

## Contact Person

The following person will be the main contact if your city's nominee is selected as a finalist.

Please print or type.

Name Mr. Paul A. Berg

Title City Manager

Government City of Eustis

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Telephone Number (352) 483-5430 Fax (352) 357-1970

E-mail Address eustiscm@eustis.org

## Nomination Certification

This nomination has been voted on and approved by a majority of the city council/commission.

Signed Judy Roberts JUDY ROBERTS  
City Clerk

The judges will use the narrative and supportive information to select the award winners. Nominators/nominees are asked not to contact the judges directly.

## Narrative

In the narrative, please be clear and concise, using the Award Criteria to support the selection of your nominee. Please type (or print in black ink), up to 1,200 words, double-spaced on white 8-1/2" x 11" paper.

Please include a word count: 1,199  
Number of words

## Supportive Information

Up to 10 pages of supportive information (newspaper clippings, photographs, letters from constituents, etc.), on 8-1/2" x 11" paper (single-sided) may be provided. Please do not include videotapes, DVDs, CDs or Power-Point presentations.

Submit nominations by **August 10, 2007**:

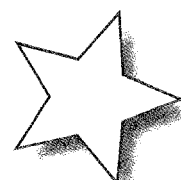
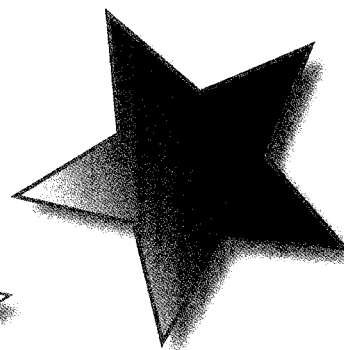
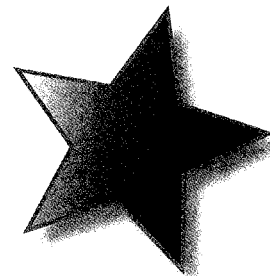
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)

P.O. Box 1757

Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



# 2007 Florida Cities of Excellence Awards Program ▶ Nomination Form

Category (Please check one) See Award Criteria for more information. Please print or type. One nomination per page.

**FLORIDA CITY OF EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Name of Municipality Nominated City of Eustis, Florida

Nominated by Eustis City Commission

(Name of City/Town/Village)

**CITY SPIRIT AWARD**

Name of Municipality Nominated \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated Project \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of City/Town/Village)

**MAYOR OF THE YEAR**

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of City/Town/Village)

**COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of City/Town/Village)

**CITY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of City/Town/Village)

**CITY MANAGER OF THE YEAR**

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of City/Town/Village)

**CITY CLERK OF THE YEAR**

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of City/Town/Village)

**CITY ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR**

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of City/Town/Village)

**CITY FINANCE OFFICIAL (DIRECTOR OR OFFICER) OF THE YEAR**

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of City/Town/Village)

**CITY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of City/Town/Village)

[OVER]



City: Eustis, Florida  
Incorporated: 1883  
Population: 17,766  
Area: 11.4 Square Miles  
County: Lake

## Florida City of Excellence Award

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### City of Eustis

Nestled in the heart of Lake County on Lake Eustis, the City of Eustis has been a proven leader in setting the standards in quality of life for its residents and visitors, not only in Lake County, but also the State of Florida. In late 2006, the City began a dramatic transformation that has continued with vigor through 2007.

In 2006, two new City Commissioners were elected with a strong mandate by the voters for slower growth and preservation of the City' historic and rural character, open spaces and charm. Responding to this overwhelming mandate, the City Commission has made bold commitments to follow the theme and will of the community and is making a number of changes in the direction of the entire City's evolution as Lake County's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city. Out of the numerous programs and activities the City is proud of, several are highlighted as follows:

- Leads the area in defining Open Space and its application so as to preserve the City's natural resources and manage growth. Lake County and surrounding municipalities have been observing this to emulate.
- Worked diligently in workshops on changes to the City's Comprehensive Plan and LDR's to provide the best protections for the Wekiva Protection Area and green spaces. The

City Commission hired a special land use attorney and land planning consultants to completely overhaul the City's Land Development Regulations, set new design standards, and upgrade the Comprehensive Plan. In a daring move, the City Commission further exerted the political will to implement a building moratorium until the above met to their satisfaction.

- Joint meetings were conducted between Lake County and the City Commissioners in 2006 to establish the framework in developing joint Land Development Regulations for coordinated development in the City's Joint Planning Areas (JPA). Open communications have been established with the Lake County Land Planning Agency to effect changes in the City's Future Land Use Map (FLUM) for the City's periphery and adjacent land in the County, and establish guidelines to coordinate communication on and approval of development of properties in our JPA.
- Four successful visioning workshops were held to gather the community's desires for the future development, appearance and features of the city. Residents consistently voiced their pride and admiration for Eustis as a friendly, charming town with good spirited people.
- The City obtained funding from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and set interlocal agreements in place for a downtown traffic circulation study to make our city core more pedestrian friendly.
- Provided funding (\$40,000) for numerous non-profit Parent Oriented Groups such as Little League, Junior Football, and Eustis Middle School Band.
- Provided funding for the arts, including \$25,000 to our local live theatre (established in 1922), \$26,000 for a local sculptor creating a signature sculpture in Ferran Park, and monetary awards to artists in the City Art Festival.

- The City supports the Eustis Main Street (\$40,000 annually) and the Lake Eustis Area Chamber of Commerce, (\$9,000 annually). The Lake Area Eustis Chamber of Commerce has grown substantially as membership has doubled in last 6 years.
- The City of Eustis provided funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the Trout Lake Nature Center, located within the municipality, to provide a learning environment for the area's natural wonders.
- Several community and business leaders have contributed tremendous time, effort and monetary investment through the Lake Community Foundation for rebuilding the cleared 13 acres of the former Waterman Hospital site, taking advantage of this unique opportunity for the City's downtown core to reinvent itself with innovative planning, and public private partnership.
- The face of downtown Eustis has improved through the use of Facade Grants which have upgraded the look of the City's downtown businesses.
- Receiving award by the Lake County Water Authority for leading the way in exemplary completion of storm water projects and efficient use of grant money to do so
- The Eustis City Commission adopted an ordinance to require active recreation playgrounds for new residential developments
- Eustis annually hosts the celebrated George Washington's Birthday Festival, (aka: "GeorgeFest") in February each year since 1902. This event is the oldest continuing festival in Florida, and the second oldest in the nation. The Lake Eustis Area Chamber of Commerce conducts this event every year as part of their mission to support the community, promote tourism for the City of Eustis as well as endorse their supporting business members.
- Eustis annually hosts the celebrated African-American Heritage Festival, currently in its 14<sup>th</sup> year. The Lake Community Action Agency conducts this event which brings the African-American community together to celebrate their heritage.

- In a collaborative effort with the City Commission, Development Services, and the Eustis Historic Preservation Board, decorative , high quality bronze signs were installed at the perimeter of the City's historic district
- The Lake Eustis Museum of Art, in cooperation with the City of Eustis, has hosted the Annual Fine Arts Festival for the past 7 years in Ferran Park. The Lake Eustis Museum of Art has an unprecedented level of credibility in the local business community and the art industry as a whole. This festival has developed a reputation for its serene atmosphere and unprecedented opportunity to stroll tree lined paths to view and buy unique and original works of art.
- With a new Tree Advisory Board, the City implemented a program to expand our "Tree City U.S.A." status, improve street safety by removing diseased trees, and assisting Boy Scouts in planting approximately 47 trees during the 2007 calendar year. One result of the City's dedication to its canopy is being selected as Florida Tree City for calendar year 2006.
- Eustis Main Street hosts monthly Downtown Street Fests and Antique Car Festivals. Antique car "cruise-ins" have grown from a few cars to nearly 300, which come from all over the state.
- The Eustis Police Department has initiated a special community service team for our police to give special attention and outreach to trouble prone neighborhoods. Officers have been equipped and trained for community friendly and effective bicycle patrols.
- Excelled above 13 other cities in Lake County to obtain grant funds for its Safe Route to School Program.
- The City has competed for the Government Finance Officers Association's "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting on an annual bases. Since beginning competition 18 years ago, the City has continuously received this award and has maintained the highest fiscal bond rating (AAA).

- Current planning is underway for a new Public Safety Complex for Fire and Police services to better serve the citizens utilized City-owned property.
- The City of Eustis is now in the planning stages for the City of Eustis 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration festivities in 2008.

The Citizens of Eustis are proud of their special City with its many examples of dedicated work by countless volunteers, boards and staff who devote their time and talents to making this town one abundant in charm, history, culture, events, quality of life, and promise for the future.