

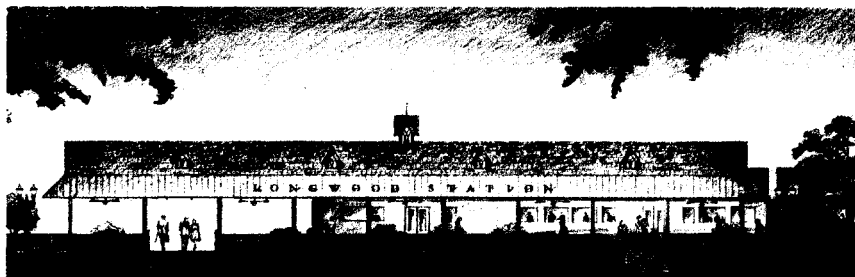
CITY OF LONGWOOD'S UNAMINIOUS NOMINATION  
FOR MAYOR OF THE YEAR

John C. Maingot

"If I were to define the perfect mayor", says John C. Maingot, "I would have to say that he is someone whose number one priority is serving his constituents; while recognizing the importance of networking with elected officials and governmental agencies within his region."

John C. Maingot served as Longwood's mayor from May 2006 to May 2008. Longwood is a small historic City located about 12 miles northeast of Orlando, Florida; and boasts a population of about 15,000. It is mostly developed, challenging its officials, in the process of redevelopment, to find new revenue sources while maintaining a vibrant, stable community.

Mayor Maingot has been one of the foremost local activists in the planning and promotion of commuter rail, and the development surrounding the Longwood train station. Under his leadership, the City revised their master plan and created *Heritage Village* which incorporates mixed uses centering on the commuter train station, and includes plans for a variety of small shops, offices, and multi-family residences designed to address the needs of school teachers, police, fire, and semi-professional persons. His vision encompasses a bustling



transit district where people would use public transportation and also patronize the surrounding businesses. To this end Mayor Maingot has attended countless meetings, and has networked with officials at all levels of government. Philip Laurien, Executive Director of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council stated that "Under Mayor Maingot, Longwood has positioned itself to be a greener, mixed-use, live-work community that will take advantage of commuter rail to reduce traffic congestion and spur economic redevelopment."

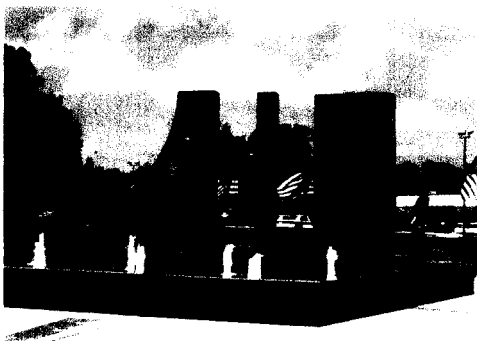
In recognition of the need for more citizen participation in development activities that directly impact them, Mayor Maingot led the way in developing the CAPP program, (Citizen Awareness and Participation Program). In its simplest terms, CAPP connects developers and citizens early in the site planning process. Developers are better able to tune into community concerns and citizens are better able to understand the development being planned in their neighborhoods. As a result of this program, most of the negative citizen input at public hearings has disappeared as they would have previously met with the developer and had their concerns addressed.

At the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Florida League of Cities, Mayor Maingot presented the CAPP program to the Tri-County League of Cities. He also has presented this program to the Volusia Council of Governments (16 cities plus the county), and most recently he presented the CAPP program to the U.C.F. sponsored 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Public Administration Conference. Rebecca O'Hara, Legislative Director, Florida League of Cities, in her letter to Mayor Maingot, spoke highly of the CAAP program and felt it would be a useful resource to cities seeking to implement citizen participation ordinances.

Mayor Maingot earned the recognition and respect of many Community leaders and public servants because of his tireless efforts in organizing and co-hosting two public gatherings at the Longwood Community Center as part of *MYREGION.ORG*. People from throughout Seminole County came together in developing a shared vision of the future growth for Central Florida.

Mayor Maingot also served as a member of the Seminole County Educational Support Infrastructure Committee. This was a multi-focus task force empowered by the school district to review facilities, transportation, and technology. Mayor Maingot chaired the Transportation Committee and spent over 100 volunteer hours working with the Director of Transportation Services to develop a plan to improve the overall efficiency and reduce operating costs. George Kosmac, Seminole County Schools Deputy Superintendent/Operations, confirms in his letter that all of Mayor Maingot's recommendations have been implemented, resulting in substantial cost savings to the School District.

Patriotism and a sense of duty compelled Mayor Maingot to spearhead efforts to construct what has become known as the Hero's Monument. This granite structure represents not only our fallen soldiers, police and firemen; but also recognizes the contributions of current members of our armed services, police and fire departments.



Congressman Mica, in his letter of recommendation, noted that Mayor Maingot was the driving force in getting the Hero's Monument completed, and

Congressman Mica also noted that it was through the leadership of Mayor Maingot that the Department of Elder Affairs has recognized the City of Longwood as a Community for a Lifetime.

Mayor Maingot has a love of people second to none. Because he recognized the special sadness that sometimes prevails at nursing homes and hospitals during the holidays, eight years ago he organized a caroling group; and every year at Christmas time, this group serenades the seniors at all the Longwood nursing homes and hospitals.



Mayor Maingot has incorporated every facet of the community into his caroling group, including elected officials, school children, church choir members, and teachers.

Oftentimes Mayor Maingot will rearrange his work schedule to attend special functions like a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of a resident. He participated in the crowning of Senior Miss Florida; and he was the keynote speaker at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Longwood Tourist Club. Mayor Maingot, himself a senior citizen, never fails to attend the senior ball at the Longwood Community Center and is always in demand with his lively tango.

Mayor Maingot has a special love in his heart for children. That is apparent when you realize that he is the father of eight. He devotes a considerable amount of his personal time attending functions at the schools, even though his children are all grown up. Every year he spends a day with the children at Longwood Elementary School, answering questions, and interfacing with them. Choices in Learning, a charter school, has a special relationship with Mayor Maingot, and this year he was called upon to attend the fifth grade graduation breakfast, where his motivational address was: "Yes! I Can Make A Difference". Mayor Maingot also attended the DARE program graduation, and he was a judge at their annual science fair.

One would think after reading thus far, that Mayor Maingot couldn't possibly be involved in anything else. This remarkable man was appointed to the Wekiva River System Advisory Management Committee by the Secretary of the Interior and served for three years.

Mayor Maingot also works full-time in his landscaping business and serves as Co-Chair and Vice President of the Association of Horticultural Professionals. Plus, he is active in his Church, serving as a lector, a Minister of Hospitality, an active member of the Men's Club, and he organizes voter's registration drives for the Church Community. He is a member of the Central Florida Society for Historical Preservation and regularly volunteers to help with their fundraising activities. He also volunteers at National Night Out, and other City-sponsored functions, cooking hot dogs, leading the choir in song; in short, doing whatever he can to make the event a success. Mayor Maingot is always available to citizens with questions or concerns, and if the need arises, he will personally become their advocate in getting the problem resolved.

It is apparent that Mayor Maingot's philosophy in life is that of service to others. One only needs to look around Longwood to see just how great an influence this man has been.

