



Chattahoochee Main Street, Inc

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Chattahoochee and the GCDC Receive Prestigious State Awards

CHATTAHOOCHEE, August 28, 2015 – On August 18, Chattahoochee Main Street accepted two prestigious honors from the Secretary of State at the Florida Main Street Awards Banquet in St. Petersburg. All 45 designated Florida Main Street Communities were invited to this annual event where the Secretary of State honors and celebrates the most innovative projects, and the people involved, that advance the Florida Main Street objectives. For 2015, the City of Chattahoochee and the Gadsden County Development Council received highest honors and special recognition.

Chattahoochee Main Street submitted nominations for state awards in two (2) categories (Organization and Economic Restructuring) and received top honors in both. Special acknowledgement were conveyed that Chattahoochee was the only rural Florida Main Street community to receive multiple Secretary of State awards and accolades.

The **Outstanding Florida Main Street Public/Private Partnership Award** went to the City of Chattahoochee and Chattahoochee Main Street for the development of a Strategic Community Vision Plan. The State of Florida recognizes that the citizens of Chattahoochee, the City Council and the City Manager have been invaluable partners to Chattahoochee Main Street in developing the Strategic Community Vision Plan; a plan that is designed to shape the direction of the community's future. This document was authored by the citizens of Chattahoochee in direct partnership with the City of Chattahoochee and Chattahoochee Main Street, the latter of whom facilitated the year-long visioning process.

The **Outstanding Florida Main Street Economic Restructuring Program or Project** went to the Gadsden County Development Council (GCDC) – Business Retention & Expansion Corporate Visitation Program. This program was originated by the GCDC and is the first of its kind in the County. This unprecedented economic development initiative is composed of county-wide representatives led by dedicated consultants Beth Kirkland and Rob Nixon, and overseen by the GCDC (chaired by Chattahoochee's City Manager, Lee Garner). With the understanding that a strong existing local business base is the best business recruitment tool, the consortium identifies, interviews, and

Dedicated to promote a better quality of life for our community through historic preservation, education, revitalization of downtown Chattahoochee and River Landing, and arts and cultural events.

documents a businesses' structure, threats, and opportunities to assist them in becoming more successful.

Both of these prestigious awards are indicative of the unprecedented work being done by Chattahoochee Main Street and the partnerships that have been forged to lay the foundation for our city's future prosperity.

In addition, Chattahoochee Main Street is pleased to announce that in a recent report commissioned by Secretary of State, Ken Detzner, renowned economist, Donovan Rypkema, has researched and issued a report entitled *The Economic Impact of Florida Main Street*. This report definitively documents that over the past 30 years Florida Main Street has cumulatively created over 24,000 jobs and produced over \$2.45 billion in downtown reinvestments, almost 7,200 new businesses and over 1.1 million volunteer hours. These statistics prove that Florida Main Street is an indisputable catalyst for economic development. In each Florida Main Street community, it is vital for City government and all citizens to be involved for a Main Street program to be successful.

Many economic and unforeseen circumstances have led to Chattahoochee's economic decline over the last several decades, and there is much work ahead of us. For the first time, the foundation is being laid for our community to go forth and become widely known for all we have to offer. Soon many will know what we already know....Chattahoochee is truly "a beautiful place to call home."

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