

AT HOME ON THE RIVER

CITY OF DUNNELLON

FEBRUARY 2012

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City purchases Rainbow Springs Utility

In 2004, the citizens of Dunnellon developed a strategic vision with specific goals. One is attracting industry to the airport to generate good paying jobs and increase the City's tax base. A key element in attracting business and industry is a strong infrastructure.

It is important for the City to engage in economic

development rather than hope that something will happen. Today, our children's expectation of

returning to Dunnellon to work and raise a family after college or career training is dismal. We need to prepare for an economic recovery and aggressively recruit industry to our community. Currently, we are partnering with Marion County, EDC, and the Chamber of Commerce on economic development.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE CITY TO ENGAGE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN HOPE THAT SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN.

The purchase of Rainbow Springs utility strengthens the City's system and helps promote economic development. Many benefits are realized from this purchase. The customer base doubles minimizing necessary rate increases.

A sewer connection can be made between Rio Vista and Rainbow Springs. Interconn-

ecting the systems will create redundancy. Future expansion to connect

riverfront properties onto sewer is possible. Available capacity is increased. The City uses a tiered rate structure to encourage water conservation as required by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).

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GET READY FOR GREENLIGHT

Greenlight Dunnellon Communications continues testing and is performing successfully in 10 houses throughout the service area. This state-of-the-art Fiber to the home network offers high speed internet, telephone and cable television service and it's coming your way soon.

Home phone rates will start at \$34.99 for unlimited local and long distance calls. Home internet service starts at \$34.99 for up to 5 mbs. Get expanded basic TV Service with 180 channels for \$69.99. Buy 2, save 10 percent or buy 3, save 20 percent!

Small businesses can get up to 5 mbs internet service for \$44.99 and unlimited local and long distance calls for \$44.99.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT)

Last year the rates were adjusted that resulted in a discount to low volume users.

These customers use water primarily for necessary domestic use. High volume users pay a higher rate. Most of these customers irrigate their lawns and replenish their pools. This is a discretionary use.

Water conservation is important to our water quality and availability. (See tips below.) We all have a responsibility to conserve water and be good stewards of the environment. Because the tiered rates are a change for the Rainbow Springs customers, the City Council

established a discounted rate structure for the next five years.

It begins with a 20 percent discount and adjusts 5 percent a year until the rates are equivalent to what all other customers are paying. Residents outside the City limits are charged an additional 25 percent surcharge primarily for two reasons. First it goes toward retiring the debt service and second it builds a reserve account necessary for repairs and capital improvements. With the discount on the rates and the added surcharge, Rainbow Springs customers will pay the same amount as Dunnellon residents.

Declining tax revenues in a

sluggish economy has created financial challenges for the City.

We cannot continue providing the level of service to our taxpayers unless we generate new revenue streams or raise ad valorem taxes. This has brought to light the importance of implementing our strategic vision.

Greenlight, the City's new telecommunications utility will generate new revenue and purchasing Rainbow Springs utility strengthens our infrastructure. These two initiatives enable the City to move towards financial stability and economic recovery.

– Lisa Algieri/City Manager

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Conserving water is important, these tips help increase water efficiency and decrease waste:

Ways to save indoors:

- Fix leaky toilets, faucets and pipes. This could save 25 gallons per day.
- Upgrade to water-efficient toilets and possibly save more than 700 gallons per month.
- Install low-flow showerheads and save 500-800 gallons a month.
- Limit showers to five minutes and save up to 1,000 gallons per month.

- Turn off water as you brush teeth or shave and save 4 gallons a minute.
- If washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running and save 200- 500 gallons a month.
- Run washing machine and dishwasher only when you have full loads.

Ways to save outdoors:

- Follow the District's landscape irrigation rule.
- Only water your landscape when it is actually needed.

- Implement Florida Friendly Landscaping.
- Use sprinklers with automatic timers and rain sensors.
- Equip hoses with automatic shutoff nozzles for car washing, hand watering, etc.
- Wash your car on the grass. This will also water the lawn and prevent wasteful runoff.

DUNNELLON'S POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR IS MIKE MILEY

Officer Mike Miley is Dunnellon's Police Officer of the Year for 2011.

This award is granted for outstanding achievement by an Officer who brings credit to the Department and who performs above and beyond that which is required by an officer's basic assignment.

He was nominated for this honor for his consistent hard work and dedication to service throughout the entire year. Officer Miley was instrumental

in solving two major incidents which occurred in our city: a strong armed robbery in March in which three suspects were apprehended, and an aggravated battery with a deadly weapon incident in June, in which one suspect was apprehended.

Our agency is proactive in community policing and we have a strong relationship with citizens and business owners.

Officer Miley has volunteered numerous hours in

support of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life's PiggyBankers Team and the Special Olympics of Florida organization.

He instructed high school students on Alcohol Effects and Awareness as well as coordinated our annual Bicycle Rodeo which teaches children about bicycle safety. All these events are supported by our local businesses and citizens.

DUNNELLON FIRE RESCUE WARNS ABOUT DANGERS OF DRY SEASON

DRY SEASON: Florida's dry season is starting again. Did you know escaped debris burning is one of the leading causes of wildfires in Florida?

In Dunnellon a Burn permit from the Fire Rescue Department is required for all outside burning. Read the City Ordinance for exceptions.

We ask everyone to be safe during this dry season and to know the dangers to using fire for disposal of yard debris. For questions call the Fire Rescue Department at 465-8595.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR:

Julian Abrams is Dunnellon Fire Rescue's Firefighter of the

Year. He is a dedicated Volunteer Firefighter who rides on our rescue unit and also has been very helpful in our department events.

HOLIDAY HELPERS: 2011 was a spectacular year for the needy children's Christmas party. We were expecting from 250 to 300 children but were pleasantly surprised when 480 children came to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. They enjoyed a baked ziti dinner, with all the fixings, provided by the Dunnellon Bingo Hall before visiting Santa.

The Dunnellon Fire and Rescue can't say enough about the generosity of our

business community and residents. Their support has made this event possible for more than 20 years.

Many of these children may not have had a Christmas if it weren't for this event.

We at the Fire Dept. would like to extend special recognition to the Dunnellon Bingo Hall, Tri-County RC Club, Personal Mini Storage/U-Haul and of course Gary's Nuts for locating Santa at the North Pole for this special event.

We would also like to thank the residents for their donations and time wrapping the gifts and to recognize all of the businesses for their generosity.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

- Tues, Feb 7 at 9:00 a.m. - Marion County Board of County Commission Meeting
- Wed, Feb 8 at 9:00 a.m. - Tourist Development Council in Ocala Visitors & Convention Bureau
- Wed, Feb 8 @ 5:30 p.m. - City Council Workshop at City Hall
- Mon, Feb 13 @ 5:30 p.m. - City Council Meeting at City Hall
- Tues, Feb 14 @ 8:30 a.m. - Police Fire Pension Board Meeting at City Hall
- Tues, Feb 14 @ 4:30 p.m. - Historic Preservation Board at City Hall
- Wed, Feb 15 @ 7:30 a.m. - Chamber of Commerce Board of Director Meeting
- Wed, Feb 15 @ 4:30 p.m. - Withlacoochee Water Authority
- Thurs, Feb 16 @ 6:30 p.m. - Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council
- Tues, Feb 21 @ 9:00 a.m. - Marion County Board of County Commission Meeting
- Tues, Feb 21 @ 5:30 p.m. - Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall
- Wed, Feb 22 @ 5:30 p.m. - City Council Workshop at City Hall
- Thurs, Feb 23 @ 5:00 p.m. - Tree Board Meeting at City Hall
- Mon, Feb 27 @ 5:30 p.m. - City Council Meeting at City Hall