

AT HOME ON THE RIVER

CITY OF DUNNELLON

APRIL 2013

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

State grant to fund Rio Vista plant connection

I am pleased to announce that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has awarded a grant to the city for the Rio Vista Wastewater Plant project.

Funds from this grant will be used to connect the Rio Vista sewer system to the city's system and decommission the existing plant. We will advertise soon for bids on this project.

I am also excited to report that last month we began returning deposits of water and sewer customers who are in good standing. These deposits show up as credits on customer's monthly utility bills.

Our Payment Center was recently upgraded and will provide additional functions for online customers. Those who want to set up an account in the Payment Center or need help maintaining an existing account can go to www.dunnellon.org and click the "Online Bill Pay" icon on the left.

In working on economic development, the city is a

member of the Ocala/Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP), which focuses on business attraction and retention throughout Marion County. Through this partnership we are reaching out to local businesses to discuss business growth for Dunnellon. The vision of the CEP is exciting and it is my hope that Dunnellon will play an integral part of economic growth in this part of the county.

And I'd like to thank everyone who spent a recent morning at City Hall with the Ocala/Marion County Visitors & Convention Bureau, sharing ideas of how to market the area as a tourism destination. It is the goal of the VCB to draft a plan for the county and we will let you know when they return to share.

As the warm weather approaches we are gearing up for the "Movies In The Park" series. If you have movie suggestions, please call me at 465-8500 to share your ideas.

April 2013

City Calendar

April 3 – City Council Workshop meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

April 8 – City Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

April 9 – Historic Board meeting, 4:30 p.m., City Hall

April 10 - Joint Workshop with City Council & County Commission, 9 a.m., Marion County Extension Services Auditorium, 2232 NE Jacksonville, Rd., Ocala

April 16 – Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

April 17 – City Council Workshop meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

April 20-21 – Boomtown Days, Dunnellon Historic District

April 22 – City Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

April 23 – 4th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run/Walk, 5 p.m., Dunnellon Walmart

April 25 – Tree Board meeting, 5 p.m., City Hall

April 26 – Arbor Day Celebration, 11 a.m., City Hall

Deposit Refunds Issued for Utility Accounts in Good Standing

The City of Dunnellon Utility Department is in the process of refunding deposits to residential customers with accounts in good standing.

Residential accounts with a deposit on record and the account has not been disconnected for non-payment for two years will be issued a refund as a bill credit. However, if a new account is established, a deposit is required and the two year time frame will again apply.

Once an account deposit has been refunded, and the same account is later disconnected for non-payment twice within a six month period, the customer will then be required to pay the current new service deposit amount to maintain service.

For more information regarding utility account credits, please call the Utility Billing Department at 533-5034.

Torch Run to Benefit Special Olympics

It's time to sign up for the 4th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run/Walk on April 23 which starts at 5 p.m. from the Walmart parking lot on North Williams St./U.S. 41.

Event registration begins at 4 p.m. All participants are required to sign a waiver and must wear the 2013 Torch Run T-shirt now on sale at the Dunnellon Police Department for \$12. A matching hat is also available for \$10, with all proceeds benefiting Special Olympics.

The Torch Run ends at Abigail's Café. The restaurant will also host a barbecue dinner for donations also going to Special Olympics.

The Annie Johnson Thrift Store will feature dancers from Victoria's School of Dance teaching the latest moves to the crowd. And anyone wearing a 2013 Torch Run T-shirt will receive a 25-percent discount off their thrift store purchase. For more information on the Torch Run, call 465-8510.

Dunnellon's history comes alive for Boomtown Days

Visitors to the 2013 Boomtown Days festival set for April 20-21 will likely meet candidates vying for the seat of Boomtown Mayor or contestants in the Queen of the Rainbow pageant or the Little Miss & Mr. Dunnellon pageants.

The two day event, sponsored by the Dunnellon Area Chamber of Commerce, draws crowds from around the region strolling through Dunnellon's Boomtown Historic District.

The streets throughout historic downtown Dunnellon will be filled with arts and craft vendors, music, food and an antique car show. The event marks Dunnellon's "boom" as a phosphate and economic hub.

There is still time to volunteer or become a sponsor to help the Chamber in a variety of ways during Boomtown Days. Volunteer opportunities are still available for individuals and organizations.

For more information, call the Dunnellon Area Chamber at 489-2320 or send email to dunnellonchambercommerce@gmail.com.

James Johnson honored by Dunnellon Fire Rescue

James Johnson, a longtime associate member of Dunnellon Fire Rescue, was named Firefighter of the Year by the agency during the Annual Law & Order Awards Dinner hosted on March 9 by the American Legion Wall-Rives Post No. 58.

Johnson, affectionately known as Mr. James, is 106 years old and makes sure to attend department meetings and training drills. He was honored during the ceremony which also recognizes members from the Dunnellon Police Department, Marion County Sheriff's Office and Florida Highway Patrol.

Johnson has been an active associate member of DFR since 1988.

Dunnellon Fire Chief Joe Campfield, unable to attend the ceremony, said Johnson's ongoing fellowship to the department has been exemplary. "He shows unwavering vigilance to serve the department and his community. I am proud to know him and to work



JAMES JOHNSON, THIRD FROM LEFT, A LONGTIME ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF DUNNELLON FIRE RESCUE, STANDS NEXT TO LT. TROY SLATTERY AND IS SURROUNDED BY FAMILY. JOHNSON WAS NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR.

"He shows unwavering vigilance to serve the department and his community."

- Fire Chief Joe Campfield

with him in our department. He will always have my respect and admiration," Campfield wrote.

Dunnellon Fire Rescue Lt. Troy Slattery, who has worked with Johnson since 1988, said it's been an honor and a privilege to work with him over the years.

"I am sure many others would agree with me when I say that his participation in our

department serves as a cornerstone to the foundation of our success," Slattery said. "As a true volunteer there is only one reason why he remains a member of the

department and that is his love and support for the community."

While Johnson no longer fights fires or responds to medical calls, Slattery said those who do can rest assured they have Johnson's full support.

"Each successful organization should be so lucky to have such a person as a member of their support group," Slattery said.

Simple water conservation habits can make a big difference

The month of April is Water Conservation Month for a reason. It is the time of year in our state when the demand for water resources is high and the supply is low.

Everyone can help to alleviate some of the strain on our water supplies by actively conserving whenever possible.

Recognizing April as Water Conservation Month is a good reminder that there are many easy ways to save. Some simple habits can make a big difference by saving thousands of gallons per year. Other changes may save only a few drops at a time, but when multiplied by almost five million residents in our District, they have the potential to make a great impact.

Tips to conserve inside the home include:

- Turn off the water when brushing teeth or shaving — save 4 gallons per minute



- Only wash full loads of laundry — save 43 gallons per load
 - Fix leaks in toilets, faucets and showerheads — save 5 to 200 gallons per day
 - Install aerators on faucets — save up to 30 gallons per day
- For outside the home:**
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean off driveways or sidewalks — save 9 gallons per minute
 - Put a shutoff nozzle on your garden hose — save 6.5 gallons per minute
 - Install a rain sensor for your sprinkler system — save up to 700 gallons per week
 - Only water your lawn when it needs it — save up to 2,100 gallons per every week that is skipped

Source: Southwest Florida Water Management District

Dunnellon to celebrate National Arbor Day with tree planting

The Tree Board of the City of Dunnellon invites the public to join them on April 26 at City Hall to celebrate National Arbor Day. The city is designated as a Tree City USA, now for the third year in a row.

The Tree Board, along with Mayor Nathan Whitt and the local forest ranger will begin Arbor Day at Dunnellon Elementary School, educating third grade

students about the importance of being good tree stewards. Members of the Tree Board will then host a tree planting event beginning at 11 a.m. on the grounds of City Hall.

For more information regarding the local Arbor Day event, call Jeanette Rehberg at 465-8500 Ext. 1010 or email her at jrehberg@dunnellon.org