



The Insider

The Official Newsletter of the City of South Daytona



A Message from the Mayor



Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a safe and fulfilling holiday season. I know I speak for many that we are grateful that we were named storm free in 2025. With the better weather our public works employees did not rest and made over 80 improvements to our stormwater and sewer systems. We have major stormwater projects currently in design that are expected to break ground next year. Our City does weekly updates on our Facebook page on the progress completed by our crews to strengthen our infrastructure and protect our City. The work continues.

In 2026, we will celebrate the City's 75th Anniversary. Although our community's roots stretch back well before 1951, the State officially approved our City Charter in June of that year. This milestone is both meaningful and exciting, and we have several special events planned to honor our history and showcase our future. One of the highlights will be the renovation and reopening of Reed Canal Park Playground, which will feature a prehistoric theme inspired by the Giant Ground Sloth discovered in the park during the 1970s.

I hope you have had the opportunity to see the recent improvements along the U.S. 1 corridor, including the continued undergrounding of utility lines. We have also welcomed several new additions to our business community, with the openings of McDonald's and Zaxby's. Winola Farms and Krystal's are expected to open soon, further enhancing our local dining and commercial options.

Stay tuned as we enter our 75th year, follow our Facebook page and visit our website for updates. Wishing everyone a safe and happy New Year!

Mayor

William "Bill" Hall
(386) 295-6636

Councilman Seat 1

Brandon Young
(386) 453-5645

Vice-Mayor Seat 2

Doug Quartier
(386) 299-6511

Councilwoman Seat 3

Lisa O'Neal
(386) 322-3014

Councilman Seat 4

Eric Sander
(386) 852-8588

City Manager

James L. Gillis, Jr.
(386) 322-3014

Community Development:

Permits, Licenses:
(386) 322-3020

Code Compliance Office:

(386) 322-3025

Fire Dept. Non-Emergency:

(386) 322-3033

Parks & Recreation:

(386) 322-3070

Police Department:

(386) 322-3030

Police Dispatch

Non-Emergency:

(386) 323-3568

Public Works Department:

Water/Sewer Emergency

Trash & Recycling:

M-F (8 to 4:30) (386) 322-3080

All other times: (386) 323-3568

Utility Department:

New Service, Service Shut-offs:

(386) 322-3002

Stormwater Update from City Manager James L. Gillis, Jr.:

As we close out one year and begin another, the City's primary focus has not changed. We remain committed to improving our stormwater infrastructure with the goal of keeping water out of our homes. Our Public Works Department has been working hard all year long making improvements to our stormwater system. Over this past year they have completed over 80 stormwater maintenance and improvement items throughout the City. The improvements that were made since our last newsletter update are listed below.

- The Public Works Department received a request to televise the stormwater system on Magnolia Avenue to look for blockages. The line was successfully televised with no blockages found and the pipe in good condition. Crews cleaned the pipe while we were conducting our investigation including the segment behind the backflow preventer to ensure it continues to operate properly. If you should have a request for Public Works to check the drainage system on your street, please call us at 386-322-3080 and we will be happy to evaluate it.
- The Public Works crew replaced a section of corrugated metal pipe on Sandusky Road that was on the verge of collapse. Corrugated metal pipe and our brackish groundwater do not mix. The salt in the groundwater eats away the corrugated metal pipe over time and these damaged sections must be replaced. This replacement of this pipe will ensure proper drainage in the future.
- The expansion of the stormwater pond on Windle Lane is heading towards completion. The newly expanded pond will hold more water in an effort to keep it out of our homes in the Coventry Forest subdivision.
- Speaking of the Coventry Forest subdivision, the City completed the installation of a large permanently housed generator at the newly expanded pond on Windle Lane. Keeping the stormwater pump here working properly throughout a storm, even in the event of a power outage, is invaluable to saving the homes in this subdivision.
- The Public Works Department replaced a drainage pipe along Alice Place to improve the drainage of this area. The old pipe consisted of rusty corrugated metal installed decades ago that just cannot stand up to the saltwater environment of our coastal town.
- The City's contractor has finished thoroughly cleaning the Stevens Canal. The Public Works Department noticed that remnants of the cleaning process left behind pockets of debris that were cut down and accumulated in small piles in the canal. Those small piles have now been removed, and the entire canal is clear and ready to convey stormwater more effectively.

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- The Public Works crew was hard at work clearing the Aspen Ditch which runs from the pond located on Aspen Drive to Nova Road. The clearing of this ditch will improve the gravity outfall in the Aspen Stormwater Pond which regulates the drainage in the Big Tree Village subdivision.
- The City's weather station, located on top of our City Hall complex, provides live, local weather conditions for South Daytona. We wanted to share this information with our residents so if you go to our website, www.southdaytona.org, there is a link on the home page for our weather station. When you click the link, it will provide you with the current weather conditions along with other useful information such as historical rainfall amounts for the last day, week, month or year. This tool will be used to gauge our drainage system's effectiveness given the information collected from each storm.
- Mayor Hall had an opportunity to speak to our 2026 Volusia County Legislative Delegation where he requested state funding for two upcoming projects. The first project involves the lining of our sanitary sewer pipes which, when completed, will prevent groundwater intrusion, thus reducing the likelihood of sewer system backups and restoring our aging system. The second project involves the replacement of our stormwater system backflow preventors which keep adjacent canals (Nova Canal, Stevens Canal and Reed Canal) and the Halifax River from overwhelming our system during severe weather events. The requests were well received by our state lawmakers who praised South Daytona for being a debt-free community.
- The Public Works Department completed a repair on our 30-inch stormwater line located on Segrave Street. The deficiency was noted during our City-wide televising effort to find issues with our current stormwater infrastructure. The goal is to make those repairs that are necessary to keep stormwater out of our homes. The repair of this pipe will help those who reside in and around Segrave Street.
- We had a resident report an issue with a stormwater inlet located at the corner of Kenilworth Avenue and Myrtle Place. Our Public Works Department immediately sprang into action and made the necessary repairs. If anyone sees a deficiency on their street, please contact the Public Works office at 386-322-3080 to report it so we can make the necessary repairs.
- The Public Works Department cleared out the Citrus Ditch to enhance the drainage along the western edge of the Palm Grove subdivision and improve the stormwater flow along the eastern edge of Lakeview Estates.
- The City purchased and accepted delivery of another large portable generator on a trailer designed to be a backup power source during severe weather events and ensure that our pumps continue to run in the event of a power outage.
- Public Works crews repaired a stormwater line and inlet top at the intersection of Anastasia Drive and Hawthorne Lane to improve drainage in the surrounding area.
- A large permanent generator was installed at the stormwater pump inside the lake at Reed Canal Park. The new generator will ensure that the existing stormwater pump, which was replaced several months ago, continues to run even in the event of a power outage thereby reducing flooding in the Orchards subdivision.
- The City hired a contractor to finish clearing Reed Canal as part of a partnership with Volusia County to ensure this canal flows unrestricted during severe weather events. Reed Canal is a vital outfall for several of our ponds and the Nova Canal. Its influence expands south into Port Orange and north to Daytona Beach. Both the City and County partnered to perform those efforts that were necessary to keep this waterway clear and allow for maximum stormwater conveyance in this region.

Even though we completed numerous improvements to our stormwater system in 2025, we can assure you that our efforts will not diminish in 2026. We have a number of major stormwater improvement projects that are set to begin this year. Most of these projects will be completed with grant funds alleviating the financial burden to the City and our residents.

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- The Lantern Park Stormwater Improvement project is progressing. This is a project being administered by Volusia County as part of their Transform 386 program. The City has received revised plans for the proposed pond and stormwater pump design. The permitting process has begun with both State and Federal agencies since the project is primarily being funded with Federal dollars. Once all permits have been received, the County, in partnership with the City, will commence construction.
- The Stevens Canal Embankment Stabilization project has begun. This is also a project that is being administered by Volusia County as part of their Transform 386 program. Survey and a geotechnical study is underway for the sheet pile wall installation with the goal of making the canal wider, eliminating embankment erosion and increasing stormwater conveyance.
- The Sherwood Forest Stormwater Pond project is advancing forward. This project is part of the County's Transform 386 program. The survey and geotechnical study have been completed. Engineering plans are being developed to construct a stormwater pond with pump station to keep water out of the homes in this subdivision.
- The Aspen Stormwater Pond Expansion project is a joint venture between the City and Volusia County. The City is funding the design and permitting of this project and Volusia County will be funding the construction through their Transform 386 program. The design of the vast expansion of the existing pond on Aspen Drive along with the replacement of the existing stormwater pump station has been completed. The goal of the project is to keep water out of the homes in the Big Tree Village subdivision. Permitting is ongoing with State and Federal agencies. Once permitting is completed, Volusia County, in partnership with the City, will administer the construction of this project.
- The Brian Avenue Stormwater Pond project has begun. The City has received a Legislative Appropriation from the State of Florida to fund the design and construction of this project. The project involves the installation of a stormwater pond and pump station designed to improve the stormwater system in the Brian Avenue, Green Street, Briar Lane, Millbrook Lane and Baywood Lane area. The City's design engineering firm is currently working on the plans for the project.
- The Melodie Park Stormwater Improvement project involves the construction of a stormwater pond and pump station inside Melodie Park to help reduce flooding on Oriole Lane and Kenilworth Avenue. The design for this project will also include enhancing the park features here and the continued celebration of its rich history.
- The Pope Avenue Stormwater Pump Installation project involves the installation of a large stormwater pump at the end of Pope Avenue designed to move water into Reed Canal in an effort to keep water out of the homes on Pope Avenue. The project has received Volusia County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to complete the project. The funds are expected to be released to the City early this year so that the project can be constructed.
- The City received funds from the State of Florida to replace the lift station located on Violet Street. This is the City's largest lift station and will be replaced with a station designed to improve flow and reduce backups in the Golfview Boulevard area. All design and permitting for this project has been completed and the construction is scheduled to start soon.

We will continue to update you on our stormwater infrastructure improvement progress each week as we have done all year. We post stormwater updates each week on FaceBook and our City website (www.southdaytona.org). If you should have any questions about our efforts or any of the upcoming projects or have a repair or maintenance request, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our strength comes from an indomitable will and together, we will continue to make South Daytona a great place to live, work and play.

Celebrating 75 Years!
JANUARY > MARCH 2026 EDITION
South Daytona Public Works



This year, we completed over 80 stormwater projects to improve drainage, reduce flooding, and strengthen our infrastructure. We're already preparing for even more improvements in 2026.

~ Your Public Works Stormwater Team ~



Annual Christmas Tree Lighting



The City officially kicked off the holiday season with its 2nd Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Central Park on December 3, welcoming a crowd of more than 800 attendees. The evening featured festive performances by students from South Daytona Elementary School and Warner Christian Academy, adding to the joyful atmosphere. Families enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies and had the opportunity to take photos with Santa Claus.

Holiday lights and decorations will continue to shine nightly at Central Park through the second week of January. We encourage you to stop by and enjoy the festive display.

Parks and Recreation

Join us for one of our
classes at the
Piggotte Community
Center

(unless otherwise noted)

Monday's:

Cards & Games
from 11am-3pm (Free)

Tuesday's:

Silver Sneakers at 11am
(Weekly Fee)
Tai Chi at 6pm
(Weekly Fee)

Wednesday's:

Cards & Games
from 11am-3pm (Free)
Karate at 6:30pm **
(Weekly Fee)

Thursday's:

Silver Sneakers at 11am
(Weekly Fee)
Palette & Brush Club at 1pm
(1st & 3rd Thursday)
Cheerleading at 6pm **
(Weekly Fee)

Friday's:

Sewing Group from
10am-12pm (Free)

*** Classes Karate
and Cheerleading
are held at the
Youth Activity Building
1700 James Street,
South Daytona*



Registration is now open for Spring Baseball. This is a coed recreational league with an emphasis on developing the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, courage and a sense of belonging. Children new to the sport are welcome. Every child will be encouraged to play and have fun doing it! Skills assessment is on Saturday, January 31, 2026.

Practices run 2/9-3/13. Season will run from 3/14-5/1.

Opening Day will be on March 14th at 9:00am.



South Daytona is placing a renewed emphasis on recycling in the new year. Beginning March 4, Waste Pro will transition to a dedicated recycling collection day. Recycling will be collected every Wednesday, while all other trash collection schedules will remain unchanged. Please be sure to place recycling materials curbside by 7:00 a.m. to avoid missed service.



Volunteers Making a Difference

Looking ahead to 2026, there will be monthly joint meetings and trainings with dynamic speakers. If you are interested in joining, attending a training or volunteering, meetings will be held on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Piggotte Community Center (504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona) at 6:00pm or call Becky at City Hall 386-322-3014 to learn more.



At the December City Council Meeting, Mayor Hall presented Outstanding Citizen Awards to Jean Klune, Carene Darcy, Ming Gorry, and Vice Mayor Doug Quartier in recognition of their exceptional service. Collectively, our volunteers have contributed over 1,000 hours to the City, an incredible testament to their commitment to South Daytona.

2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

at 6pm at the Piggotte Community Center
504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona

JANUARY 8

Medical Examiner
James Fulcher, M.D.

FEBRUARY 5

South Daytona Elementary
Principal Lowery

MARCH 5

South Daytona Fire Department
Annual CPR Training



This newsletter is scheduled to be delivered quarterly. Extra copies are available in City Hall.
1672 S. Ridgewood, South Daytona, FL 32119



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City Calendar

2026	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
January					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jan 01: New Year's Day
Jan 19: MLK Day

- January 7** Parks, Recreation and ADA Advisory Board Meeting and Planning Advisory Board Meeting at 5:30 PM at City Hall
- January 8** Special Master Hearing at 9:00 AM at City Hall
- January 13** City Council Meeting at 6:00 PM at City Hall

2026	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
February	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Feb 14: Valentine's Day
Feb 16: President's Day

- February 4** Planning Advisory Board Meeting at 5:30 PM at City Hall
- February 10** City Council Meeting at 6:00 PM at City Hall
- February 12** Special Master Hearing at 9:00 AM at City Hall

2026	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
March	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

- March 4** Planning Advisory Board Meeting at 5:30 PM at City Hall
- March 10** City Council Meeting at 6:00 PM at City Hall
- March 12** Special Master Hearing at 9:00 AM at City Hall
- March 14** Opening Day at 9:00 AM at James Street Park
- March 28** Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 AM

Celebrating 75 Years!
Looking forward to an amazing year of celebration.