

## GRANTS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

**Artificial Reef Grant Awarded:** The City of Destin received a \$25,000 grant from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission for the construction in fiscal year 2006 of a complex patch reef in Okaloosa County large permitted Site A. The city's project, the "Barnacle Reef," was selected for construction by the FWC amidst hefty competition statewide and will provide marine habitat for recreational fishermen and divers off Destin's shoreline.

**Hurricane Ivan Reimbursement:** The City of Destin incurred \$2,199,286.08 worth of FEMA reimbursable damages in Ivan, of which \$1,148,296.560 was in citywide debris removal. To date, the city has received \$1,077,580.80. We have yet to be paid for citywide debris removal, the repair to beach walkovers (\$81,238.50) and the replacement of the traffic signal at Gulf Shore Drive at Sandpiper Cove (\$33,800). The city should be able to receive all outstanding costs and close out Hurricane Ivan within the next month.

**Hurricane Dennis:** The majority of costs will again be in citywide debris removal. The city will also be reporting to FEMA the destruction of beach walkovers and flagpoles, the loss of the traffic light on Gulf Shore Drive, beach Renourishment needs, damage to the harbor pumping station containment all, and various damages to parks, roadway and city buildings. The city had its "kick-off meeting" with FEMA and state reps on August 3 to being documenting Dennis' total costs to the city.

**DEP Permit Issued for Beach Restoration Project:** Following a favorable ruling from the administrative hearing office, the DEP issued the permit in August to construct the Destin/Walton Co. beach restoration project. The City is proceeding with construction documents and final design and mailed out final requests for temporary construction easements from property owners along the two-mile beach restoration project area with a deadline for receipt by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Construction is slated to begin no later than November 1<sup>st</sup> this year.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

**Town Center CRA:** Marketing plan developed and implementation of the multiple public information components have begun. Construction is set to begin September 6, 2005.

**Florida City of Excellence Awards:** Three nominations were submitted by the city. They were: Mayor of the Year Craig Barker; Councilmember of the Year Sam SeEVERS; and City Citizen of the Year Capt. Reddin Brunson.

NWFL: City spotlight article submitted for the monthly newsletter.

### News Releases:

- Miller Award
- Hurricane Dennis Preps/Recovery/Aftermath
- Dennis Debris Pickup
- Mountain & Benning Roundabout
- Beach Scraping #2
- FLC Lobbying Award
- Town Center Public Meeting

**Newsletter Bid:** Received two bids. Awaiting Bid committee's decision.

**Fall Newsletter:** Draft of FEMA CRS requirements circulation on approval and will be ready for printing once bid is awarded.

## PUBLIC WORKS

**Hurricane Dennis Preparations/Response/Recovery:** Completed Hurricane Dennis debris recovery operations. More than 16,000 cubic yards of debris was removed.

**Destin Focus:** Presented solid waste and disaster debris recovery information for the taping of Destin Focus during the month of August.

**Flooding:** Responded to multiple flooding issues citywide as a result of a four-inch rain following a week of rain and subsequent ground saturation.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

**Schools Safety Awareness:** Staff initiated a second yearly public awareness campaign during the first few days of school. Parents dropping children off at Destin Elementary School were asked not to park along the street as sidewalks were being blocked. This creates a dangerous situation for children walking or riding bikes to school, as they would have to often detour around vehicles into the streets. We spoke to each parent individually explaining our concern and asked his/her to observe the no parking signs in the future. We coordinated our efforts with Ms. Susan Larrimore, principal at Destin Elementary, who support the effort and is reinforcing our concern in their parents' newsletter.

### **Filled Positions:**

- Field Maintenance Tech, Recreation-Morgan Sports Center.
- Maintenance Tech, Public Works
- Information Technology Tech, City Manager's Office
- Drafting/CAD Tech, Engineering
- Recreation Asst., Recreation-Morgan's Sports Center (pt)

**Insurance:** We had Maximus conduct insurance (not real estate) appraisals for the following city buildings. The will be used to determine insurance values.

- City Hall
- EOC
- Dalton-Threadgill concession
- Public Works
- Buck Destin Park
- Old Library
- Community Center
- Harbor Pump station
- Sheriff's office
- Morgan Sports Center
- Library
- City Hall Annex.



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# MAYOR'S REPORT

## August 2005

*Important and Significant Topics of the Past 30 Days*

NOTE: Once again this month, City of Destin's work has been disrupted by Hurricane Katrina, which struck the north central Gulf Coast of the US on August 29, 2005. Many evacuees from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama fled here for protection.

### RECREATION

**Kids Klub:** The after-school program began at the Community Center on the first day of school, August 4, 2005. There have been some changes to the program this year. We are now charging for the five-day program. The fee is \$10 per week for Destin residents and \$20 per week per child for non-residents. Our current limit for enrollment is 44. There is a waiting list for this very popular program.

**Carpeting:** Community Center staff is happy to report that the floor and wall carpet in the three meetings rooms and the back stage steps have been replaced. The floor is now carpeted with carpet tiles, which solves the "separation of seams" problem we have had in the past. It also gives us the capability of replacing damage tiles rather than having to re-carpet an entire room. Our next project will be to re-carpet the boardroom and also the storage closet

**Fencing:** Hurricane Dennis interrupted the fencing of the side yard at the Community Center. Ft. Walton Fence had barely started on the PVC picket fencing when the effects of the hurricane were felt. We were able to safely hold our summer splash day because the fencing company came in the midst of one of the worst rains and installed a temporary chain link fence. We were very fortunate to have a beautiful day for the 200+ kids that enjoyed the summer splash events. With the emergency fence repairs from the hurricane almost complete. We are expecting the rest of our permanent fencing to be installed this week.

**Pathway:** The pedestrian pathway system received a facelift at the Morgan Sports Center. This project was also delayed due to the hurricane the previous month.

### LIBRARY

**OCPLC:** The Destin Library and staff hosted the 2005 Okaloosa County Public Library Consortium Staff Development Day event during the month of August. All activities here held at the Calhoun Rom with the exception of the fish fry at Clement Taylor Park. All libraries in Okaloosa County were closed that day, so that all staff could attend.

**Award:** Back in June's report we told you that the Destin Library received a Design award from the Florida Association of the American Institute of architects. In August, Library Director Jurate Burns attended the annual Florida conference and picked up the very special honor. The architects for the library were DAG Architects.