

Chattahoochee Main Street – Monthly Meeting
August 24, 2015
6:30 pm

Executive Director's Report

1. July 30 – **Historic Structures Survey**. The final deliverable for the Historic Structures Survey was made to DHR. There were 506 surveyed structures in the final report. We have been working with DHR over the last month to address comments and questions.

In connection with this project, the next round of **Division of Historic Preservation Grant Hearings** will be held on September 1 & 2. These committee hearings are set up to rank the Historic Preservation grant applications for FY 2016-17. The City of Chattahoochee's application for the second phase of the Historic Structures Survey will be discussed and ranked along with all other Small-Matching grant applications. Laura Lee Corbett and I will be in attendance to answer any questions from the committee.

2. August 6 – **2015 New Florida Main Street Communities**. I had the honor to serve on the Florida Main Street ad hoc committee for recommending to the Secretary of State, the slate of new 2015 Florida Main Street Communities. The applicants this year were Fernandina Beach (Nassau County) and Crystal River (Levy County). Both applications were unanimously recommended to the Secretary for designation. Both communities were officially announced at the Secretary of State Banquet at the Florida Main Street Annual Conference last week.
3. August 13 - **DEO Technical Assistance Grant Application**. Received notification from DEO that our application for a technical assistance grant was not selected. It was conveyed by DEO staff that Gadsden County as a whole is being funded this year through the Competitive Florida Partnership Program. As a result, we will need to find another avenue for funding the development of Historic Main Street Design Standards.
4. August 17-19 – The Annual Florida Main Street Conference was held in St. Petersburg. Chattahoochee was well-represented at this conference. Attendees included CMS Board Members Pam Medley, Karen Marsh, Isaac Simmons and Judith Reeder. Also in attendance were Mayor Jerry Wynn and his wife, Jane, our City Manager, Lee Garner, and Wayne and Elaine Chandler.
5. August 18 – **Secretary of State, Florida Main Street Annual Awards**. These awards annually recognize Main Street programs and acknowledge the work they are doing to advance the mission of the Florida Main Street program for revitalization and preservation. These awards are categorized under the four (4) points of the Main Street Approach: Organization, Promotion, Design and Economic Restructuring.

Chattahoochee Main Street submitted two (2) nominations and both received the high honor award:

- 1) In the category of Organization for Outstanding Public/Private Partnership: The City of Chattahoochee in support of the development of the Strategic Community Vision Plan.
- 2) In the category of Economic Restructuring for Outstanding Economic Restructuring Program or Project: Gadsden County Development Council's Business Retention & Expansion Corporate Visitation Program.

These awards were formally announced at the Secretary of State Banquet at the Annual Florida Main Street Conference on Tuesday, August 18.

6. August 20 – **2015-16 Small Matching Grant Award**. We received our executed contract from the State's Division of Historic Resources for the \$10,000 start-up grant that we received for being designated as a Florida Main Street Community.
7. August 20 – **Brownfields Informational Meeting**. I met with Mr. Garner and Pamela Jackson (NorthStar Contracting Group, Inc.) regarding potential assessment and clean up funding sources for sites needing remediation measures prior to redevelopment consideration. Mrs. Jackson has worked with the City of Tallahassee on Brownfields Loans and Sub-Grant Programs related to Brownfields revitalization, requirements for the abandoned tank program (ATRP) and other environmental issues. Mrs. Jackson will be conducting research to determine what the City may be eligible to pursue for candidate properties in Chattahoochee.
8. August 21 – **Planning Meeting for The Villages Gadsden County Tour**. I met with Allara Mills-Gutcher (Gadsden County Planning Director), Sonya Burns (Gadsden Co. TDC), Joe Munroe (Quincy Main Street), Matt Thro (Gadsden Co. TDC) and Joe Bouch (Chisano Marketing Group/Consultant to Gadsden Co. TDC) to have an initial planning session to prepare for a potential tour group coming to Gadsden County from The Villages retirement community in Central Florida (Sumter, Lake & Marion Counties).
9. September 21-23 – **Familiarization/Reconnaissance Trip (Villages Tour Guide)**. Tentatively, during the week of September 21, The Villages Tour Guide will be coming to Gadsden County for a reconnaissance/familiarization tour. She will be going around the County to get a feel of the places and sites that she would put on the itinerary to bring a tour group in October consisting of up to 20 people. The stops in Chattahoochee will include a walking history tour of the River Landing with Dale Cox and a tour of the restored federal arsenal.
10. October 26-28 – **The Villages Tour of Gadsden County (Tentative)**. This will be a great opportunity to showcase our area and get the word out about our historical sites. This could be the beginning of many tours to come to the area.
11. **Logo and Website Design**. We continue to work with Dawn McMillan of McMillan Design (and Board President of Quincy Main Street) on the development of our CMS logo, brochure materials and website.

12. **Local Business Workshop** – The CMS Board voted today to begin to plan a local business development workshop that would be hosted by CMS. Local and existing and prospective business owners in Chattahoochee would be invited to learn about available resources to establish, grow and help their business succeed. These resources will focus on low interest loan programs, workforce training, marketing, social media exposure, transitioning, diversification, etc. We will partner with our regional economic development community (GCDC, Access Florida Finance Corporation, CareerSource Florida, SBDC, etc.) to bring experts in to consult with our business community. This invitation will be extended with other municipalities and communities in Gadsden County to promote local business retention and expansion efforts. We anticipate that this workshop will be held early in January.