

# AT HOME ON THE RIVER

CITY OF DUNNELLON

OCTOBER 2012

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A report on Dunnellon's Strategic Vision as we move into a new fiscal year

As we end our fiscal year and go through the process of adopting a budget for the new fiscal year, I want to report to you the accomplishments we made this year and the work we have on the agenda for the year ahead. Our city council is committed to implementing the City's Strategic Vision of which all activities of this past year have made strides in accomplishing those goals.

This past year a River Etiquette Ordinance was adopted and a Marine Boat Unit was added to the police department. Through a partnership with the Marion County Sheriff's Office, our officers now patrol the Rainbow and Withlacochee rivers. The officers are able to maintain safety and provide rescue services to swimmers and boaters.

In the area of recreation we support the Dunnellon branch of the Boys & Girls Club and the Dunnellon Little League. This year we sponsored the first Summer Fun Kick-Off for area children. Over 400 attended the free event. We also held free movies in the park and a concert on the river. I formed a committee to help identify recreation needs in the area, particularly sports related recreation. Negotiation with the State Department of Environmental Protection began for a long term lease to the city

for 170 acres for a sports complex.

A Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan was adopted that identified areas to build trails and connect city trails to state trails. A strip of land was purchased that will aid the state in connecting its trails and a permit has been issued for the state to build a pedestrian bridge across Withlacochee River into Blue Run Park.

The master plan also recommends streetscaping along Pennsylvania Avenue. A committee has been meeting and the city has authorized the city engineer to begin preparing a conceptual plan for East Pennsylvania Avenue.

Eco-tourism is a driving force for Dunnellon's economy. A new hotel will provide lodging for visitors and give them more time to visit our local businesses. Discussions have been ongoing with hotel developers to come to Dunnellon and we will continue our efforts to attract a hotel developer.

In utilities, the city purchased three neighboring utilities, doubling the city's customer base. The City Engineer recently presented the Utility Master Plan, identifying much needed improvements. The more critical improvements are included in the proposed budget for the year ahead.

Projects include a water line extension to connect to the well

at the airport that will increase pressure for fire flows to homes east of the river, a water line extension along East McKinney which will provide a backup to the water main along US 41 and increase pressure for fire flows to homes in Blue Cove and The Granada. Other projects include interconnecting water plants to provide redundancy throughout the entire system.

Phase Four and the final phase of the wastewater plant expansion is now complete. The wastewater plant located in Rio Vista will be decommissioned and its sewer customers rerouted, eliminating some environmental issues.

A five year water and sewer rate increase was adopted by the City Council last year with annual reviews. Previous administrations were reluctant to raise rates, putting the system at financial risk. After reviewing the rates this year the recommendation is to lower the amounts of the tiers and adjust the rates lower than the adopted five year rate plan. Our rates will still be competitive with surrounding utility systems.

This year we launched Greenlight and began providing services to customers. The core infrastructure serving the city and adjacent neighborhoods has been built and we continue to build to other neighborhoods that are requesting our service.

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## DUNNELLON MARINE UNIT OFFICERS COMPLETE WATER RESCUE TRAINING

Members of the Dunnellon Police Department's Marine Unit recently completed a water rescue training course hosted by the Nature Coast EMS in Citrus County.

DPD was represented by Lt. Sue Webb, Cpl. Bruce Arnold and Officer Shane Yox. The training included learning how to utilize the boat to better facilitate a water rescue scene. During the training officers, working closely with paramedics, were required to swim over 2,000 yards, rescue injured persons and prepare them for transport by medical staff. The officers were required to complete the training during daylight and nighttime hours.

In completing this specialized course, local Marine Unit officers will be able to train others if necessary. The course exceeds the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for Technical Water Rescue. The free training provides the officers with the skills needed for patrolling the waterways around the City of Dunnellon.

## Fire Prevention Week: "Have 2 Ways Out!"

In the event of a fire in your home or office, it is important to have multiple escape routes.

Dunnellon Fire Rescue, in conjunction with the National Fire Prevention Association, urges residents to "Have 2 Ways Out!" during Fire Prevention Week Oct. 7-13, 2012.

According to the NFPA, one-third of American households estimate they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home becomes life threatening. However, the time is often much less.

Recommended tips for planning escape routes:

- Make a map of your home/office. Mark doors and windows that can be used to get out of every room.
- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home/office. This is where everyone can meet once they've escaped. Draw a picture of your outside meeting place on your escape plan.
- Write the emergency telephone number for the fire department on your escape plan.
- Have an adult sound the smoke alarm and practice your escape plan with everyone in your home/office.
- Keep your escape plan visible and schedule practice drills twice a year.

Dunnellon Fire Rescue will greet movie goers on Oct. 13 at Ernie Mills Park to distribute fire prevention week information. The public is invited to stop by the fire station, 20612 W. Pennsylvania Ave., during Jazz Up Dunnellon on Oct. 20 to pick up fire prevention material and emergency preparedness information.

To learn more about National Fire Prevention Week go to <http://www.FPW.org> or <http://www.firepreventionweek.org>.

### CITY CALENDAR

**Oct. 3** – City

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

**Oct. 8** – City

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

**Oct. 9** – Historic  
Preservation Board  
meeting – 4:30 p.m.,  
City Hall

**Oct. 13** – Movie In  
The Park – "The  
Pirates: Band of  
Misfits," 8-10 p.m.  
Ernie Mills Park

**Oct. 16** – Planning  
Commission meeting,  
5:30 p.m., City Hall

**Oct. 17** – City  
Council workshop --  
5:30 p.m., City Hall

**Oct. 20** – Jazz Up  
Dunnellon -- 5-9  
p.m., along East and  
West Pennsylvania  
Avenue; Ernie Mills  
Park on Bostick  
Street

**Oct. 22** – City  
Council meeting,  
5:30 p.m., City Hall

**Oct. 25** – Tree  
Board meeting, 5  
p.m.; City Hall

**Oct. 27** – Early  
Voting begins;  
Dunnellon Public  
Library (Oct. 27-  
Nov.3)

## MOVIES IN THE PARK CONCLUDES IN OCTOBER

The "Movies In The Park" series, sponsored by Greenlight Dunnellon Communications, will show "The Pirates: Band of Misfits" on Oct. 13 at Ernie Mills Park to conclude the 2012 season.

The park opens at 8 p.m. with the movie starting at dark, approximately 8:30 p.m. Be sure to bring a lawn chair or blanket.

"Offering the free movies from August through October was one of the many ways of giving back to the community," said Dunnellon City Manager Lisa Algieri.



This is the second year Greenlight has sponsored the movie series.

The sales of concessions at the movies offered fundraising opportunities for

the police and fire departments to sponsor holiday parties for area children along with the Dunnellon branch of the Boys & Girls Club to support its local program.

A big thank you to Wendell Landry, owner of Swampy's, for donating the concession items sold at the movie. Also, thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the movies.



**What:** Movie In The Park showing "The Pirates: Band of Misfits"

**When:** Oct. 13, show begins at dark (approximately 8:30 p.m.)

**Where:** Ernie Mills Park, 11899 Bostick St.

**Cost:** Free

**Info:** 533-5034, ext. #5016

## 'DINE-IN DUNNELLON' TO BENEFIT BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

The Dunnellon branch of the Boys & Girls Club encourages everyone to stop by a participating local restaurant on Oct. 17 for "Dine-In Dunnellon" to help raise funds for the local branch.

Restaurants participating in the effort will donate a portion of their receipts on this day to

the Dunnellon branch of the Boys & Girls Club to assist with operating expenses.

The branch is gearing up to build a 7,800 square foot building on north U.S. 41 set in 2013.

For more information about the event, please contact Jessica Ferraro at 489-6412 or [jessica.t.ferraro@suntrust.com](mailto:jessica.t.ferraro@suntrust.com). Also go to the Boys & Girl Club website at [bgcofmarion.com](http://bgcofmarion.com).

## New account numbers now in effect for city utility customers

The city's billing department has begun the process of combining account numbers for customers who have separate water meters for domestic and irrigation usage. Staff has completed merging account numbers which begin with 901, 804, and 803. However, account numbers beginning with 802 have yet to be completed.

Please note that the old account numbers are no longer active and balances will be transferred.

Customers with account numbers beginning with 901, 804, or 803 are asked to please note the change and adjust their records accordingly. This is especially important for those customers using online bill pay or the electronic payment option.

Also a reminder to customers, make sure account numbers are listed correctly. Account numbers either have a 10-digit series prior to the dash followed by either four or six digits after the dash.

**Please use the following example: (0000000000-0000) or (0000000000-000000)**  
Listing the number correctly helps eliminate errors in processing.

And finally, customers are asked to remit mail payments to the following address: **City of Dunnellon Utility Billing, PO Box 538157, Atlanta, GA 30353-8157**. Customers should discard information still listing an Orlando address, it is no longer active.

For more information, please call 533-5034 between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## GrüvTherapy to headline Jazz Up Dunnellon on Oct. 20

The airwaves in the city will come alive on Oct. 20 during Jazz Up Dunnellon, the annual Mardi-Gras style music festival sponsored by the Dunnellon Area Chamber of Commerce.

The event, from 5-9 p.m., features more than a dozen musical groups playing at various stages along the picturesque Pennsylvania Avenue. Music lovers will be able to stroll along the route enjoying jazz, blues, rock, classic rock and southern rock.

GrüvTherapy, a Gainesville-based jazz ensemble will take the stage at Ernie Mills Park to headline Jazz Up 2012. The group has gained a large regional following since 2005 and is being sponsored by Greenlight Dunnellon Communications.

The list of performers at Jazz Up Dunnellon include: Cutler Spur, Final Note, Kathy Joe and the Bluzification Band, Liz Pennock & Dr. Blues, local jazz band Charlie Remillard and The Usual



Suspects, Nino Castenada and World Latin Jazz Band, Bluzboyz, and the Ocala Jazz Society.

Beverly Leisure, director of the Dunnellon Area Chamber of Commerce, said it takes all of the fine businesses in Dunnellon to make the event a success.

"Each year our event draws hundreds of people to Dunnellon which promotes our small town quality of life and offers an opportunity to showcase our businesses in the Dunnellon area," she said.

Leisure encourages everyone to enjoy a night out in Dunnellon with good music and stop by the Chamber beverage booths for a glass of wine or beer, and sample various food vendors which include Cajun/Creole inspired cuisine.

There is still time to volunteer for Jazz Up or become a sponsor. Email Leisure at [dunnellonchambercommerce@gmail.com](mailto:dunnellonchambercommerce@gmail.com).

For more information about the event, go to [www.dunnellonchamber.com](http://www.dunnellonchamber.com) or call 489-2320.

## Contractor Registration Due to Community Development Department

It is time to renew Contractor Registration for any contractor obtaining a building permit in the city for the fiscal year 2012-2013.

The renewal registration form can be downloaded at [www.dunnellon.org](http://www.dunnellon.org). Renewal notices were also sent via email and postal mail in mid-September. Renewal is \$20 for the year.

Starting this year the City of Dunnellon will no longer issue a contractor registration card. The renewal is sufficient to pull permits in the city.

For more information, contact the city's planning assistant, Jeanette Rehberg at [jrehberg@dunnellon.org](mailto:jrehberg@dunnellon.org) or 465-8500, ext. #1010.

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## City Manager's Report: Communication a vital part of Strategic Vision

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1:** Because Dunnellon's system is fiber optic, it provides the fastest, most reliable internet service available. As technology continues to improve, it will be dependent on the internet, which makes Greenlight prepared to handle all future opportunities.

Our strategic vision encourages responsible growth toward the airport. A 500-acre parcel was recently annexed and the Secret Promise property, approximately 9,000 acres, has requested to be annexed into the city. Currently, these properties are vacant and will not demand services from the city but will generate tax revenue.

Communication is an important goal of the strategic vision. This year we began inserting a monthly newsletter in the utility bills. We have just launched the city's new website that is more user-friendly and more informative. Please take a look at the new page at [www.dunnellon.org](http://www.dunnellon.org). Additionally, Dunnellon Now -- Channel One on the Greenlight system provides local information on community events.

In the proposed budget, the ad valorem taxes were lowered by one-half mil. We continue to operate on a tight budget without eliminating services and will continue to look for opportunities to improve services cost effectively. The efforts that we have put forward could not have been accomplished without support of the community and I want to thank you for your continued support.