JJ Royer Covenant of Water.....Abraham Verghese

- Joe Yarbrough - Big Sky...AB Guthrie
- John Booker - The National Parks Ken Burns
- John Danio Drums & Demons...Joel Selvin
- John Phillips - First 90 Days.....Michael Watkins
- Joni Hunt - Between Two Kingdoms Suleika Jaouad
- Judge Matt Foxman - Start Stay Or Leave Trey Gowdy
- Judge Mike Orfinger-Calamity of Souls David Baldacci
- Kate Wallace - Build the Life You Want Arthur Brooks and Oprah Winfrey
- Kathy Smith-Words are Powerful Susie Yelvington
- Ken Hunt-Starbucks Experience Joseph Mitchell
- Kent Sharples -Empire of the Summer Moon
- Kevin Captain—Never Split the Difference....Chris Voss
- Leila Gosney—Hillbilly Elegy....JD Vance
- Linda Bradley -Seven Girls Gone Allison Brenna
- Linda Cuthbert - Enough Cassidy Hutchinson
- Lise Forte—Never Split the Difference Chris Voss
- Lois Paritsky Edmund Fitzgerald Legendary Shipwreck
- Lori Tolland The Last Lecture Randy Pausch
- Loretta Arthur - The Sea & the Stars Robert Wilder
- Lynn Flanders 5 Dysfunctions of a TeamPat Lencioni
- Mark Bontrager - Outlive Peter Attia
- Marguerite Ardito— 15-Minute City.. Carlos Moreno
- Mary Bennett - Making of Vince Carter Michelle Carter
- Mary Margaret Kelley -The 2% Way ...Myron Rolle
- Matt Reinhart - Bleachers John Grisham
- Melissa Cohen - A Hole in the Apple ...Harley Carnes
- Michael Burton—Demon of Unrest
- Michael Kahn - Exodus Leon Uris
- Michelle Carter Scott Making of Vince Carter
- Michael Fowler—How to Know a Person David Brooks
- Mike Pawelski Juror #2John Grisham
- Mike Scudiero- Blossom: Cultivating More Joy/Success Nancy Lohman
- Mike Springer Outliers ...Malcolm Gladwell
- Nate Quartier—Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Voyage...Alfred Lansing
- Nick Conte Art of Practice
- Pat Northey - Audubon Birds of Fla
- Pierre Lewis Lead from Any SeatAndrei Anca
- Randy Hartman Who Moved My Cheese
- Renae Ann—The Bible in 52 Weeks .. Dr Kim Moore
- Richard Bryan-Eat Drink Be Happy Dr Walter Willett
- RJ Larizza - Juror #2 John Grisham
- Rob Merrell The Sun Also Rises Ernest Hemingway
- Robin King - Zen in The Art of Writing Ray Bradbury
- Ron Nowwiski War at Sea Nathan Miller
- Roy Johnson Book of Romans
- Ryleigh Wogoman - The Blue Zones Dan Buettner
- Sandy Bishop Strong Towns Charles Marohn
- Stan Escudero 1177 Eric Cline
- Sue Barry - Lessons in Chemistry Bonnie Garmus
- Susan Persis—Shogun James Clavell
- Tammy Kozinski - Life We Bury Allen Eskens
- Ted Rover - I Am N Marharaj
- Teresa Rand Culture Shock Jim Clifton
- Terri Hinks - Good Bye Things Fumio Sasak
- Tom Self - Living Athena
- Toni Hunt 360 Leader John Maxwell
- Traci Woodard - Walking with God . Tim Gray Jeff Cavins
- Valli Perrine Unwoke How to Defeat Cultural Marxism in America Ted Cruz
- Vic Baker - Government Gangsters Kash Patel
- Victoria Fahlberg Red RisingPierce Brown