

Nomination

CITY MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Oldsmar City Council voted unanimously, July 15, 2008, to nominate City Manager **Bruce T. Haddock** for the City Manager of the Year Award.

Among other notable accomplishments during the 2007-2008 period, Bruce Haddock was the initiator and driving force behind construction of the new debt-free \$6 million Oldsmar Public Library which opened January 6, 2008 and was completed without the City incurring any debt. Local media described the new library as a "real page turner" with its overall "Old Florida" and Oldsmar styling replicating the 1920's era of Oldsmar's founding by Oldsmobile automaker Ransom Eli Olds.

In addition to functioning as a library, the old library served for decades as the established downtown social center and meeting facility. The building was Oldsmar's and last-standing piece of historic, local architecture. Its uniqueness made it an icon and centerpiece, creating a "sense of place" for an underdeveloped small downtown. However, the historic building's structural integrity was compromised with the weight of materials and heavy user traffic, making a new library essential. The challenge was to shift the City's long-standing "identity" to a new location and for the public to accept the change. Patron use of the new library, since the January 2008 opening, confirms the challenge has been met and exceeded expectations.

Oldsmar residents proudly uphold the traditional values of small town America. Judging that citizens might have been disconcerted by the potential loss of downtown's focal point or generally opposed to change, Bruce's innovative concept during preliminary stages was to involve library employees, citizens, social clubs and special interest groups in planning the new library's location, design, services and ultimate grand opening. In this way, Bruce was giving citizens a stake in their own future. The new library might

have been just another glass and concrete government building without Haddock's commitment and integrity.

Bruce Haddock, a 31-year municipal government official, has an on-going commitment to citizen and employee relations. He demonstrates this regularly, such as mentoring other area City Managers who are new to their positions and mentoring college students earning degrees in government. Like his commitment to citizen relations, Bruce takes the initiative to spend on-the-job, hands-on time with employees. This year he rode the garbage collection truck picking of recyclables and assisted Code Enforcement with postings.

Following the major hurdle of acquiring enough acreage for the new library, Bruce Haddock eventually presented the combined "needs" of the City and residents along with a budget to architects. He believed that citizen involvement from concept through construction and grand opening would guarantee a successful transition between the old library and new library. An added benefit was that the public endorsed the new library's site anchoring the Downtown Redevelopment Area. Bruce has long range visions and the professional skills to drive projects from concept to conclusion which is one reason why he is currently serving as Regional Coordinator for the FCCMA Disaster Recovery Program.

Sensitive to the potential of an economic downturn after years of a real estate boom, Bruce was intent on building a new library without incurring debt. Although he had budgeted Penny for Pinellas money to cover the project, by 2007 the real estate boom significantly drove up construction prices. Subsequent library construction bids were submitted to the City at nearly twice the City's original budgeted amount. Bruce's superior fiscal management saved the threatened library project from being scrapped. He creatively readjusted other budget priorities and timetables so library construction could proceed debt free. The new library is only one example of Bruce Haddock's exemplary fiscal responsibility. At the August 5 Oldsmar City Council Meeting, officials credited him for preserving Oldsmar's strong fiscal position and annual budget that lowers the

millage rate and protects employee jobs in spite of Florida's Amendment 1 and the downswing in the U.S. economy.

Bruce Haddock's initiative, sound judgment and commitment paid off when the new library opened to rave reviews and the public has been streaming through the doors. Oldsmar Public Library would not be in place today without Bruce's leadership creating public interest, sustaining momentum and overcoming challenges. It is the largest capital project ever undertaken by the City of Oldsmar.

Please consider Bruce T. Haddock's exemplary professionalism and qualifications for this esteemed award.