

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.

✓ City of Excellence
Name of Municipality Nominated City of Deland
Nominated by City of Deland
(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)

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

Please print or type.

Name Michael Grebosz
Title Special Projects Coordinator
Government City of Deland
Address 120 South Florida Avenue Deland, FL 32720
Telephone Number (386) 740-5700 Fax (386) 740-6869
E-mail Address greboszm@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:**

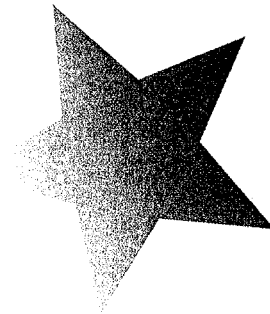
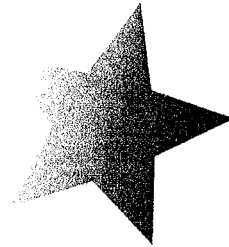
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)

P.O. Box 1757

Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757





City of DeLand
Florida City of Excellence

Preface

DeLand has a long history of being a City of Excellence dating back to the days when Henry Addison DeLand founded our community in 1876. He envisioned DeLand as being a center of learning and often referred to DeLand as the “Athens of Florida.” Our community has continued the vision into the new millennium with a renewed focus on what makes DeLand such a great place to live and work. This focus is manifested in our vision for the future and the strategic plan that was adopted in 2000 and updated in 2005. This nomination provides an outline of those attributes that make the City of DeLand a Florida City of Excellence.

Governance/Administration

The strategic plan is the community’s vision for preserving what makes DeLand such a great community in which to live and work.

- The plan provides a vision for the future and the strategies necessary to achieve that vision;
- Goals and objectives that support those strategies are included in the annual budget; and
- The budget includes performance measures.

The plan has helped the City Commission, staff, and the community develop a common viewpoint of the priorities that should be accomplished from year to year. As a result, the Commission and staff are able to plan years in advance for what needs to be done to accomplish the community vision. This plan has resulted in many accomplishments some of which include:

- Annual efforts toward organizational and process improvement;
- Identification and promotion of organizational values that have made DeLand successful and encouraging employee behaviors or actions that support those values;
- Employing new technologies such as radio read meters, automatic bill pay, the use of PDAs in parking enforcement, and direct access to criminal information in police cars;
- New and innovative services such as providing contract water quality testing for other municipal utilities;

- Partnerships with other government agencies to improve service such as a closest unit response agreement with the County for Fire/EMS, a contract with the County for public safety dispatch, development of joint City/County Community Redevelopment Agency in Spring Hill;
- Recruiting companies that pay living wage jobs such as Frontier Communications;
- Improved and expanded facilities for parks and recreation, police, fire, public works and administration;
- Gateway design standards and better code enforcement;
- Improved citizen relations through better public relations and citizen advisory groups (Senior Council, DeLand Area School of Government, and Circle of Community Partners);
- Implementation of Airport Master Plan;

City Leadership

DeLand has been fortunate to have exceptional leadership over the past five years. The City Manager has lead the City Commission through the strategic planning process which resulted in DeLand's first strategic plan. The Mayor and City Commission have utilized this plan to guide their efforts in a consistent approach to improve the quality of life for the residents of DeLand. This leadership has been instrumental in achieving the accomplishments outlined in this nomination. The City Commission, in fact, has nominated both the Mayor and City Manager for the Florida League of Cities Award of Excellence Program. This leadership is supported by the efforts of an excellent City Commission and long time department head that do what it takes to achieve success for DeLand.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

DeLand and its neighboring governments are always looking for ways to better serve the public. Through intergovernmental cooperation, the City has:

- Developed the first ever joint City/County CRA in Spring Hill, which has been awarded the Roy F. Kenzie Award for its Redevelopment Plan;
- Developed a closest unit response agreement with the County for Fire/EMS;
- Contracted with the County for public safety dispatch (Fire and Police);
- Worked with the County and other Cities on water supply planning, growth related issues and issues that effect municipal home rule;

Citizen Outreach and Involvement

Participation from the citizens is a core part of what makes DeLand such an excellent City. Since the adoption of the strategic plan the City has implemented or accomplished many initiatives or goals to promote the value of local government and encourage citizen participation. These accomplishments include:

- 3 Quarterly Citizen Newsletters and 1 Annual Report;
- Improved website with access to more information and services;
- Better dissemination of information through the press and community groups;
- Established a citizen committee to design, and decorate the New City Hall;
- Established a code enforcement program that uses volunteers;
- Established a Circle of Community Partners that meets quarterly to discuss issues within the community;
- Established a senior council that focuses on issues that effect seniors;
- Established a citizen police academy;
- Established with the DeLand Chamber of Commerce and the Volusia County School Board, a Municipal School of Government for High School students with a six-course curriculum and a mock City Commission meeting. City staff and City Commissioners are some of the instructors;

Technology

As part of the City's strategic plan, DeLand has implemented technology to improve efficiency or service by:

- Replacing residential water meters with new radio read meters;
- Implementing a document imaging program to reduce the amount of paper that is retained for public records;
- Utilizing personal digital assistants (PDAs) in parking enforcement and soon for building inspectors;
- Upgrading the City's network connections by utilizing fiber optic cable to connect key facilities;
- Providing laptops and faster connections for police officers to access criminal information faster and provide computer aided dispatch;

Innovative Programs and Services

DeLand strives to be an innovator in the provision of services to our citizens. DeLand has created:

- The underutilized building grant program to provide funding to retrofit historic facilities, and thereby eliminate vacant and/or underutilized buildings;
- The façade grant program to provide funding to improve downtown façades;
- The business improvement grant to provide businesses along DeLand's major corridors with funding to improve the appearance of their business;
- Senior Resource Directory to provide seniors with information about programs and services available to them;
- Contract water testing services are provided by the City's laboratory to other municipal utilities;

Fiscal Management

DeLand has received GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the twenty-first consecutive year. The adoption of the strategic plan paved the way for DeLand to receive its first-ever Distinguished Budget Presentation Award in FY 03/04 and has maintained that award since. Additionally the City has also:

- Implemented on-line bill pay for utility customers;
- Moved t-hangar leases to automatic clearing house (ACH) payments;
- Established a floating credit card program to increase the City's financial rebate from the card issuer;
- Improved the City's ability to obtain and properly administer complex grants;
- Improved the process by which grant funds are allocated to community service agencies;