

2006 Florida Cities of Excellence Awards Program ▶

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

Name of Municipality Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Municipality Nominated _____
Nominated Project _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Title _____ Department _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

✓ *City Citizen*
Name of Individual Nominated *Maggi Hall*
Nominated by *City of Deland*
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Please print or type.

Name Michael Grebusz
Title Special Projects Coordinator
Government City of DeLand
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Telephone Number (386) 740 - 5700 Fax (386) 740 - 6869
E-mail Address grebuszm@deland.org

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

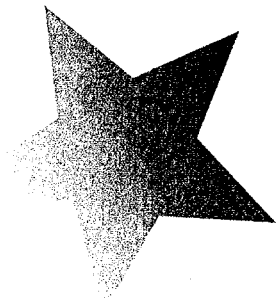
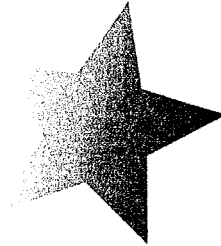
Signed Julie A. Hennessey
City Clerk

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

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.

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 18, 2006:**
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





Citizen of the Year

Maggi Hall

The DeLand City Commission is proud and honored to nominate Maggi Hall for the Florida League of Cities Citizen of the Year Award. In DeLand and West Volusia, Ms. Hall is very well known. She works in real estate but volunteers time toward environmental issues, code enforcement, and historical preservation. Ms. Hall is a third generation Floridian who graduated from DeLand's own, Stetson University in 1967. Just after graduation she moved to South Carolina, but then in a twist of fate came back to live in DeLand in 1999.

In 1999, DeLand had a newly revitalized downtown area that showcased what the definition of a small town was supposed to be, it had trendy cafés, designer shops, and various professional services. Just blocks away from the success story of downtown, in southeast DeLand, was an area called "Crack Alley." This area had many historic homes that dated back to the early 1900s. Unfortunately due to neglect, the buildings were dilapidated and the neighborhood was filled with prostitutes and drug dealers. It was so bad that even the police stopped patrolling the area.

When Hall returned to DeLand, she saw this depressing situation as an opportunity. She dreamed of transforming this area back to its former glory in the 1940s. Using her real estate business, West Volusia Properties Inc., Ms. Hall posted listings on the internet and found investors to buy into the dream. The restoration project was labeled, "the Voorhis Project." In 2002, after a thorough restoration process "Crack Alley" was transformed into the "Garden District." Over 50 buildings have been renovated so far and restored to their original glory. There were streetscape improvements as well. The area was transformed into an enchanting warm environment now filled with tree lined streets that included an art gallery, tea room, real estate office and other professional services as well as single family homes. Mike Abels the City Manager was quoted as saying, "I thought there was no way to save some of those houses. I was absolutely dead wrong. It's one of the most absolute, perfect examples of private individuals using private money to further a public purpose."

Not only does the City become a more connected community as outlined in the strategic plan, but the Garden District also will bring additional tax funds to the City due to the increase in property value because of this restoration project. Thanks to her work the district will soon become a federally designated historic district.

Ms. Hall is a resident that takes civic duty very seriously. She served on the City's Strategic Planning Task Force and serves on the City Code Enforcement Board. DeLand Mayor Bob Apgar has said that, "she is a proactive advocate for better code enforcement raising public awareness of neighborhoods." He also said that she is "motivated through the sincere desire to improve the human condition of our residents."

Ms. Hall also served on MainStreet DeLand Association's design committee. Executive Director Taver Cornett said that Maggi Hall stands for what MainStreet holds as its guiding principle, which is "economic development through historic preservation." Cornett noted that Hall invigorated this design committee by infusing new and innovative ideas.

Her company has also voluntarily initiated two programs that promote positive impact in the City. The first is the West Volusia Properties "Restoration Award." This quarterly award goes to a residential or commercial property owner who has done an outstanding job of restoring a historic property that was in need of restoration. The second program is the "MainStreet DeLand Beautification Contest," where downtown owners can compete for a \$10,000 prize for renovation success. She is also extremely active in the West Volusia Historical Society and helped with a recent historic preservation workshop hosted by the County of Volusia.

Ms. Hall participates in the adopt-a-road program. Her company has adopted Woodland Boulevard, the main road that runs through DeLand. Finally, her company along with Stetson University, and the Florida Wild Veterinary Hospital put together a car wash, dog wash, and bake and rummage sale to benefit the hurricane Katrina victims. They raised over \$1,000 for these victims left homeless.

Because of what she has done for the DeLand community, she gained recognition as a great civically minded person. In 2005 she received the Faith, Hope, and Charity Community Service Award. In

May 2006 she was honored by the Florida Trust of Historic Preservation with the individual Achievement Award for restoration of historical properties in DeLand.

DeLand has benefited greatly from Ms. Hall's great sense of civic responsibility, commitment to her community and genuine desire to improve the quality of life in DeLand. Please join the City of DeLand by recognizing her as the Florida League of Cities Citizen of the Year for 2006.