

# AT HOME ON THE RIVER

CITY OF DUNNELLOM

MAY 2012

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Wastewater and sewer extension project is complete

I am pleased to inform you that the final phase of the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Sewer extension project is now complete. In this phase we extended sewer lines and connected 110 customers onto sewer.

The cost of this phase was \$2.8 million. This multi-year project, 2004 to 2012, enabled us to expand the capacity of the WWTP and extend sewer lines for a cost of \$16.1 million. A grant from the state provided 85 percent of the funding.

The benefits of this project include a modernized plant, expanded capacity to allow for growth, replace old sewer lines, and connect customers onto sewer, which protects the aquifer.

Without grants it would be very difficult and costly for the city to fund large utility projects. In order to provide quality service and maintain our infrastructure it is important to make capital improvements to our system. We continually look for grants that will allow us to

leverage your dollars and improve our system.

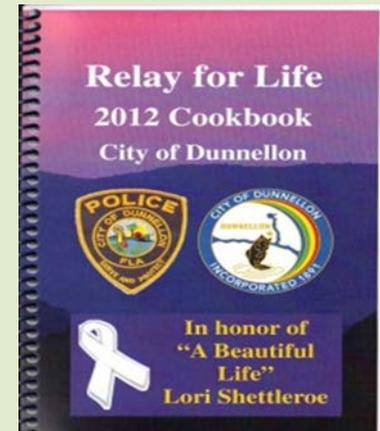
We submitted a grant request to the state last year for a \$650,000 Community Development Block Grant to connect our water lines to the well at the Dunnellon Airport.

This connection will increase the water pressure so that residents in Dunnellon Heights will have sufficient fire hydrant pressure. We are still awaiting grant approval.

We are in the process of applying for a state grant that will provide 69 percent of the funding needed to connect the Rio Vista sewer system to the city. The grant requires a 31 percent match which will be paid for entirely by the Rio Vista sewer customers. The sewer plant in Rio Vista is failing and endangers the Rainbow River. A clean river is important to all of us for our local enjoyment as well as for regional eco-tourism.

Speaking of eco-tourism, our Community Development Department has been working

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## Relay for Life Cookbook for sale

Copies of "The Relay for Life 2012 Cookbook" are still available for sale.

The cookbook is dedicated to former City of Dunnellon employee Lori Shettleroe who lost her battle with lung cancer in 2011.

The cookbook is \$12 and features delicious recipes submitted by city employees, members of the community and the Shettleroe family.

Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook will benefit the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Pick up a copy at the police department, City Hall or Cadence Bank.

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: GREENLIGHT EXPANSION CONTINUES

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with hotel developers to bring a hotel chain to Dunnellon.

Although Dunnellon has three small motels, there is a need for a larger hotel that will give visitors more options to stay and enjoy the area. Most visitors stay in surrounding cities thus taking their lodging and dining business elsewhere. They use the area's rivers and then leave

our city. A hotel would give them a place to stay. This would definitely be a boost to our local businesses.

We are now offering Greenlight services to residents and businesses in the city, Seteke Village and River Retreats. Our internet speeds are the most reliable and fastest available in the area. We also offer unlimited local and long

distance digital phone and TV with a large selection of channels. Customers can choose one service or bundle two or three services for discounted rates. Bring your current bills for phone, TV and internet service to the Greenlight office and our sales team can show you how you can save with our bundled discounts.

## TEMPORARY REDUCTION OF IRRIGATION FEES FOR NEW SOD

In an effort to promote water conservation, the city is temporarily reducing water rates for customers installing new drought resistant sod.

The city recognizes that it is necessary to provide daily watering to establish newly sodded yards. Drought resistant sod such as Bahia and Zoysia require less water to maintain and should ultimately reduce the customer's water use and therefore reduce their bill.

To be eligible for the reduced rates, customers must meet the criteria listed below:

1. Sod must be Bahia or Zoysia.
2. A minimum of 3,000 square feet of sod must be installed.
3. Customer must provide proof of purchase detailing amount of sod, type of sod and date of installation. The city will verify the date of installation and the amount of new sod installed.

4. Deadline for new sod installation is June 30, 2012. Reduced fees will end July 31, 2012.

5. Amount of water used over 8,000 gallons will be charged at the 8,000 gallon rate and will have the sewer charge waived for that amount.

6. The regular rate will appear on the customer's bill and it will be the responsibility of the customer to contact the city to request a bill credit.

## CITY BEACH TO BE RENAMED DINKINS PARK

On May 14 the City of Dunnellon will officially rename City Beach to Dinkins Park in honor of the late Chaplin Ambrose Dinkins, III.

Dinkins, who died on Oct. 14, 2010, was known throughout the city for helping youth and anyone in need. He

operated his family business, Dinkins Service Store, one of the city's oldest businesses.

The city resolution renaming the park reads in part, "it is most befitting to rename City Beach after a man who supported our community so generously, while standing in

the shadows so as not to attract credit or attention to himself for his magnanimous deeds."

The Dinkins family, along with city officials and other invited guests will dedicate the park and unveil signage bearing the new name.

# DUNNELLON POLICE DEPARTMENT: WATCH FOR SCAMS

## Relative in jail or hospital scams

The Dunnellon Police Department has recently received numerous complaints regarding attempted scams targeting elderly residents.

In these scams, elderly residents are being targeted via telephone by a person declaring themselves to be law enforcement in another state or country.

The latest attempt occurred when a caller telephoned a Dunnellon resident and stated his grandson was under arrest in Mexico and he needed bail money wired to him.

The caller instructed the resident to go to the nearest Western Union location and wire the funds to Mexico. The caller told the resident not to call any other family members because his grandson was embarrassed and did not want anyone else to know.

Fortunately, the resident became suspicious and contacted another family member and was able to determine that his grandson was in fact safe and not in Mexico.

This scam targets the elderly and is very convincing because the scammers often are able to determine names

and relationships through social media.

DPD encourages all residents who receive a call of this nature to contact their family members or law enforcement to verify the validity of the call before sending funds.

In other scams, the caller will call someone and tell them that their loved one has been in an accident and is in the hospital out of the country.

The caller expresses that the relative is in need of emergency surgery. If money is not received, the surgery will not be performed. The caller instructs the resident to go to the nearest Western Union and usually provides the address for the relative.

Do not send any money without verifying this information through a relative.

The likelihood of retrieving money sent in these cases is very slim. The best defense against these scams is through education and prevention.

## Lottery Scams

A lottery is a promotional device by which items of value are awarded to members of the public by chance, but which requires some form of payment to participate.

In the United States and most developed countries, lotteries are illegal except when conducted by governments (states in the US) and certain exempt charitable organizations.

### AVOIDING SCAM LOTTERIES

- You cannot win a legitimate lottery if you have not entered it.
- In almost all cases you must purchase a ticket to enter a legitimate lottery.
- You never have to pay to collect winnings from a legitimate lottery. You pay taxes AFTER you receive the winnings. There are no other fees.
- If you hold a winning lottery ticket, you notify the lottery. They will not notify you; not by email, not by phone, not by mail.
- It is illegal under U.S. federal law to play ANY foreign lottery from the United States. Many other countries have similar laws.
- Since scammers simply invent new names for their fake email scams, it is more accurate to say that if you do not see the lottery on the list of legitimate lotteries, it is probably a scam.
- If it isn't conducted by a government or government-authorized charitable organization, it can't be a legitimate lottery.

## NEW ADDRESS GUIDELINES

The City of Dunnellon requires all residential and commercial buildings within city limits to be issued a building number/address. The guidelines in Ordinance 2011-02, Section 99-10 were approved on April 11, 2011.

The number should be placed per the following guidelines:

- Posted number shall be at least 4 inches high and 2 inches wide in easy-to-read type.
- Numbers on residential, commercial, institutional and multi-family buildings set back more than 50 feet from the street should be at least 8 inches high. If the building front is not readily visible or accessible, regardless of distance from the street, numbers should be posted at the driveway to the building and also affixed to the building.
- Must be a color that contrasts with the building and must be clearly visible from the adjoining street.
- Plazas and other commercial occupancies with multiple buildings, the range of building numbers shall be posted on the main plaza and on the occupancy sign viewed from the street from both directions. If separate units are assigned separate numbers with or without letters, that number plus any assigned letter shall be posted on the front of each unit.
- Fractions of a house number will not be issued.
- The owner or occupant of a structure will have 12 months from the approval of this code to be in compliance.

The Code Enforcement department wants to remind property owners and/or tenants citywide that the one year transition period has elapsed and compliance is required.

For questions please contact Larry Straus, Code Enforcement officer, at the Dunnellon Police Department or call him 465-8510.

## DUNNELLON POLICE OFFICER PARTICIPATES IN SUMMER GAMES

Dunnellon Police Officers will be volunteering their time and representing the city for the opening ceremonies of the 2012 State Summer Games in Orlando this month. The games will be held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex on May 18-19.

More than 1,500 athletes are competing in bocce ball, cycling, soccer, tennis, volleyball, and track and field events. Arnold will be among those running the final leg into the stadium on Friday night. On

Saturday, the athletes compete in the various sports events. The event concludes with a closing ceremony and dance.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**May 3** – National Day of Prayer, 9-10 a.m., sponsored by Cross at the River Cowboy Church, City Hall Gazebo

**May 5** – Special Olympics Fundraiser, 5-9 p.m., Abigail's

**May 8** – Historic Preservation Board meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

**May 9** – City Council workshop, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

**May 14** – Dinkins Park dedication, 10 a.m., City Beach

City Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

**May 15** – Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

**May 16** – Dunnellon Chamber of Commerce Board meeting, 7:30 a.m.

**May 23** – City Council workshop, 5:30 p.m.; City Hall

**May 24** – Tree Board meeting, 5 p.m., City Hall

**May 28** – Memorial Day, City Hall closed

**May 29** – City Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall (rescheduled due to holiday)