

AT HOME ON THE RIVER

CITY OF DUNNELLON

NOVEMBER 2012

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

New fiscal year marks start of new projects in Dunnellon

As the new fiscal year gets underway it marks the start of a number of projects throughout the city. Initially, the streetscaping of East Pennsylvania moves one step closer to reality as the committee provides input on the appearance and amenities of the corridor.

Work is also in progress to implement the Utility Master Plan and focus on two priority projects. First is to extend a water line along East McKinney Avenue to improve fire flows for Blue Cove. The second priority will be to replace a portion of the water main under U.S. 41 by rerouting the line along Illinois Avenue. The city engineer is currently designing the projects scheduled to begin in February 2013. And we continue with the meter replacement program, which is an ongoing activity.

The Dunnellon City Council adopted new water and sewer rates for the new fiscal year. Last year the Council adopted a 5-year rate increase to address operating and capital

needs of the utility system. After careful review, the city was able to adjust the rates one-percent less this year than the original projection.

The city is coordinating with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to build a pedestrian bridge across the Withlacoochee River that will bring visitors from Citrus County into Dunnellon through Blue Run Park. Construction is scheduled to begin soon.

And I invite you to visit our website, www.dunnellon.org. It is very interactive and provides opportunities to learn more about what is happening in the city. Many people in the community donated photos of Dunnellon for the website. I want to thank everyone who allowed use of their images to showcase our beautiful city.

The fall is a busy time for our community. I hope you will enjoy many of the fun events and support the organizations who sponsor these events. It's events like these that help create a sense of community.

City Calendar

Nov. 6 – General and City Council Election, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., City Hall

Nov. 7 – City Council Workshop meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Nov. 12 – City Holiday – Veterans Day

Nov. 13 – Police Officer & Firefighters Pension Board meeting, 8:30 a.m., City Hall / Historic Board meeting, 4:30 p.m., City Hall / City Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Nov. 17 – Victorian Nights, 4-9 p.m., Historic District along West Pennsylvania Avenue

Nov. 20 – Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Nov. 21 – City Council Workshop – Cancelled

Nov. 22 – City Holiday – Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 23 – City Holiday – Administrative Offices Closed

Nov. 26 – City Council meeting – cancelled

Nov. 30 – Dunnellon Tree Lighting, 6:30 p.m., City Hall

DUNNELLON POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFERS RAPE AGGRESSION DEFENSE COURSE

The Dunnellon Police Department will offer a RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) course from 6-10 p.m. on Nov. 27, Nov. 29, and Dec. 4 at Dunnellon City Hall, 20750 River Dr. The course is free, but space is limited.

Instructors Lt. Sue Webb and Cpl. Bruce Arnold will educate women, ages 15 and up, about defensive strategies using simple and effective tactics during the three day course.

The RAD system is a realistic self-defense program of defensive tactics, techniques, and education in a comprehensive course for women that progresses from awareness, prevention, risk reduction, and avoidance to basic self-defense participation. Each student will receive an illustrated manual outlining the entire physical self-defense program.

The goal of the RAD program is to provide an easily accessible program of education and awareness for women of all ages. The program trains women in basic self-defense and offers them viable options when confronted with various threats of violence.

All students receive a lifetime free return and practice policy which means you can take the class anywhere or any time classes are offered. Different course levels are also offered, but to take advance courses you must first complete the Basic Self-defense class. If you are interested in taking the RAD course starting on Nov. 27, email or call Lt. Webb at the Dunnellon Police Department at (352) 465-8510 or email swebb@dunnellonpd.org.

Handling grass clippings and yard debris

The Dunnellon Code Enforcement Department wants to remind residents and businesses of **City Code: Sec. 74-141** – Management of grass clippings and vegetative matter.

Grass clippings and/or other vegetative debris shall not be piled or disposed of in a storm water system, water body, or wetland. Lawn clippings discharged onto a road or curb shall be swept, blown, or otherwise removed and disposed of in a manner consistent with this code.

For more information, contact Dunnellon Code Enforcement Officer Larry Straus at 465-8510 or email lstraus@dunnellonpd.org.

Q&A

Q: A vacant lot in my neighborhood becomes overgrown with tall weeds. Is there a way to make the owner mow the lot?

A: City ordinance makes it illegal to permit grass or weeds to grow more than 12 inches tall, excluding seed pods. (This does not apply to land on which the natural vegetation has not been removed.)

Individuals should contact the Dunnellon Code Enforcement division and provide information on the property. An officer will inspect the property and contact the owner.

The owner is given 20 days, upon receipt of notice, to have the property mowed. However, if the owner cannot be located or does not mow the property, a pre-qualified contractor will mow or clean the property at a predetermined cost.

The City will invoice the owner of record for the work done, plus administrative costs, and a lien will be placed on the property.

--- From Dunnellon Code Enforcement web page.

COOL WEATHER MEANS LESS MOWING IN DUNNELLON

The citywide mowing schedule is slowing down for the cool season. The focus now turns to fall clean up, major tree trimming, ongoing facility maintenance and road repairs.

In early spring, the mowing crew begins in earnest with maintaining right-of-ways, sidewalks, medians, city parks, along with the central lift stations and other facilities.

Using a rotation plan, you might see the crews in Dunnellon Heights one week, and the Historic District the next, trimming trees, working on sidewalks or a list of other projects.

When not on the mowers, you'll see crews in the medians pulling weeds and edging to keep the city looking attractive. On Friday afternoons, you'll find the crews at Public Services on Bostick Street

performing routine preventive maintenance on the mowers and other equipment used in maintaining our city's landscape.

When the grass is cut, the leaves cleaned up and the sidewalks cleared of obstructions, thank a mowing crew member.

For any questions, please contact the Dunnellon Public Services Dept. at (352)465-8590.

DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR COPS FOR KIDS HOLIDAY PROGRAM

The Dunnellon Police Department continues to collect monetary donations and gift wrapping accessories for the "Cops for Kids" holiday program in December. The deadline for donations is December 10.

The annual event includes a shopping trip for needy children to purchase Christmas gifts for themselves and their families. The funds raised throughout the year allow DPD to have 10 to 15 children participate. Children are referred to the program through a variety of community resources. However, the more funds collected allows more children to be served. Each child will be given \$100 to shop and will have a police officer along to help them make selections. The child's

family is also given holiday dinner items such as a turkey in the hopes that this will help with their Christmas dinner at home.

Dunnellon Police Chief Joanne Black said in addition to funds, items like gift wrapping paper, tape and ribbon are also needed. Community volunteers wrap the gifts for the children to take home and put under the tree.

"Cops For Kids" donations can be dropped off at the Dunnellon Police Department, 12014 S. Williams St. Checks can be made out to the City of Dunnellon and designate "Cops For Kids" in the memo section. Gift cards to area retailers are also suggested. For more information, please call the Dunnellon Police Department at (352) 465-8510.

Navigating the city's new website at www.dunnellon.org

The city's new website offers a lot of useful tools to help residents and visitors obtain information and learn about what's going on in the City of Dunnellon.

The "Resident Help Center" is one stop to sign up to receive Community Alerts, Email Notifications, apply for a Business License, a Zoning Permit or access a host of other items.

A number of new features will be available like the "Notify Me" option that will allow the user to sign up to be immediately notified of new items posted on the site. For example when an agenda for an upcoming meeting is posted, you will be notified.

Visit www.dunnellon.org to check out what's new in the city.

The screenshot displays the City of Dunnellon website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search function and a "Sign In" button. Below this is a "RESIDENT HELP CENTER" button. The main header features the City of Dunnellon logo and the name "Dunnellon" in a large, stylized font. A horizontal menu lists various city services: GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENTS, PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMUNITY, SERVICES, and VISITORS. The main content area is divided into several sections: a search bar, a "CITY EVENTS" calendar for October 2012, a "NEWS" section with featured articles, and a sidebar with utility links such as "NOTIFY ME", "REPORT A CONCERN", "ONLINE BILL PAY", "GREENLIGHT DUNNELLON", "COMMUNITY ALERTS", and "DUNNELLON NEWSLETTER". The footer contains contact information for the City of Dunnellon and a weather widget showing 83 degrees.

Dunnellon City Council

Mayor Fred Ward

Vice Mayor Dennis Evans

Council Members

Erik Collop

Penny Fleeger

Lynne McAndrew

City Manager

Lisa Algieri

Dunnellon City Hall Hours of Operation: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, Phone: 465-8500