

Dave Denny – City of Deltona

Florida Cities of Excellence Award Program

2008 City Employee of the Year Nominee

“Dave” Denny is the Public Works/Utility Director for the City of Deltona, Florida. Deltona is situated in Southwest Volusia County. It is the largest city in Volusia County with a population of approximately 85,500 people. Dave Denny worked as the Vice President of Operations and Engineering for “Florida Water Services” for over 34 years. In that role he was responsible for the operation and maintenance of 110 water treatment plants and 47 wastewater plants. These plants were located in 26 counties throughout the state of Florida. In 2003 the City of Deltona purchased “Florida Water Services” and changed the name to “Deltona Water”. Mr. Denny has been the Utility Director for Deltona Water for over 4 1/2 years.

In April 2006, both the Parks and Public Works departments’ director positions became vacant due to staff resignations. Without hesitation, Mr. Denny accepted the interim responsibility for managing both departments.

He is now responsible for 130 employees at both Public Works and Deltona Water. The Public Works Department is comprised of nine divisions that include; Customer Service and Billing, Engineering, Field Operations, Traffic Operations, Fleet Maintenance, Stormwater, Water and Wastewater Operations, Water Field Operations and Administration. The combined departments have an annual operating budget of \$14.5 million dollars.

As the interim director, Dave implemented a restructuring of the Public Works and Utilities departments into one comprehensive department resulting in better utilization of services and efficient use of staff. Consequently, Dave was asked to permanently assume the responsibility for a combined department of Public Works and Utilities under a restructuring of the City and without hesitation accepted.

During the past year, Dave was responsible for handling all of the City’s capital projects. A major project accomplishment this year was the completion of

Courtland Site 11 water treatment plant. With the addition of the new plant, Deltona Water also replaced and expanded the water main in this area to include Wal-Mart and future development on the southeast side of Deltona. Additionally, Dave has successfully negotiated the purchase of 55 acres of property to build a multi-million dollar Wastewater Treatment Plant in Southeast Deltona. This project is currently in the engineering and permitting phase and is expected to begin construction sometime in 2009. Dave also played a key role in the completion of Tom Hoffman Park, the Campbell Park renovation project and the Lake Monroe Boat Ramp project.

Under Dave's direction, the road widening of Normandy Blvd. to a 4 lane urban roadway with center medians, is well under way and will provide the residents of Deltona with much needed improvements. This project had many pitfalls and resistance from objectors. With patience and perseverance, Dave was successful in getting the project to construction.

Additionally, He has also developed a traffic calming program and assembled a "Traffic Calming Handbook" for the citizens of Deltona. Dave is an advocate for beautification within the city. He was successful in forming Beautification Committee that meets on a monthly basis. The Beautification board, comprised of citizens of Deltona, makes recommendations to the City Commission to improve the gateways and streetscapes within the city. Dave has been instrumental in the beautification project for the Providence Blvd. Medians.

Dave's dedication to the city and commitment does not go unnoticed. He regularly attends commission meetings, workshops and committee meetings.

Dave is currently an active member of the W.A.V (Water Authority of Volusia), APWA American Public Works Association, and the Director of the F.W.P.C.O.A. (Florida Water Pollution Control Operator's Association). This year Dave received the "Honorary Life Member" award for his outstanding service in advancing the objectives of the FWPCOA. Dave is also the awards committee chair and an instructor in water, wastewater and stormwater for the FWPCOA. He is an active member in the A.W.W.A. (American Water Works Association) as well as the F.W.E.A. (Florida Water Environment Federation). Dave has also participated in the American Cancer Society "Relay for Life" event involving employees in his department and was successful in raising over \$5,100 this year. Dave is

committed to participation and getting involved with city sponsored events. His department has participated every year in the "Spooktacular" event that brings in thousands of residents for a fun filled evening in the Fall. Dave's entire department is involved in creating a spectacular presentation that makes "headlines" on a local level. This year, they created an actual "Haunted Pirate Ship" complete with cannons, "gang-plank" and even a look out tower. The community and residents of Deltona truly enjoy this amazing event, and it wouldn't be possible without the participation and help of Dave's entire department.

Dave is often the organizer in events such as "Lake Clean Up" and the "Spruce up Deltona". Dave is a great leader who is not afraid to get his hands "dirty". He is committed to serving the citizens of Deltona. His leadership and commitment as a public servant go far beyond the typical public service employee. Dave has developed a great rapport with the citizens, co-workers commission and Mayor of the city of Deltona. He is well respected and has a reputation for a man of great "integrity". His commitment and dedication to the city is what makes Dave the perfect candidate who truly deserves this prestigious recognition. I nominate Dave Denny for the 2008 Florida Cities of Excellence Employees of the Year Award.