

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 _____
Nominated by _____
(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 Diane B. Rogers
Nominated by Town of Interlachen
(Name of City/Town/Village)

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 Frances Martin

Title Town Council Member

Government Town of Interlachen

Address 311 Atlantic Avenue, Interlachen, Florida 32148

Telephone Number (386)684-2442

Fax (386)684-3812

E-mail Address franmartin32148@yahoo.com

Nomination Certification

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

Signed *Camela S. Wilburn*
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: 1020
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**:

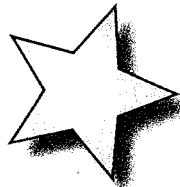
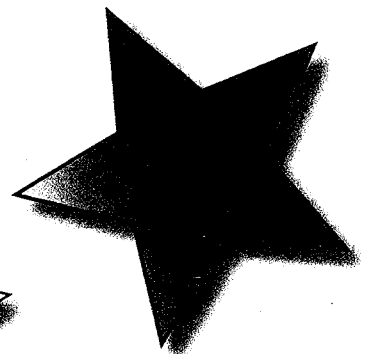
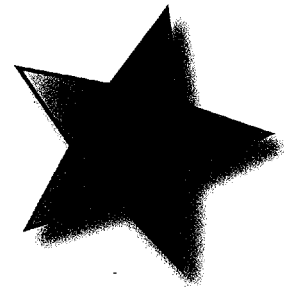
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)

P.O. Box 1757

Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



DIANE B. ROGERS
FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Putnam County, Florida, has one citizen who is especially known for her volunteerism--73 year old Diane B. Rogers. Interlachen Town Council is proud to present Diane's name for the City Citizen Award. Diane and husband Ted are the parents of eight adult children, and they now enjoy the small town atmosphere of Interlachen, Fla. Diane's unique gift is the ability to inspire in others the strong desire to work for the benefit of their town and county. Her ideas and enthusiasm prove to inspire others to get "on the bandwagon."

During the 2004 hurricanes Diane and Ted opened their home for those desiring ^{warm} hot showers and having other needs; cooked dinner for the clean-up employees; and supplied electricity to neighbors.

Diane was written up in the Palatka Daily News and recognized as a leading citizen for organizing volunteers by the Mayor of Interlachen. She and her volunteers planted 25 trees in our Jenkins Park; cleaned and painted the tennis courts; and worked to beautify the community. They planted flowers in the garden areas at the monuments of the town and beautified the front of the library. And they still take care of these floral areas.

This busy lady is very talented at recruiting teens. She led the environmentally conscientious students of Interlachen High School to clean up a heavily trashed area of town and she worked with the Honor Society and Student Council to update our Hastings Park. She She organized and supervised ten clean-ups and on Earth Day netted

2 tons of trash, tires and recyclables. She is a role model for all ages. Diane received the "Keep Putnam Beautiful" Volunteer of the Year Award and for two years was on the Advisory Board of "Keep Putnam Beautiful."

After the historic restoration of the 110 year old Interlachen Hall Diane with others planned a grand re-opening, putting in hours of effort and thought to make it a great occasion for the town, even soliciting the gift of two iron benches for the porch from two local hardware stores. For this she received a certificate of appreciation from the town. The Historical Society Museum is housed in this building and Diane's up-to-date work, with other volunteer ladies, is preserving the history of the town. She even provides lunch for this group.

Our town has no newspaper and thus communication is not always good, but when our volunteer lady is made aware of a need, she considers it her job to meet the need with an answer. Diane acquired the gift of an old two-sided signboard, restored it and placed it in front of the Police Station; and because of this foresight, the citizens are kept aware of meetings and events.

The railroad was important to Interlachen's early history and founding. The track ran through the town from the 1800s to 1985, at which time Seaboard Coastline contributed a caboose for the town, at the request of a staff member. It sits on the right-of-way in Jenkins Park in front of the town hall. There is a pavilion with a picnic area there and a walkway meanders through it for a half-mile. It has become a meeting place and a symbol of sorts for the town.

Diane's most recent project has been the taking on the task of renesing and painting this caboose. She could not see repainting the ^{out}inside of the traincar without overhauling its interior. The Town Council appointed her to supervise this work in Jenkins Park.

With the help of teen volunteers Mrs. Rogers renewed the park area and has now raised \$2400 for the work and brought together the people who can "do the job." Using a skilled carpenter, volunteer carpenters, painters and all-round handymen, she started the huge task of restoring the caboose to its original glory, replacing rotting flooring where needed, new windows, new gaskets, sanding the walls, two coats of paint and new wood for the compartments. She was able to find a basin, commode, cupola chairs, tools and ice box and, eventually a MAN (her "caboose angel")--a CSX Railway man to help. There have been many manpower hours spent supervising the work and many dollars saved for the town. Diane recently made dinner for 20 volunteers to show her appreciation.

The town hopes to have the caboosæ open to the public and for school classes on certain days, in conjunction with the historic Interlachen Hall. The hall houses a museum and they will be open for the 4th of July and Christmas parades, which draw about 3,000 people. This project (Diane's gift "to the town.") is progressing and promises to be a significant attraction for Interlachen.

Diane is naturally a "take charge" person and she has turned this into benefit for our town--receiving many honors and awards. These include "Keep Putnam Beautiful" Volunteer of the Year; Volunteer of the Year from Eckerd Drug Co. As a member of the West Putnam Arts

Committee Mrs. Rogers was involved in raising several thousand dollars for an amphitheatre, along with the mayor and other volunteers. With the County's leadership we look forward to having a lovely bandshell eventually in our Mary Wisham Park.

May local clubs and organizations have benefitted from Diane's helpful qualities; the Lions Club; The American Legion and the Rainbow Garden Club, among others. Her service has included eight years as a Town Councilor; 2 years on the Zoning Board; and for the last two years, and is still serving, as Codes Enforcement Officer--to add to her fine record.

Mrs. Rogers freely admits that without all the volunteers, none of these tasks could have been accomplished. It is her strong desire to preserve Interlachen's heritage that has caused her to offer her skills, her commitment and her leadership. In doing so she has reached out to other citizens and by example has shown results in making a positive impact on the Town of Interlachen. The quality of life in our town has certainly improved due to this citizen.

word count 1,020