

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 Robert F. Apgar
Nominated by City of Deland
(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)

[OVER]

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. Hennessy
City Clerk

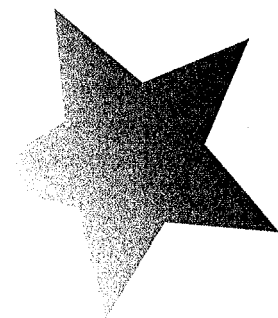
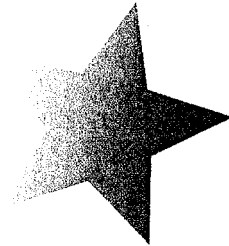
The judges will use the narrative and supportive information to select the award winners. Nominators/nominees are asked not to contact the judges directly.

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





Mayor of the Year Award
Robert F. Apgar - Mayor, City of DeLand

Robert F. "Bob" Apgar has been a resident of DeLand since 1959, and has demonstrated his commitment to the community through thirteen years as a City Commissioner and by serving the citizens as Mayor since October of 2001. Mayor Apgar is a shining example of leadership, citizen involvement and civic responsibility.

Initiative

Mayor Apgar was instrumental in the redevelopment of the Earl Brown Park Sports Complex by leading the efforts to create a public/private partnership to fund the construction of Melching Field at Conrad Park, the City's baseball stadium. This partnership included the City of DeLand, Stetson University and the DeLand Sports Redevelopment Association (DSRA). He took the lead role in raising community awareness of the need for improved facilities and was successful in raising over \$450,000 through the DSRA toward the construction of this facility. He was also the driving force facilitating over \$600,000 in improvements to the Spec Martin Football Stadium, as well as construction of new facilities in the Little League complex which includes two additional Little League fields. Mayor Apgar has also been responsible for leading the City Commission through a period of rapid, long needed capital improvement, including the construction of a new City Hall, two new Fire Stations and enlargement of the City's Central Fire Station.

Integrity

During Bob Apgar's tenure as Mayor, the City of DeLand has endured the most difficult issues a growing city can face, including numerous complex land development issues, a changing workforce and changes in the makeup of the community. Those who have worked with the Mayor in dealing with these difficult issues would describe him as a man of integrity, as his actions are always honest and straightforward and he adheres to the highest ethical standards.

Vision

Mayor Apgar has always been a strong advocate and supporter of the City's Vision and Strategic Plan. He was a City Commissioner when the City's first strategic plan was adopted in 2000. As Mayor he has used the strategic plan to promote DeLand's vision for the future by promoting and advocating for key strategies within the plan. Some of his accomplishments during his tenure as Mayor include: preservation of DeLand's history and key assets such as the Athen's Theatre and the Dutton House, leading the City's efforts to improve the quality of life in Spring Hill by advocating for funding and working with the County to establish the Spring Hill Community Redevelopment Agency; leading the effort to adopt gateway design standards and improved code enforcement; promoting the City's efforts through better public relations; he had led the City's efforts to recruit new businesses to DeLand that pay living wage jobs; he has been a strong protector of our environment by serving as Chair of the Water Authority of Volusia (WAV) during a very tumultuous year which culminated in the adoption of a county-wide Master Facilities Plan, and ensuring that each development plan approved by the City receives the utmost scrutiny by our citizens and debate amongst the City Commissioners.

Innovation

Mayor Apgar has promoted the use of technology to increase the level of service to our citizens and improve organizational efficiency. Mayor Apgar advocated for a Closest Unit Response Agreement with the County of Volusia for Fire/EMS, which has resulted in faster response times and better service. He has encouraged the use of technology in the organization to improve efficiency and service such as automatic bill pay for water bills, remote meter reading and the use of the Florida League of Cities designed "Better Place" where citizens can register complaints or questions on the City's website. He has encouraged entrepreneurial endeavors such as the City's laboratory providing water quality testing services for other municipal utilities. He has encouraged increased citizen participation through the creation of the youth council, senior's council and community partners groups.

Leadership

Bob Apgar is consistently described by his peers as a leader. DeLand City Commissioners and even other City Commissioners often look to Mayor Apgar for his leadership on difficult issues

such as the work he did to develop the water supply plan as the Chairman of the Water Authority of Volusia (WAV). He coordinates monthly meetings among the six mayors in West Volusia to discuss issues of common concern to these neighbor cities. He often encourages others to explore and discuss all aspects of an issue so as to improve the policy making process. He is recognized by his peers statewide as a leadership through his service as a member of the board of the Florida League of Mayors. His leadership has been vital to the City of DeLand's ability to achieve so many goals outlined in the strategic plan, such as:

Commitment

Mayor Apgar has served his community for nearly his entire life. He has served on the Board of Directors of the DeLand Area Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors for United Way, President of the DeLand Breakfast Rotary Club, and Director of DeLand Cultural Arts Center. He has served 13 years as City Commissioner and 5 years as Mayor. His commitment to the City of DeLand and public service is extensive and illustrates why the DeLand City Commission nominated the Mayor for this award.

Conclusion

In summary, Mayor Apgar is an exemplary leader. Under his leadership, the City has gained a reputation throughout the state as a quality City that strives to be innovative, and successful while still maintaining its roots – our small town charm.