



4200 Two Trees
Road
Destin, FL 32541

850-837-4242
850-

www.cityofdestin.co

Mayor's Report

SEPTEMBER 2006

Important and Significant Topics of the Past 30 Days

CRA

TOWN CENTER CRA: construction projects are soon to reach new milestones. The Gulf Power Company underground conversion duct bank is 95% complete and should be finished within a matter of two to three weeks. Installation of the electrical equipment and cable is already in progress between 98 Palms Blvd. and US 98. Overall, the project will include the underground installation of 30,000 feet or 5.68 miles of electrical cable. Removal of the overhead facilities will take place once the new facilities are energized.

Destin Water Users installed a new wastewater lift station at the intersection of Airport Road and Industrial Park Road, making it possible to abandon the old one next to the Texaco Station on Main Street. Work needed for the transition is almost complete and the concrete traffic barricades will soon be removed.

The road contractor, C.W. Roberts paved the west side of Main Street, opened two lanes to traffic and has moved operations to the east side of Main Street where the remaining stormwater and roadway improvements can be completed without disrupting Main Street traffic. Widening began on the south side of Legion Drive in anticipation of new curbing and sidewalks.

The HARBOR CRA: Advisory Committee reviewed proposals from eight firms interested in doing the upcoming design work in the Harbor CRA. The Committee decided on a short list of four firms who will make presentations to the CRA Board on September 25. As of September 23, the CRA is advertising for partners to provide public parking facilities in the Harbor CRA.

GRANTS and PROJECTS

FLORIDA COMMUNITIES TRUST GRANT: In May the City submitted an application to the Florida Communities Trust for the acquisition of 206 Harbor Boulevard. The City plans to provide public open space and picnic facilities along the harbor as well as provide a permanent setting for the Destin Fishing Museum.

The FCT Board met in September to rank 115 submitted projects. The City's project scored 140 points and received an additional 10 points for project excellence, bringing its total points to 150. Due to some varied and unique circumstances, this year's funding cutoff was 160 points.

The City, in requesting a 75% grant reimbursement rather than 40%, realized from the outset that making the funding cutoff the first year of application was risky. However, there is a fair chance that some funded projects will drop out and the City will move up on the list and be awarded a grant this year. Even if the City does not qualify for funding in this FCT cycle, staff will re-apply next May for funding next year.

GRANT REIMBURSEMENTS FOR FY06: In Fiscal Year 2006 the Grants Manager processed grant reimbursement checks for the City of Destin in the total amount of \$1,709, 373.87. These monies do not include the nearly \$4,000,000 from the State of Florida for the construction

IT· INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

WEBSITE: The top ten visited web pages during the past month were:

12. Beach Info
13. Recreation Dept.
14. Employment
15. CRA
16. Hurricane Information
17. Important Phone Numbers
18. Document Center
19. City Map
20. Alert: E-mail law
21. Library
22. Long-term Rental Info

ENGINEERING

SCENIC HWY 98 PHASE: A substantial completion inspection was conducted on the Scenic Hwy 98 Phase II project on Monday September 11, 2006. Contractor is approximately 30 days behind schedule.

CRYSTAL BEACH DRIVE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS: The FDOT Drainage Connection Permit application was submitted on June 22, 2006. On July 10, 2006 Council awarded bids to CW Roberts for the construction and DesignScapes for the landscaping. On September 5, 2006 Council authorized funds for TetraTech to obtain required easements and handle construction administration for the project. Purchase Orders for these authorizations have been issued. FDOT Signal Modification Permit has been approved by VMS and forwarded to FDOT in Chipley for final review. Construction will commence when all easements are finalized, which is estimated to be November 15, 2006. The construction time by contract is 120 days, which will put the estimated completion date at February 15, 2007.

JUNE WHITE DECKER PARK: Current improvements to the park include: beach access, boardwalk, pavilion and restrooms. Work is progressing slowly. Contractor estimates a completion date of mid-November.

PUBLIC WORKS

GENERATORS: installed a disconnect, transfer switch and generator at City Hall.

CITY HALL: Painting of City Hall phase I is nearly complete.

LIBRARY

DESTIN GARDEN CLUB: Members created a beautiful planter in what was once a fountain near the library entrance. All of the bird sculptures and plants are native species, so they are educational as well as beautiful.

DAY OF CARING/UNITED WAY: A community outreach program across the county to help agencies with project. The Destin Publix employees will be painting the bathroom facility at the sports fields at the Destin Elementary School. This is the second year the City of Destin has benefited from this project. Last year they install the new playground at the same location.

NEW STORMWATER SYSTEM DAMAGED: A private contractor installing fiber optic cable for Okaloosa County severely damaged the new stormwater system at the Community Center. The new system has proved extremely effective in controlling our stormwater runoff storage. The system was damaged by the contractor pumping it full of drilling mud. The repairs which will begin as soon as plans are completed by the City Engineering Department and will be the responsibility of Okaloosa County.

ACOUSTICAL CEILING TILES REPLACED: The staff of the Community Center has completed replacing all the acoustical ceiling tiles. We were able to keep the cost of this at a minimum since it was done in house. We have held some tiles in reserve.

ELDER WORKSHOP: Represented at the First State of Florida Elder Services Workshop in Tallahassee on Thursday, September 14, 2006. The Visioning Workshop offered opportunities for exchange of ideas and information concerning State opportunities for help. This is a part of our ongoing effort to plan more activities and offer more services for our area Senior Citizens.

FOOTBRIDGE: The footbridge over the drainage swale at the Community Center is complete. The bridge has a nautical motif and is an attractive addition to the Center.

DESTIN FOCUS NEWSLETTER: the special hurricane edition has been approved and is headed to the printers.

DESTIN FOCUS TV SHOW: Topic was city's Community Development Department's new home with Councilmember Bagby, Jerry Mucci and Ken Gallander.

OPEN HOUSE: Office of Public Information will coordinate the city's 2006 Annual Open House on November 9th.

FEMA-CRS: Working with Community Development to print and distribute a "Flood Smart" Newsletter.

SOLID WASTE SERVICE CHANGES: Worked with WMI to design a flyer that would be mailed to Destin residents during the last week in September alerting them to the changes in the new solid waste collection program/contract.

HARBOR CRA: Solicitation post card designed for joint parking garage development.

NEWSLETTER BID: There were no bidders to the recent bid solicitation. Will re-bid.

WEBSITE: Continuing enhancements, training and fine-tuning of website.

NEWS RELEASES:

- ❖ Solid Waste Changes
- ❖ Beach Cleanup
- ❖ Road Information Meeting
- ❖ Labor Day Closings
- ❖ Computers/Servers Down