

# AT HOME ON THE RIVER

CITY OF DUNNELLON

APRIL 2012

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

### Backflow preventer valves required for irrigation wells

On March 12 the Dunnellon City Council amended Chapter 70 of the City Code regarding backflow preventer valves on water meters which is mandated by the state.

I apologize for the confusion caused by the initial letter from me on this issue. The old code was written in 1985 and much has changed since then.

The city is now in the process of installing new electronic radio read meters throughout the system. This new meter will detect if there is backflow into the city's potable water lines, which can cross contaminate our public water supply.

Customers with an auxiliary water supply (irrigation wells, pools) will need a backflow preventer valve. The city will install the valve as the new meters are

installed at no charge to the customer. We will prioritize phasing in the new meters for customers who are installing new irrigation wells.

Considering the tough economy, I believe this option is more affordable in comparison to the burden of the former code requiring the customer to hire a plumber and pay for annual inspections.

Also, the City Council suspended the irrigation impact fees and we hope this will encourage customers to use this option to lower their water/sewer bill and better conserve water.

Our staff is available to answer questions or discuss billing issues. Feel free to contact me at 465-8500 or email me at [lalgieri@dunnellon.org](mailto:lalgieri@dunnellon.org).

## GET READY FOR BOOMTOWN

Dunnellon's rich history as a mining town will be celebrated April 21-22 during the annual Boomtown Days sponsored by the Dunnellon Chamber of Commerce.

Leading up to the festival is the free Sports/Aquatic Show from 3-7 p.m. on April 19 at Dunnellon Plaza on US 41. The Boom or Bust Dance, \$15 per person, kicks off at 6 p.m. on April 20 at the corner of Ohio Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

The two-day Boomtown festival includes an antique car show, Little Mister and Miss Dunnellon pageants, the Queen of the Rainbow pageant and selection of Boomtown Mayor.

Booths will line West Pennsylvania Avenue and Cedar Street. Admission is \$2 per person, children 12 and under free. For more information about the festival, call the Chamber at 489-2320, Viola at 445-0728 or Bev at 322-1791.

## CHANGES MAKE UTILITY PAYMENT MORE CONVENIENT

### Online payments will begin soon

A new feature will soon be available for customers to pay their utility bills online.

Look for inserts in upcoming bills to learn when you can enroll.

The new program will allow customers to manage their account, set up recurring payments, receive an e-mail payment receipt, view payment

history, or make a one-time payment online.

Customers will also be able to receive a notification when their bill is due. The appearance of customer water bills will also be a little different to help make processing payments faster.

Customers will soon notice a scan bar printed on their bills. For those paying their bill in person,

the clerk will scan that bar which will quickly display the account information on the clerk's computer screen, speeding up the transaction and reducing wait time.

The address where bills should be mailed is also scheduled to change to allow for automated processing.

## GREENLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS CONTINUES EXPANSION

Dunnellon's Greenlight Communications continues to expand service and is now available in Sateke Village, Blue Cove and the Granada area.

Other areas will be available soon. Visit

[www.mygreenlightfl.com](http://www.mygreenlightfl.com) often for updates in your area.

Our friendly staff can review

the variety of services and bundle packages to make it affordable to you and your budget.



Unlimited High Speed Internet starts at \$34.99, Expanded Basic Television

starts at \$69.99, unlimited local

/long distance telephone starts at \$34.99. Bundle any two services and receive a 10 percent discount; bundle any three services and receive a 20 percent discount. Call 533-5034 to find out how Greenlight Communications can connect you.

## NEW WATER RESTRICTIONS FOR DUNNELLON

As of March 10 the City of Dunnellon was placed on a Phase III water shortage restriction by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

The restriction is in place until June 30, 2012.

The restriction impacts lawn watering, fountains, car washing, and pressure washing

for water customers inside city limits. Go to [www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/) for a more detailed look at the restrictions for Dunnellon and how it applies to residents.

Customers outside the city limits, in unincorporated areas, are governed by the restrictions of the St. Johns River Water Management District.

### **SEEKING CITIZEN INPUT FOR RECREATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

An advisory council is being formed to assess the future recreation needs of Dunnellon. City Manager Lisa Algieri hopes to gain the input from a variety of community groups such as Little League sports groups, bikers, hikers and others.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the advisory council should contact Algieri at 465-8500 or

## DUNNELLON POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES TOP HONORS

The Dunnellon Police Department was named the Law Enforcement Agency of the Year by the Florida Citizens Police Academy Association during an awards banquet on March 1 in Orlando.

The department was

recognized for donating over 1,200 volunteer hours to community projects throughout the year beyond the regular shifts and overtime of officers and staff.

Volunteers from the department participated in community efforts like Relay for

Life, Special Olympics, and the Annie Johnson Center.

"I am proud of this department," said Chief Joanne Black. "None of them do this for recognition. It's their community and they want to help."

## SAFETY TIP: WHAT TO DO WHEN TRAFFIC LIGHTS ARE OUT

Many drivers ask this question: What do I do at an intersection when the light is inoperable?

During a recent traffic light outage in Dunnellon it was quite clear drivers need to be reminded of Florida law regarding inoperative traffic signals.

Law enforcement officers will direct traffic at an intersection, if they are available and not handling calls for service.

If a law enforcement officer is present in the intersection, then the drivers must obey the direction given by the officer and not the traffic light.

*Per Florida Statute 316.1235, the driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection in which the traffic lights are inoperative shall stop in the manner indicated in Florida*

*Statute 316.123(2) for approaching a stop intersection. In the event that only some of the traffic lights*



*within an intersection are inoperative, the driver of the vehicle approaching an inoperative light shall stop in the above prescribed manner.*

*A violation of this section is a non-criminal traffic infraction, punishable as a moving violation.*

What this means, is that you come to a complete stop at the stop line for the intersection. You then proceed as if it were a four-way stop.

This law allows the first driver to stop completely to then leave the intersection first.

Courtesy is always a welcomed attribute in these type situations, as drivers' frustrations tend to increase when an unexpected event causes traffic to discontinue its normal flow. Drivers may begin to ignore the law out of haste or lack of familiarization to each state's laws. These events then lead to vehicle accidents and further congestion within the intersection affected.

If you have further questions regarding this statute, please contact the Dunnellon Police Department at 465-8510.

## DUNNELLON NAMED TREE CITY

The City of Dunnellon was recently named a Tree City USA community for the second consecutive year by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Dunnellon met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community by having a tree board, a tree-care ordinance, community forestry program with annual expenditures of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"We all benefit when communities like Dunnellon place a high priority on planning and caring for trees, one of our nation's most beautiful resources," said John Rosenow, CEO and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees shade our homes and add beauty to our neighborhoods, and they also provide many environmental, economic and social benefits. We applaud Dunnellon's elected officials, volunteers and citizens for providing vital care for its urban forest."

The local Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for April 27 in conjunction with National Arbor Day.

## RELAY FOR LIFE SET FOR APRIL 6-7

The Dunnellon Relay for Life event is scheduled for April 6 – 7 at Dunnellon High School. The local Relay is dedicated to longtime City of Dunnellon employee Lori Shettleroe, who lost her battle with lung cancer in July 2011.

Teams will begin walking at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 6 with at least one representative from each team continuing around the track until noon on Saturday, April 7.

At 9 p.m. Friday, the Luminaria Ceremony takes place to honor and remember loved ones.

Participating teams will select a color to represent the cancer they are supporting. White is the color of the Piggybankers/City of Dunnellon Team selected in support of lung cancer.

The funds raised by teams through various community events will go to the American Cancer Society.

"It's a time for everyone to come out and enjoy the night honoring those who have lost their battle, and celebrating those that continue to fight," said Tammy Myers, coordinator of Relay for Life in Dunnellon.

It's not too late to get involved, just call Tammy Myers at 465-8510 to sign up and be a part of Relay for Life.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 4** – Dunnellon Public Library Children's Arts & Crafts, 4 p.m., 438-2520.

**April 4** – City Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m.

**April 6-7** – Relay for Life at Dunnellon High School; 6 p.m. Friday through noon Saturday, 465-8510.

**April 9** – City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

**April 10** – Historic Preservation Board, 4:30 p.m.

**April 17** – Dunnellon Public Library, Top Secret: Codes & Code Breaking, 4 p.m. 438-2520.

**April 17** – Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.

**April 18** – City Council workshop, 5:30 p.m.

**April 19** – Boomtown Sports/Aquatic Show, 3-7 p.m. at Dunnellon Plaza, US 41.

**April 20** – Boomtown Boom or Bust Dance, 6-9 p.m., corner of Ohio Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

**April 21-22** – Dunnellon Boomtown Days; Saturday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**April 23** – City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

**April 26** – Tree Board Meeting, 5 p.m.

**April 27** -- Dunnellon Arbor Day celebration at City Hall.