

AT HOME ON THE RIVER

CITY OF DUNNELLON

AUGUST 2012

REMEMBERING DUNNELLON VICE MAYOR FRED STARK

The City of Dunnellon mourns the loss of Dunnellon Vice Mayor Fred "Starkie" Stark who died on July 2, 2012.

First elected in 2006, he was serving his third consecutive term on the City Council.

In addition to his seat on the council, Stark also served on the Rainbow Springs Basin Group, the Marion County Transportation Planning Organization, and was a director on the board of Dunnellon Main Street.

He also served as council liaison for the Community Redevelopment Agency Steering Committee, Liaison to Historic Preservation Advisory Board, the Tree Board, and the Fire/Police Station Property Acquisition Project.

Stark attended the Advanced Institute for Elected Officials in his continuous quest to further his knowledge.

"He was very articulate and passionate when it came to his stance on legislative issues," said Dunnellon Clerk Dawn M. Bowne. "He was authoritative when needed,



but at the same time compassionate when the situation called for it."

He took particular interest in water quality issues and monitoring of wells in the city.

Prior to moving to Florida, Stark worked for the New York City Fire Department from 1959 to 1979. He was Chief of Florida State Fire College from 1979 to 1994.

Dunnellon Fire Chief Joe Campfield said he always had a good relationship with Stark and recalled one of their last conversations about a new building for the fire department.

"We talked about difficulties he had building the new Fire College," Campfield said. "He was happy with the new air

packs the department purchased and we talked about how far the fire service has progressed in air pack technology."

Dunnellon Mayor Fred Ward offered condolences to Stark's wife Juliette and their family. Ward noted that Stark was healthy and full of life and he will be missed by the City Council and city staff.

"I would always ask Mr. Stark for the motion to adjourn a meeting and his response was always, "you got it." It had become quite a ritual between us and I will miss it dearly," Ward said. "We had learned to work together in a positive and friendly way and he will be missed by me. I will miss his ability to get the nub of an issue."

Stark's fellow council members along with a contingent of city staff attended a memorial service in his honor on July 12 at the Florida State Fire College in Lowell.

The family requests donations in Stark's honor be directed to the Dunnellon Volunteer Fire Firefighters or the Wounded Warriors In Action Foundation.

GREENLIGHT DUNNELLON SPONSORS MOVIES IN THE PARK

Families are invited to bring a lawn chair or blanket out to Ernie Mills Park on Aug. 11 for the first of the free Movies in the Park series.

The first movie will be "Dr. Seuss' The Lorax" rated PG.

It is the second year Greenlight Dunnellon Communications has sponsored the free movie series for the community. The second Saturday of each month



through October has been designated for the Movies In The Park series.

The park, on Bostick Street, will open at 8 p.m. with the movie scheduled to show at dark, likely about 8:30 p.m. Concessions will be sold with proceeds going to the "Cops for Kids" program and Dunnellon

Fire Department's Children's Christmas party.

"We realize that the economy may not allow families to attend movies at a theater on a regular basis because of cost or lack of time so we hope the free Movies in the Park will provide a fun outing for them," said Dunnellon City Manager Lisa Algieri.

Algieri added that the dates and times selected hopefully will not interfere with area Little League and prep football game schedules or with home games of the

Florida Gators.

Movie titles for September and October will be announced soon. So set your calendars and join us with your families for Movies In The Park.

For more information about the Movies In The Park series, call Greenlight Dunnellon Communications at 533-5034.

DUNNELLON POLICE DEPARTMENT HOSTS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Dunnellon Police Department is gearing up to host National Night Out at 5 p.m. on Aug. 7 at Ernie Mills Park on Bostick Street.

The event is a time where residents can come out and meet their neighbors and talk with local law enforcement officers about any crime, safety or traffic related issues.

A bounce house and hayrides will be available for families to enjoy along with hotdogs and other light refreshments.

For more information about National Night Out please call the police department at 465-8510.

CALENDAR

Aug. 6 – East Pennsylvania Avenue Streetscape Committee meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall

Aug. 7 – National Night Out with Dunnellon Police Department, 5 p.m., Ernie Mills Park

Aug. 8 – City Council workshop, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Aug. 9 – Recreation Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Aug. 11 – Movies In The Park "Dr. Seuss, The Lorax" – gate opens at 8 p.m., movie starts at dark (8:30 p.m.), Ernie Mills Park

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

Aug. 14 – Primary Election 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., City Hall
Historic Preservation Board meeting, 4:30 p.m., City Hall

Aug. 20 – First Day of School for Marion County Public Schools

Aug. 21 – Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Aug. 22 – City Council workshop, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

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

Aug. 27 – City Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Council lowers ad valorem taxes for the fiscal year 2012-13

I am pleased to report to you that the City Council has lowered the ad valorem millage rate by one-half mill for the fiscal year 2012-2013. The new fiscal year begins October 1.

The Council and staff have been very diligent in setting austere budgets and putting cost saving measures in place while finding new ways to increase revenue.

The results are now paying off and we can now begin lowering property taxes.

While we have been frugal in spending tax dollars we have increased services.

Last year we added a boat patrol to the police department and are now offering leisure activities free to the public including movies

in the park and a summer kick-off event for children.

We are committed to providing quality services to our residents on a limited budget and will continue to work hard for you.

Greenlight is fully operational and providing services to many residents and businesses. As we continue to build our customer base I encourage you to check out the services we provide. Many of our customers save as much as \$30-\$60 a month on their bill.

Recently the Riverland News made a public records request for Greenlight customer information including names and the services they subscribe to. Customer information is private and confidential.

Disclosure of customer information is protected by law to protect customer's privacy, especially in the event of identity theft.

I don't know why the newspaper requested the information. We denied the request and kept all customer information private. We value our customers and fully intend to protect their privacy.

We have received requests from water customers to combine the house and irrigation bills into one.

Currently we mail separate bills due to our billing software. We are looking into ways to combine the billing so that we can provide better service.

DUNNELLON POLICE SEEKS COPS FOR KIDS SPONSORS

Each December the Dunnellon Police Department sponsors a shopping trip for needy children to purchase Christmas gifts for themselves and their families. The "Cops For Kids" program enables officers to share a little Christmas cheer while getting to know some of the most energetic citizens of the community.

The funds raised throughout the year allow DPD to have 10 to 15 children participate each year. Children are referred to the program through a variety of community

resources. However, the more funds collected, the more children the department can serve.

The police department hosts a variety of fundraisers throughout the year to sponsor the program. Also a number of area businesses support the effort.

Armed with \$100 the children and officers set off for a local store to shop.

Once the shopping is complete the gifts are wrapped by community volunteers. The tiny shoppers are then treated to dinner.

In addition, their parents are provided holiday dinner items such as a turkey to help with their Christmas dinner at home.

To sponsor the "Cops For Kids" program, donations are now being accepted by the Dunnellon Police Department. Checks can be made to the City of Dunnellon and designate "Cops For Kids" in the memo section. Gift cards to area retailers are also suggested.

For more information, call the Dunnellon Police Department at (352) 465-8510.

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