



The Insider

The Official Newsletter of the
City of South Daytona



A Message from the Mayor



Happy New Year! I know I speak for many, as I am glad 2024 is now behind us. These past months have been a trying time for our City, our County and our Country. No one was immune from all that we have endured, we all know what we have been through, and most importantly that we have thankfully survived.

As we enter 2025, I believe this is a time for hope, a new beginning of sorts and a renewal of our commitment to keep looking forward.

A few years ago we adopted a phrase that we would *invest in us*. In this newsletter you will find a message from our City Manager, where he outlines how the City is doing in our efforts to deal with future weather events and how we are progressing with preparations.

I want to thank all of the City staff for their hard work in 2024. The all hands on deck approach was evident every day. The incredibly beautiful holiday decorations at Central Park, ended the year with a demonstration of their commitment to this City. During the holidays, I hope you all had the opportunity to visit Central Park and that you were able to spend time with loved ones.

Early in life I learned the importance of teamwork. Having been extremely fortunate to work with some amazing people that also understood that teamwork would get us through. With your help we can all stay engaged, involved and prepare to strengthen our community.

I look forward to 2025, and I know I speak for the City Council, when I pledge that we are all working hard to keep South Daytona a thriving community and a City we can all be proud of.

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

From City Manager James L. Gillis, Jr.:

Following the devastating effects of Hurricane Milton which surpassed our stormwater capabilities, we have made the commitment to improve our system to better accommodate this new breed of storms and the flooding rains they produce. The City has hired a drainage engineering firm to model our existing stormwater system. This model can be used to recreate the flood and identify the weaknesses in our system. A series of stormwater improvements will then be developed for the City to implement with the main goal of keeping floodwaters out of homes.

We have made the drainage engineers available at the Piggotte Community Center to those who experienced flooding in their homes. The first of these events were well attended and the drainage engineers received valuable information. A second opportunity to meet with the drainage engineers will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, from 12pm until 8pm. To reduce wait times, this event is by appointment only so please contact the City Manager's office at (386) 322-3014 to reserve your spot. The engineers will be looking for information on the height of the floodwaters in your home and any pictures you have which will all be incorporated in the study being conducted.

In response to the flooding experienced by Hurricane Ian in 2022, the City applied for four large-scale grants with Volusia County as a part of their Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program. Those four projects are the Lantern Park Stormwater Improvements, Sherwood Forest Stormwater Pond, Aspen Stormwater Pond Expansion, and Stevens Canal Bank Stabilization to enhance our stormwater system.

The Lantern Park Stormwater Improvements involve the acquisition of vacant land and the construction of stormwater pond(s) and pump station(s) with permanently housed generator(s) designed to help alleviate flooding within the subdivision.

The Sherwood Forest Stormwater Pond project involves the acquisition of homes in order to construct a stormwater pond with a pump station with a permanently housed generator designed to help alleviate flooding within the subdivision.

The Aspen Stormwater Pond Expansion project involves vastly increasing the size of the existing pond on Aspen Drive and increasing the pump station capacity there to help alleviate flooding within the Big Tree Village subdivision.

Continued on next page...

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

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The Stevens Canal Bank Stabilization project involves the installation of sheet piling to widen and add more height to the bank to promote greater flow and storage in this canal. The completion of this project will help alleviate flooding within the back portion of the Big Tree Village subdivision as well as those homes located in the central portion of the City.

These grants total almost \$8 million and will greatly improve our stormwater capabilities in these vulnerable subdivisions. These grant funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis which means the City must have the cash on-hand to complete these projects. If the City was not debt-free with healthy reserves, we would not be able to apply for these large-scale projects. Having proved to the County that we have our finances in order, the City was extremely successful in securing these grant opportunities. We want to thank the Volusia County Council and staff for their partnership in improving the stormwater system here in South Daytona.

At the December Meeting, the City Council approved the purchase of four permanently housed generators to be installed at some of our larger stormwater stations. Those stations are located at the Lantern Park Stormwater Pond, Windle Lane Stormwater Pond, Reed Canal Park Stormwater Pond and Park of Honor. When we experience a power outage, we must dispatch portable generators to these pumps to keep them running. This is often done during the storm in dangerous conditions and may take as long 30 minutes to get properly setup. When experiencing a flooding rain event, every minute counts so having a permanent generator onsite will ensure the pump continues to run in a power outage without missing a beat. Our largest stormwater stations such as the one on Aspen and at the Reed Canal Stormwater Control Facility already have permanent generators stationed there and with the addition of these four new ones, we will be better prepared for power outages during a storm. When speaking with those residents who experienced home flooding, a statement we kept hearing is that they love South Daytona and do not want to move. We love South Daytona too and you have our commitment that we will make our stormwater system better.

Evaluation of the City's Drainage System

The City will be holding a second session for residents to provide information and insights to our Engineers for the evaluation of our drainage system.

This next session will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 by appointment only (12:00 pm to 8:00 pm).

The first session was held on December 3, 2024. With almost 90 residents in attendance, the City scheduled a second session.

Please call (386) 322-3014 to make an appointment.

Hurricane Milton Drainage Evaluation

Tuesday, January 7, 2025
by appointment only

Call (386) 322-3014
to make an appointment

Meet with the Engineers who will be evaluating the City's drainage system. Please bring copies of photographs and ideas.

www.southdaytona.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CityOfSouthDaytona>

South Daytona Christmas Tree Lighting



The City held our inaugural Tree Lighting Ceremony at Central Park on December 4th. It was an amazing event with over 600 attendees. A special thank you to South Daytona Elementary School and Warner Christian Academy for performing. We even had a special visit from Santa Claus.

Lights and decorations will be on every night until the second week in January.

2024 Community Christmas Club



Each year the City Council participates in the Community Christmas Club where they spend the day packing over 1,000 boxes of non-perishable food items. These boxes are distributed throughout eastern Volusia County. Following the boxing, the Council spends the afternoon personally delivering boxes to South Daytona families. This year they delivered almost 50 boxes.

Santa's Helpers



Santa's Helpers, a group of South Daytona Residents, donated twenty-five artificial Christmas Trees with decorations to South Daytona families. The group then delivered the trees on November 22 and December 14.

JANUARY - MARCH 2025

Holiday Lighting Awards

On Wednesday, December 18, 2024, the City Council traveled through the City to visit our Holiday Lighting Award Winners. While there were so many beautiful homes decorated this holiday season, we encourage you to visit:

Bryan Cave Road, Country Manor Drive, Calhoun Street, Doris Place, Blake Road, Olive Street, Cherry Street, Marathon Way, Biscayne Avenue, and Northern Road.

Thank you for all who participated, and we hope there will be even more next year!



Employee Recognition Luncheon



5 YEARS OF SERVICE



20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Each year the City Council holds an annual Employee Recognition Luncheon. This year in addition to the standard "Years of Service" Awards, Mayor Hall and City Manager Gillis provided awards to ten outstanding employees for their commitment and dedication during Hurricane Milton.



2024 South Daytona Employees



25 YEARS OF SERVICE



35 YEARS OF SERVICE



Mayor Hall and City Manager Gillis



Hurricane Milton Special Recognition Awards: John Crenshaw, Luke Strydom, Eric Dionne, Mark Smith, Jimmie Hoffman, Dan Marco, Robert Powell, Mike Janiszewski, Paul Nelson, Phillip Martins.

Register for the City of South Daytona "Do Not Knock Registry"



Become a Member of the City of South Daytona "Do Not Knock Registry."

Registration is Free. Sign up today at SouthDaytona.org, click on Action Center or call 386-322-3014



Last year, following an increase in reports concerning door-to-door soliciting/canvassing, South Daytona created a Do Not Knock Registry. To add your name and address to the list, please register on our website www.southdaytona.org or call Jay at 386-322-3014.

All Door-to-Door Solicitors must be licensed by the City of South Daytona, and must have their City-issued Solicitation Permit with them when soliciting. Do Not Knock decals and signs are available at City Hall, 1672 S. Ridgewood Avenue, South Daytona.

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 (\$10 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 ** (\$10 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, February 1, 2025.

Practices run 2/10-3/14. Season will run from 3/15-5/2.

Opening Day will be on March 15th at 9:00am.





Volunteers Making a Difference

In December, the groups of the South Daytona Citizens Alert Council, Citizens Patrol and our Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) celebrated the numerous volunteers who truly make a difference in our City. In 2025, 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.

During the December Meeting, the 2024 City Employees of the Year were honored.



2024 Fire Fighter of the Year
Jordan Nield



2024 Police Officer of the Year
Johnny Mendoza



2024 General Employee of the Year
Dan Marco, Public Works

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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JANUARY

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City Calendar

- 1/9 9:00 AM **Special Master Hearing**
Council Chambers
- 1/14 6:00 PM **City Council Meeting**
Council Chambers
- 1/15 6:00 PM **Parks, Recreation & ADA Advisory Board Meeting**
Piggotte Center
- 1/15 6:00 PM **Planning Advisory Board Meeting**
Piggotte Center
- 2/11 6:00 PM **City Council Meeting**
Council Chambers
- 2/13 9:00 AM **Special Master Hearing**
Council Chambers
- 2/19 6:00 PM **Planning Advisory Board**
Piggotte Center
- 3/11 6:00 PM **City Council Meeting**
Council Chambers
- 3/13 9:00 AM **Special Master Hearing**
Council Chambers
- 3/19 6:00 PM **Planning & Appeals Board Meeting**
Piggotte Center