

AT HOME ON THE RIVER

CITY OF DUNNELLON

MAY 2013

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Economic development efforts to include attracting new businesses near airport and promoting eco-tourism

Recently, Mayor Nathan Whitt and I travelled to Orlando along with the staff of the Marion County Chamber Economic Partnership (CEP) to meet with Enterprise Florida, the state's economic development agency, to share the development opportunities we have in Dunnellon.

The CEP has already provided a listing of several available properties in the Dunnellon area

to site selectors. I hope the focus toward our available land and infrastructure will be a catalyst for future business development.

The CEP will soon introduce a site/building database as a tool for site selectors from around the country.

This will be beneficial for Dunnellon because we have a lot of property available for

commercial and industrial development.

Our economic development efforts will include attracting new business development out by the airport and also to promote our local eco-tourism resources both aimed at

expanding our tax base.

And speaking of eco-tourism, I'd like to hear more from local business owners who depend on eco-tourism. I have heard from some in

recent weeks who have ideas on how to foster and promote the industry. I invite other business owners to share their ideas of what the city can do to promote eco-tourism.

In the near future I'd like to plan a roundtable to discuss ideas with business owners.

Please feel free to email me at lalgieri@dunnellon.org if you are interested.

I hope the focus toward our available land and infrastructure will be a catalyst for future business development.

City Calendar

May 2 – National Day of Prayer, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Dunnellon Centennial Park

May 3 – County Commission Town Hall meeting, 9-11 a.m., Dunnellon Public Library

May 7 – Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

May 7 – R.A.D. Keychain Self Defense Course, 6 p.m. Register by calling 465-8510

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

May 10 – Relay for Life/American Cancer Society, 6 p.m., Dunnellon High School

May 13 – City Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

May 14 – Police Officer & Firefighter Pension Board, 8:30 a.m., City Hall

May 14 – Historic Board meeting; 4:30 p.m., City Hall

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

May 23 – Tree Board meeting, 5 p.m., City Hall

May 26 – Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony, 2 p.m., Dunnellon Memorial Gardens

May 27 – Memorial Day – City Administrative Offices closed.

May 28 – City Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall.

Dunnellon Police Department places first in Florida DUI Challenge

The Dunnellon Police Department placed first in the Florida DUI Challenge for 2012. The winning agencies were recently notified of the results.

Dunnellon Police Chief Joanne Black said, "Winning this award just further emphasized the hard work that our officers do and that we are serious about DUI enforcement and zero tolerance in the city."

The first place ranking now makes the department eligible to purchase equipment and have the chance to win a DUI vehicle. The award ceremony is scheduled for August.

Chief Black said the department has had top rankings in previous years which allowed the agency to purchase emergency lights on vehicles, radars, lasers, the speed trailer and road message board, a utility trailer and other equipment for officers.



In 2012, DPD increased traffic enforcement in the city which resulted in more DUI arrests. The officers received 24 hours of training in the Advanced Standard Field Sobriety Tests course and then conducted several saturated patrols

and DUI Checkpoints.

Dunnellon had no alcohol related traffic crashes or deaths, and the department participated in all FLDOT sponsored Impaired Driving Campaigns, which included: Click It or Ticket, Impaired Driving Crackdown, National Enforcement Crackdown, Halloween Impaired Driving Crackdown and St. Patrick's Day crackdown.

In 2012 DPD had a Drug Recognition Expert and DUI Instructor which added points to the agency total, and also provided alcohol prevention information to the high school students, released Public Service Announcements on checkpoints and saturated patrols and informed the public with the use of social media and message boards.

Memorial Day ceremony set for Sunday, May 26

The community is invited to attend the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony hosted by the City of Dunnellon at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 26 at Dunnellon Memorial Gardens.

The ceremony will commemorate veterans who sacrificed for our country. A flag placement ceremony is planned along with recognition of local veterans past and present.

Preparations leading up to the ceremony will provide an updated cemetery database of information on veterans interred, which will be available by public record request to genealogists or other interested parties.

Donations of new, unused U.S. stick flags, size 12 inches by 18 inches, are encouraged.

Please contact the City of Dunnellon Public Services department, 11924 Bostick St., to drop off donations or call 465-8590, ext. 1101 or email tmalmberg@dunnellon.org.

Local fundraising events to benefit Charlene Williams

The annual Kentucky Derby Party at Abigail's Café will raise funds to assist former Cadence Bank manager Charlene Williams who was recently diagnosed with kidney disease.

Williams, well known throughout the community, is the mother of three, including her son Kristopher currently in the Army serving in Afghanistan. She has donated both her time and money for many non-profit organizations in the community, the police department and local businesses for the past 14 years and continues to do so. She believes that giving back is what makes a community strong.

Organizers of the event hope the community will now help give back to Williams who has devoted so much of herself to the community. The proceeds will help her with medical bills.

The **Kentucky Derby Party** is set for 5 p.m. May 4 at Abigail's, 20607 W. Pennsylvania Ave. Chicken and Rib dinners will be available for \$10. Tickets can be pre-ordered from Abigail's Café or the Dunnellon Police Department.



CHARLENE WILLIAMS

Williams will also be the guest of honor at the **Chocolate Extravaganza** hosted by the Village Crier at 5:30 p.m. on May 22 at the American Legion, 10730 S. U.S. 41 in Dunnellon.

The event will feature samples of the best chocolate creations from local restaurants, caterers and desert specialists. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$8 at the door. Three samples are provided with each ticket. Then an additional ticket for samples can be purchased for \$3 during the event.

The participating eateries have the chance to win one of 3 awards as well as the "People's Choice" Award. Judging the event will be Pastor Ed Anthony of Cross at the River Cowboy Church, Dunnellon Police Chief

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Kentucky Derby Party Benefiting Charlene Williams

WHEN: 5 p.m., May 4

WHERE: Abigail's, 20607 W. Pennsylvania Ave.

COST: Chicken and Rib dinners will be available for \$10. Tickets can be pre-ordered from Abigail's Café or the Dunnellon Police Department.

WHAT: Chocolate Extravaganza

WHEN: 5:30 p.m., May 22

WHERE: American Legion, 10730 South U.S. 41.

COST: Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$8 at the door, which includes 3 samples. Additional sample tickets are \$3. Tickets can be purchased at villagecrier.info or the Dunnellon Police Department.

Joanne Black, and Nancy Meyers with Grumbles House and Antiques.

Tickets can be purchased online at villagecrier.info or in person at the following Dunnellon locations: Dunnellon Police Department, 12014 S. Williams Street, Grumbles House and Antiques, 20799 Walnut St.; Dr. Dane Myers, 20491 The Granada. For more information, please contact the Village Crier 489-0099.

Dunnellon Relay for Life Sets \$25,000 fundraising goal

The 2013 Dunnellon Relay for Life kicks off at 6 p.m. May 10 at Dunnellon High School.

The event, which raises funds for the American Cancer Society, will feature 15 local teams with members walking around the clock to honor cancer survivors and those who have lost their fight.

Diana Schwartz, community representative for the Dunnellon Relay, said the 2013 fundraising goal is \$25,000.



"Teams are still conducting a variety of fundraising activities, so if anyone has a chance to help this cause, please support the teams," Schwartz said.

The Survivors Walk begins at 6 p.m. and the Luminaria Ceremony takes place at 9 p.m. The luminaries can be purchased in advance or day of the event for \$5 each.

Schwartz said hundreds of people are expected to walk during the event, which ends the following morning May 11.

The Dunnellon Relay for Life is the oldest of the events in Marion County, initially known as the West Marion/Dunnellon Relay.

For more information please contact Diana Schwartz at 629-4727, ext. 5823, office; 895-8898 cell; or feel free to email her at, diana.schwartz@cancer.org.

Community Development Director Harold Horne retires

Harold Horne, Community Development Director for the City of Dunnellon, retired from the city on April 1, 2013.

He came to the city as Community Development Director in 2007. During his tenure Horne provided invaluable leadership on many projects throughout the city to include the current construction of the Dunnellon Branch of the Boys & Girls Club on North U.S. 41 across from



Walmart. He was also instrumental in coordinating with the state to develop trail connections in the area, most notable the bridge over the Withlacoochee

River that will connect at Blue Run Park.

City Manager Lisa Algieri praised Horne's talent in the area of economic development.

"Harold's knowledge has been invaluable to me and the city overall. He will be missed and I wish him well," Algieri said.

In the interim many of Horne's duties will be handled in part by Algieri and Public Services & Utilities Director Eddie Esch.