

Chattahoochee Main Street – Monthly Meeting
September 28, 2015
6:30 pm

Executive Director's Report

1. September 1-2 – **Division of Historic Preservation Small-Matching Grant Hearings.** These committee hearings were held to rank all Small-Matching Historic Preservation grant applications for the State's FY 2016-17. The City of Chattahoochee's application for the second phase of the Historic Structures Survey was evaluated and ranked against all other applications. Lee Garner, Laura Lee Corbett (consultant/architectural historian) and I were in attendance to answer the committee's questions regarding the City's application for Phase II.

The committee ranked the City's application at No. 33. Whether or not this grant is awarded will depend upon the amount allocated by the Florida Legislature, and approved by the Governor, to fund historic preservation grants. If the Legislature is consistent with the past two years, then the application stands an optimistic chance of being funded. The final determination will be made at a later date. If awarded, the work on Phase II would not begin until early 2017.

2. September 1 – **Gadsden County BOCC Honors City of Chattahoochee, CMS & GCDC.** The Gadsden County BOCC formally recognized the City of Chattahoochee, Chattahoochee Main Street and the Gadsden County Development Council's Business Retention & Expansion Consortium for the recent Secretary of State Florida Main Street Honors received in August.

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.

In support of the development of the Strategic Community Vision Plan, the City of Chattahoochee received the Outstanding Public/Private Partnership Honor Award.

For the implementation of the Corporate Visitation Program, the Gadsden County Development Council – Business Retention & Expansion Consortium received the Outstanding Economic Restructuring Program or Project.

The County Commission commemorated the State's recognition by presenting the City of Chattahoochee and the GCDC with special engraved plaques.

3. September 9 – **City of Chattahoochee Award Presentation.** Chattahoochee Main Street formally presented both the Secretary of State's Florida Main Street Award and Board of County Commissioners recognition award to the City Council for the State's Outstanding Public/Private Partnership Honor Award.

4. September 15 – **GCDC Meeting**. Chattahoochee Main Street recognized the GCDC’s Business Retention & Expansion Consortium for the honor award received from the Secretary of State for the Outstanding Florida Main Street Economic Restructuring Program or Project.
5. September 23 – **Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce “Go Gadsden” Meeting**. Ronni Wood, Coordinator, Florida Main Street, was the guest speaker. She provided a report on the Economic Impact of Florida Main Street over the last 30 years based on a report that was commissioned by the Secretary of State.
6. September 23 – **Planning Meeting for The Villages Gadsden County Tour**. Pam Medley and I met with Allara Mills-Gutcher (Gadsden County Planning Director), Joe Munroe and Dawn McMillan (Quincy Main Street), and Joe Bouch (Chisano Marketing Group/Consultant to Gadsden Co. TDC) to have a follow up meeting to organize the itinerary for the familiarization/reconnaissance tour of Gadsden County for a representative of the The Villages retirement community in Central Florida (Sumter, Lake & Marion Counties).
7. October 5-7 – **Familiarization/Reconnaissance Trip (Villages Tour Guide)**. 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.
8. October 26-28 – **The Villages Tour of Gadsden County**. This will be a great opportunity to showcase our area and get the word out about our historical sites. It is anticipated that this will be the first of many tours from The Villages to come to Gadsden County.
9. **Local Business Workshop** – Plans are underway to collaborate with the Gadsden County Development Council to hold a local business development workshop to be held in Chattahoochee. 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.
10. **Logo and Website Design**. The final logo design has been unveiled as well as new brochures/marketing materials and a new website. This work has been done under contract with Dawn McMillan of McMillan Design (and Board President of Quincy Main Street) in connection with funding from Florida Main Street.