

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County, Florida



THE **VOTER**

May 2009

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VOLUSIA COUNTY
GOVERNMENT

Observer Corps Meeting

featuring

Joie Alexander

Volusia County Council Vice-Chair

**How the County Works with
Volusia Cities, the State and Community Organizations
to Protect and Enhance
the Quality of Life for All Citizens**

June 13, 2009

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Brunch--\$15

Grant Bly House

842 E. New York Ave., DeLand 32724

RSVP by June 8, 2009 to Pat Gadbow

pdgadbow@aol.com

Cancellations after June 8th will be invoiced.

Registration @ 9:15 AM, Program @ 9:30 AM

Brunch to follow

Joie Alexander

Joie Alexander is Vice Chair and the At-Large representative on the Volusia County Council. Her district includes all of Volusia County. She was first elected in November 2002 and ran unopposed in 2006.



Her governmental experiences include board member and treasurer of the Florida Association of Counties Foundation; board member of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council; Secretary/treasurer of the Volusia County Metropolitan Planning Organization; member of the Volusia County Claims Committee; member of the Volusia County Value Adjustment Board; and member of the Substance Abuse Policy Advisory Board.

County Council member Alexander is also involved in community services: Vice president of Government Affairs, Crime Stoppers of NE Florida and Boys and Girls Clubs of America; Board member of United Way Women’s Initiative Board; Board member of Daytona State College Women’s Center Advisory Board; member of the Daytona Beach Rotary, Member of NAACP DeLand chapter; and Volusia County Women’s Network member.

Ms. Alexander was with the Volusia County School District from 1978-1999 serving as Principal of Samsula Elementary School, Director of Personnel, Staff Development Specialist and Department Chair/Teacher at DeLand High School. In 1999, she was named Elementary Principal of the Year by the Florida Art Education Association of the State of Florida.



Dear Leaguers,

I’ve just returned as your delegate to the LWVF State Convention in Jacksonville. What an exciting meeting! Your Voter Service chair Ann Smith also attended the convention as the most excellent Parliamentarian ever!! Conventions are always invigorating! We bring back great ideas that we will share with your Board to determine how we can utilize these in our local league. Thank you for giving me the privilege of being your delegate! (See Convention Report in this VOTER)

And thank you also for giving me two more years as your president; I appreciate the opportunity. I want to see an increased visibility of LWVVC. I envision LWVVC having a greater impact in Volusia County. I ask for your help to accomplish these goals because our board cannot do this alone. We must continue to fight for open and fair government and work to educate our citizens to make informed conclusions on government issues. Let us work together to make a difference in our community.

It is time to renew our memberships. Our membership year starts on July1. You can help our league save money by sending in your renewals BEFORE the renewal letters go out. Use the form in this VOTER and mail your membership dues in. I want to remind you that a significant proportion of your \$50 membership dues go to the LWVUS and LWVF and will leave local league with \$7.80 this year. So you if you can provide us with a donation, it will be greatly appreciated. Please inform us of your e-mail address. LWVUS and LWVF are aiming for 100% e-mail addresses of members with e-mail. Finally, let us know what your interests are; we would like you to be involved in LWVVC making a difference in Volusia County.

In League,
Sandy Horikami

Summary: Legislative Seminar March 22-24, 2009, Tallahassee, FL

Of course the state of the economy was the foremost issue with a state budget crunch shortfall of 6.7 billion. Nevertheless the Republicans were not willing to raise taxes assuming they would not be re-elected if they did, and they control most of what gets passed as the majority party in both houses. The issue which seemed to grab everyone's attention was the proposals to look at every single tax exemption in the hopes of eliminating some \$1-2 billion in sales and \$14 billion in other tax exemptions made over the years, all of which are still on the books. Our representatives were not encouraging when they indicated that they were "looking" not necessarily changing any. This turned out to be true as none of the exemptions were eliminated. In fact small businesses and non-homesteaded property were given a tax break in the end by limiting the amount their property taxes could increase each year. Dr. Carol S. Weissert, keynote speaker and director of the LeRoy Collins Institute gave a well thought out overview of Florida's budget crisis, emphasizing the fact that Florida relies on sales taxes and user fees to support much of the programs and during times like these both decrease creating an even greater crisis. With the economic downturn, young professionals leaving the state, the housing market crisis, increasing numbers of immigrants, the potential increase in demand for spending in areas such as PreK-12 and Medicaid, Florida needs to rethink how its population trends will affect the state, its capacity to provide services, and its ability to raise revenues.

Foremost on the Leagues mind seemed to be the \$16 billion budget deficit for schools. The state has shifted its funding obligations regarding education from 60% state to 60% local over the last couple of years. This fact jeopardized Florida's chance of getting school dollars in the Federal stimulus package in the end they managed to receive an exception and the state will receive the stimulus dollars without the state changing its reduced obligation to fund schools.

Another issue that seemed to occupy much of the legislators psyche was the long delay in appointing

a Speaker of the House who maintains order and sets priorities. This delayed the movement of bills through the committee process in both the House and Senate. Inexperienced legislators due to term limits add to the slowdown in moving bills through the process. According to Representative Kelly Skidmore, District 90 and Keith Fitzgerald, District 69 the longest serving member of the House has been there 6 years, therefore there is no historical memory and no long view about what has happened in the past which shifts the power of the House of Representatives to staff and lobbyists. It is no surprise then that both Representatives Vasalinda Rehwinkel, District 9 and Pat Patterson, District 6 spoke in favor of exempting Tallahassee airport from having to pay sales tax on aviation fuel. This would give a break to those who frequently fly into Tallahassee namely lobbyists and legislators (my emphases). Patterson emphasized that increasing air traffic flow into Tallahassee would help the restaurant economy and provide jobs.

According to Dr. Kenneth Brummel-Smith, who conducted an excellent workshop on Sunday afternoon, the crisis in healthcare is escalating beyond their ability to cope due to the fact that 30% of healthcare dollars go to administrative costs and 22% to stockholders leaving only 48% for actual healthcare. He favored salaried physicians and a single payer system of insurance. He emphasized that rationed care is a term that sends voters and legislators into fits, but we already have rationed care for the uninsured and Medicaid and for most policy holders for elective surgery, preventive care and chronic disease.



March: **Legislative Seminar** delegates Claudia Roth, Gwen Azama-Edwards, Nancy Ryan and Pat Gadbow

32nd Convention of the League of Women Voters of Florida
19th Joint Convention with the League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund
May 15-17, 2009, Jacksonville, FL

Three members of the LWVVC were present at the LWVF Convention: Ann Smith as Parliamentarian for the Convention; Nancy Ryan as 2nd VP on the LWVF Board; and Sandy Horikami—your delegate to the Convention who also served as the convention’s Action Motion Chair. It was an invigorating, educational event with opportunity to meet other leaguers throughout the state and to learn and share ideas. In addition, the business of the league was accomplished under the leadership of Marilyn Wills.

The convention opened with workshops, including one on Parliamentary Procedure led by our own Ann Smith. During our 1st Plenary Session, Heather Walker, our LWVF lobbyist gave a summary of the past Legislative Session. Only 234 bills were passed this session compared to the usual 400-500 bills because Florida is broke. The wrap-up of the legislative session can be found in the last Capitol Report on the www.LWVFla Website.

We heard an Ethics & Corruption in Our Government panel consisting of Dr. J.P. Plumlee, Associate Professor Political Science and Public Administration, U of North Florida, Carla Miller, President of City Ethics, and Susan Cooper Eastman, Staff Writer of Folio Weekly. It was a surprise to learn that according to the New York Times, Florida is #1 in public corruption; that 824 state and local officials have been convicted of crime over the last decade! Learn more about ethics in government at www.cityethics.org.

There were workshops at the convention. Topics included Redistricting (Corrine Miller, Palm Beach), Program Planning (Terry Coble, Miami-Dade) and Financial Resources & Requirements (Clara Ann Graham, Lee). We learned ideas for building membership (Dierdre Macnab, Orange); having a dynamic Voter and Website (Sandy Parker, Collier) and leading a local league (Elizabeth MacNamara, LWVUS 1st VP). Ms. MacNamara also gave us an update of the National League. This year, they are planning a Virtual Council—a new and innovative way to meet and do business.

We learned about Florida’s Water Management System from Ed Hobin, Outreach Project Coordinator of the SW Florida Water Management District. The water management districts are primarily a regulatory agency and provide water use permits to any entity that meets the necessary criteria required for a permit. Mr. Hobin spoke primarily of the Tampa Bay area, including their dire need to provide adequate drinking water for its residents. Many of us experienced the St. Johns River on a dinner cruise on Saturday night. A representative from the Marine Science Center spoke to us about the St. Johns River, and informed us that as water is removed from it, there will be an influx of salt water which will change the environment of the river—especially at the mouth of the river in Jacksonville.

At the convention, some of the issues for action that the delegates approved are

- Support an independent reapportionment process. (Gov’t in FL-Florida Constitution)
- Support repeal of tax exemptions that do not fulfill a public purpose. (Gov’t in FL-Finance and Taxation)
- Promote election audits that are based on statistically significant sample size and are completed before certification of the election. (Gov’t in FL-Election Law)
- Support review of funding sources to provide adequate, equitable and quality education. (Education in Florida)
- Promote reform of the juvenile justice system. (Justice in Florida)
- Support equal pay for equal work. (Social Policy in Florida)
- Promote a health care system that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all Florida residents and controls health care costs. (Financing & Delivery of Healthcare)
- Support public transportation. (Sustainability)

- Promote preservation of Florida’s natural lands (Natural Resources-Land Use)
- Support expansion of renewable energy sources. (Natural Resources-Energy)
- Support protection & management of freshwater resources (Natural Resources-Freshwater Resources)

The new LWVF board (2009-2011) will be led by Dierdre Macnab (Orange) and our Nancy Ryan is First Vice President! Yay Nancy!!

It is always exciting to meet other leaguers and learn what they are up to, how they do their business and what successes they’ve had. Sharing ideas is the key to our success—leaguers do not believe in re-inventing the wheel! Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your delegate to the 32nd LWVF Convention!

Sandy Horikami

Coquina Coast Seawater Desalination Project

According to the St. Johns River Water Management District almost all of Volusia County is classified as a priority water resource caution area. Reacting to this, Flagler and its water suppliers as well as those in neighboring areas have arranged to partner in developing an alternative water supply. In February 2006 the District entered into a contract with ARCADIS, a consultant, to assist in creating the Flagler County Water Supply Plan on behalf of the participants. The participants are the District; the Water Authority of Volusia; Marion and St. Johns counties; Dunes Community District, and the cities of Palm Coast, DeLand, Mount Dora and Leesburg, Bunnell and Flagler. These partners are referred to as Coquina Coast “cooperators.”

A further category of participation is the Supplier--- a full paying and voting member. There is also the Ex Officio participant which is entitled to all of the rights and responsibilities of a Supplier except that an Ex Officio participant shall not be privileged to vote. The Ex Officio member is required to contribute \$10,000 annually. Those in Ex Officio status are: WAV, DeLand and Marion County.

This past January the partners entered into a contract with consultant Malcolm Pirnie. The Coquina Coast project covers two phases, the first is a study to weigh land-based against ship-based treatment, and second phase is for the preparation of preliminary design. The District’s share of funding will cover 30 percent of the costs for the project’s first two phases, which should be completed by 2013. Construction could be completed by 2017.

Another 35 percent of the design stage may be required to include Environmental Information Document (EID) tasks. This could be imposed by either the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the Corps of Engineers. Without the EID requirement this is tentatively scheduled for completion by February 2011. If an EID is needed, the phase will take another two years.

An estimate of what a seawater desalination plant could cost would depend on the number of partners and the distance the water will need to be transported. An early estimate of the total project capital cost (not including annual operation and maintenance costs) is about \$600 million.

Rosemarie Gore

Recommendations to LWWUS Board about the National Popular Vote Compact Consensus

In February 2009, LWWVC participated in the National Popular Vote Compact Consensus led by Ann Smith and committee consisting of Pat Gadbaw, Maritza Patterson, Summer Clayton and Larry Moore. LWWUS recently released the following report regarding the consensus.

Two criteria were established for a successful consensus study. The requirement for participation by 1/3 of local Leagues was met with participation by 390 of 766 Leagues (51% of local Leagues). While the second criterion, requiring 2/3 of participating Leagues to achieve consensus on the use of the National Popular Vote NPV) Compact, was not achieved, the consensus elicited very strong support for the NPV Compact (about 50% of responding Leagues in favor). However the remaining 50% were split almost equally between not favoring the NPV Compact or not being able to reach consensus.

Comments from many Leagues reflected: (1) concerns about bias in the questions (about half the Leagues complained about the questions or bias, primarily bias against the NPV Compact), (2) the misunderstanding that a choice had to be made between advocating for abolition of the electoral college OR supporting the NPV Compact, and (3) statements which seemed to contradict a given League's responses to the questions.

Based on an analysis of the responses to the questions and the comments offered, the NPV Compact Committee and Program Planning Committee recommend that the LWWUS continue to examine opportunities to achieve the goal of direct election of the president in addition to the unlikely opportunity of abolishing the Electoral College by constitutional amendment. Options could include examination of other plans similar to the NPV Compact, proposing a concurrence at Convention 2010 on the NPV Compact, or continued examination of the NPV Compact itself. The committees also discussed an option for an extension to the study to take a direct online survey of members who attended consensus meetings with a question up or down on the NPV Compact.

In considering the experience of this "quick" study, the committees recommend that:

- If we do a "quick" study again, then we should carefully reconsider the process to achieve maximum member understanding of the issue(s).
- Any consensus questions for any study be tested, before approval by the Board, for understandability, suitability and non-bias by League members who are not part of the study committee, the staff, or the Board.
- A task force be formed to examine the study and consensus process.

In conclusion, the committees recommend a statement of our position based on the consensus reports from local Leagues: **"The LWWUS affirms its support for the direct election of the president and abolition of the Electoral College, but the LWWUS has no position on the National Popular Vote Compact as currently proposed."**

What have we been up to?



March: **Children's Mental Health** Panelists with Children's Committee members-- Cile Rice, Mary Derr, Maritza Patterson and Sandy Horikami



April: **Annual Meeting**—Board members, Linda Sullivan, Ann Smith, Maritza Patterson, Sandy Horikami, Rosemarie Gore, Betty Johnson, Chris Moseley and Carol Grigas.



May: **Garage Sale**—Resting between customers: Summer Clayton, Rosemarie Gore, Ann Smith and Sandy Horikami. Framed Members for Sale, Ann, Summer and Maritza Patterson



May: At **State Convention** in Jacksonville- Ann Smith: Parliamentarian doing a last minute study of Robert's Rules and Sandy Horikami: your delegate with our Membership Award!



New State Board: Nancy Ryan (1st VP, Volusia), Margaret Wolter (Dir., Broward), Marilyn Wills (Dir., Tallahassee), Ruth Schechter (Dir., Space Coast), Dierdre Macnab (Pres., Orange), Annie Betancourt (Dir., Miami-Dade), Chris Straton (2nd VP, Collier), Katie Ross (Sec., Jacksonville), Sandra Colyer (Treas., Miami-Dade), Kit Pepper (Dir., Orange) with Elizabeth MacNamara (LWVUS First VP)

Observer Corps

May, 2009

We look forward to our meeting June 13 at Grant Bly House in DeLand. Vice Chairman of Volusia County Council Joie Alexander is an excellent speaker, knowledgeable about all aspects of local government. We are fortunate to have her. She will bring us up-to-date on relationships between cities and counties since the Charter Amendments days as well as the relationships with the state and community organizations. There will be plenty of time to ask those burning questions.

This has been a difficult health year for three of our observers Helen Scott, Carolyn Creech, and Bob Miller. We wish them speedy recoveries.

New Smyrna Beach City Commission

Late March, April, early May

- Went forward with ECHO Grant to rehabilitate the Chamber of Commerce property.
- Passed O14-09 which does away with se-backs for Recreation facilities.

4/12

- Hired Shutts & Bowen for \$7,500 to investigate the Angler's Club lease and membership practices. Commissioner Randall Hathaway and Vice Mayor J.S. Grasty dissented, considering it a waste of funds after several attorneys locally had reviewed and found the lease valid. Membership in private clubs was made more open in a change in the state law in 1988. Wording of the lease was normal for 1927 when written, but does sound strange in today's world.
- Discussed parking situation at new City Skate Park.

4/15

- Approved use of CRA funds to continue W. Canal project; engineering inspection services for drainage is \$25,8364.76 with future reimbursement from the state proposed.
- Finished O18-09 off-site parking in mixed-use downtown district.
- Approved a new methodology of transportation studies to match rest of state.
- After presentation by Heather Frost concerning the 18 by 24 inch professional signs in front of her business at 843 North Dixie Freeway, they allowed her to erect two signs, but she is to appear before the commission in two weeks after a review of needed sign ordinance updates.
- Walter DeYoung and Kevin Para presented a proposal to take a badly deteriorated repossessed home at 215 Orange Street and revamp into a GREEN facility with teaching and operations manned by volunteers using grant funds from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) neighborhood stabilization funds. They also discussed their huge neighborhood gardening project. The city likes this "Victory Garden" idea.
- Heard staff update on Woodhaven- Port Orange project and the city's efforts to change the project to better serve the entire area. They are now filing protest letters to Volusia Growth Management Commission (VGMC) and Department of Community Affairs (DCA).
- heard a presentation by a volunteer group which prepared a lengthy grant application for a new reef which stabilizes beaches and helps the environment. New Zealand and Japan use this technology which is working wonderfully. This seems a better way to save our beaches as beach re-nourishment is not working.
- Allowed replacement dune walk over at 4141 S. ATLANTIC Avenue.
- Supported a charter school application for Burns Elementary, Oak Hill.
- Allowed staff to go forward on Volusia Government Management Commission (VGMC) comprehensive plan change by Port Orange effecting New Smyrna Beach.

4/29

- The new Smyrna Beach Commission and the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) held a joint workshop to discuss utility easements still needed on West Canal streetscape.

- A property owner on Flagler wants to use CRA parking lot for a proposed business, but does not want to sign a standard lease and pay for same as all other area businesses have done. CRA request for Clancy's to lease parking spaces.
- New Smyrna City Commission now meeting at 6:30 PM on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday.

Edgewater City Council

- New start time of 6 PM on the 1st and 3rd Monday.

3/19

- Authorized Mosquito Control District to fly below 500 feet to spray the city.
- Entered into inter-local agreement with New Smyrna Beach to accept solid waste from their city parks, \$185 per month for average 90 cubic yards.
- Council will set budget workshops on 1st Monday of each month and Council meetings 3rd Monday 'til September to light agendas,
- Agreed to changes in Section 10-41(park litter and dog regulations) to install clean-up stations.
- Changed membership in Economic Development Board to match Oak Hill, two slots for people living outside the city limits who offer special expertise to the board.

Oak Hill

- Randall Brown, Daytona Beach officers spoke on safeguarding seniors, information can be obtained @ www.flseniors.net.
- Will proceed with demolition of house on city property, next door to city hall, \$4,850.00
- Will look into purging outdated items from the city charter.
- Book on the History of Oak Hill, \$20, available on city computer site.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

3/24/09

- Consolidations of routes and smaller buses for VOTRAN are being considered because only Daytona Beach and Holly Hill, have good ridership.
- Lined up shovel-ready projects in anticipation of Stimulus dollars.

Oak Hill City Commission

- The School Board has pulled the rug from charter schools and announced they will harvest Burns Elementary, by pulling out water system, all desks, chairs, etc, even door knobs, and cafeteria equipment before the end of the school year. Health and safety of students discussed, decided to send immediate letter to all concerned asking a stay on harvesting 'til situation can be looked at. The city is upset about new policy Mrs. Smith is proposing at next School Board meeting. It does away with the rights of cities to have charter schools by making the buildings end up in a condemned condition and unfit for use.

4/27

- Enough children signed up to retain Burns Elementary as charter school; the application is in, no word from the school board yet. Commission accepted an offer from Daniel Cooper, retired resident, offered to donate Sherman Williams paint and with the help of volunteers paint city hall inside and out.
- Code will be disbanded in another thirty days, commission felt they could handle without extending the time.
- Commission training for Emergency Preparedness discussed, several need to finish the four parts and get certificate before Hurricane Season.

4/30

- Moved US Route 17/92 in DeLand from the list and replaced it with 15A in order to change frontage, signs, et al in the upgraded corridor.
- Five presentations were made: higher education consortium, east central regional rational rails trails, development and environmental study, strategic intermodal system plan updates.

Nora Jane Gillispie

Ormond City Commission Meeting

April 21, 2009

The Land development Code was revised and passed without public input. The most significant part of this meeting came when the commission was requested to vote on the Collective bargaining Agreement between the city and the Firefighters. Commissioner Kelly, Deputy Mayor, indicated that the terms were not acceptable as the firefighters in were the highest paid in the County and based on the USA Today they ranked in the top tier. Mayor Costello indicated that he was willing to approve only a one year contract. Commissioner Gilloly, Zone 1, indicated that this agreement was for a three year contract for a total of \$200,000. The City Manager was asked to respond with pros and cons regarding a three vs. a yearly contract and she did. Part of the concern voiced by Mr. Hayes, Attorney, was that part of these 3 years is for the current '09 year. The contract was not ratified on a 3-2 vote and now goes to arbitration.

This year saw many interesting happenings in Ormond Beach. The City manager was asked to resigned due to lack of confidence, the Fire Chief accepted a position elsewhere and the fire department was(and continues to be involved) in a dispute overcompensation and staffing.

The City budget saw a decrease in revenues due to the economic shortfall as well as a decrease in funding received from State and Federal government. The city did balance its budget and there without significantly affecting services.

The new City Manager is Ms. Shanahan. A new Fire Chief has not been hired. All City Commissioners retained their seats as did the Mayor during the November elections.

May 5,2009

Considerable time was spent on the eventual approval of the City's \$150,000 commitment to it's share of a grant by Beneficial Communities requesting funds for "affordable workforce housing" The proposal will go out (May 12) to compete for these funds. This will, if funded, give the City of Ormond Beach its first affordable workforce housing units. Qualified renters would pay based on income. The median annual income in Ormond Beach was discussed as being around \$55,000. The income requirements for these apartments range from \$14,000 to \$36,000 annual salary. The development will be fronting Granada Blvd.

Maritza Patterson

Daytona Beach City Commission

March 18, 2009

Before the City Commission meeting I attended a Halifax Area Chamber of Commerce meeting on an Artificial Reef program that has proven to provide beach nourishment in the form of coastal protection and improved recreational opportunities. It would save millions of dollars in the cost of currently used sand replacement; expand recreational activities and provide increased economic development. Various funding sources could be tapped-Josh Wagner, Volusia County Council member, is taking the lead in contacting various individuals for support and funding.

Decisions regarding board appointment policies/procedures were proposed per City Commissioner Shiela McKay-Vaughan, because staff had not correctly spelled out in writing for voting the conclusions the Commission members had agreed upon at the prior meeting. As a result, she asked that the item be continued so staff could get the voting items correct.

In other action, the City Commission approved:

A semi-public use permit for the Children's Advocacy Center, really ratifying what they were already doing but did not know a permit was required for it in the neighborhood where they relocated after Halifax Hospital acquired their prior location on Bird Avenue. The Attorney for the Advocacy Center thanked Commissioner Cassandra Reynolds for bringing the citizens together so that they could talk to them to answer their issues and concerns; one of which was whether they would be expanding their services in the area (the answer given was no), and whether the move there was temporary- and the answer was that they expected to be at that location a long time too. Commissioner Reynolds said the citizens' acceptance of the move changed her mind against the project. Commissioner McKay-Vaughan said she did not believe a residential neighborhood was the right place for the service and voted against it.

Commissioner Derrick Henry, who asked the question about whether they would be expanding their services there, also voted no. The resolution passed by a vote of 5 to 2.

Appointment of the Visioning Steering Committee(VSC))- only two appointments made of the 7 requested of the city Commission, that of Zone 1 Commissioner (Mat Devorak nominated) and Zone 4 Commissioner (Chris Bouler)—others members were not ready with their nominees. Eight others will be appointed by the current VSC.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Application Submittal—Application approved to be submitted to the Department of Community Affairs, subject to input through a required public meeting and a comment period. The funds must be used to address affordable housing impacted through foreclosure and abandonment in the jurisdiction's greatest need area (the City named the entire city area as in need). The City is eligible for \$ 1,668,161 and \$ 694,981 under allocation formulas per income guidelines. Some of the funds will be used to acquire (about \$ 1.3 million) and remodel (about \$ 1 million) the Daytona Village 76 apartment complex (only 54 units habitable at this time) with about \$ 200,000 in funds going toward single-family homes.

The Community Advisory Task Force (CAFT) for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) would consist of the Community Development Advisory Board members, which would be used to provide the public participation and meet the citizen participation requirements. At least one meeting of the CAFT is required before the application can be submitted. They will also choose someone to run the program, if no one comes forward they would but the City would still administer the program.

Gwen Azama-Edwards

DeLand City Commission

May 4

- The meeting of the DeLand City Council was well attended. Many of Volusia County's dentists and faculty from the University of Florida College of Dentistry. Andy Kelly, Frank Bruno and Joyce Cusack came to speak.
- Chairman Frank Bruno presented a check to the city from the county for \$300,000. The money is for roadway access improvement to the NW industrial park by the airport.
- Staff presented the quarterly financial report highlighting that water and sewer reserves continue to be in deficit. This ties in directly with the reason the dentists and Joyce Cusack were there. In order to balance the budget the City of DeLand no longer adds fluoride to the water and has eliminated the position of the lab tech that tested the water many times a day to ensure the appropriate level of fluoride was maintained. For the past two months DeLand citizens have been drinking water without fluoride.
- I learned the cities in eastern Volusia County have fluoridated water. DeLand was the only city in the western part of the county to offer it to their citizens. They started work to add fluoride to the water in 1994 and finally succeeded in 1998. Citizens voted to add it to the water yet they have not had the opportunity to vote to take it out of the water.
- Joyce Cusack, the local President of the Dentist Association, the local President of the Dental Hygienist Association, and faculty from the University of Florida, College of Dentistry testified concerning the Center for Disease Control evidence that fluoride in the water prevents dental carries in children and adults and prevents root surface carries in adults. It saves more money in the communities that spend to add it to the water than citizens will spend on the health care that will be required if they don't have fluoride in the water, in the amount of \$15 - \$18 per person.
- The City Council voted unanimously to direct staff to examine the budget to find a way to add fluoride back to the water. They directed staff to work with the faculty of the College of Dentistry to apply for the state and federal funding available to assist the city to add fluoride to the water. They directed staff to use the \$183,000 in the contingency fund and to find the most economical way to test the water even if it means hiring a lab technician rather than spending \$300/day to outsource the testing. Mayor Apgar challenged the dental community to lobby the other cities in west Volusia to add fluoride to their water in preparation for the day when the water systems become interconnected. Interconnects

already exist between DeLand and Orange City. When our fluoridated water mixes with their water it dilutes the amount of fluoride our citizens pay to receive.

- The City of DeLand passed on first reading a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance. It contains six exemptions for show animals and breeders. The ordinance is modeled after the County spay/neuter ordinance and is required by the County in order for citizens of DeLand to be able to use the Pet Vet Cruiser to spay/neuter their animals at a discount. The director of the Humane Society testified the County has successfully reduced the amount of animals that have to be euthanized using the combination of a mandatory ordinance with a low cost spay/neuter program. The County is offering four months use of the Pet Vet Cruiser free to the City of DeLand as a carrot to entice them to pass the ordinance and join the program. Rather than punishing offenders of the ordinance, the County uses it to educate pet owners about the numbers of animals that are euthanized each year and the cost to them as a taxpayer. Most people happily comply. There will be a second reading. Some council members are worried about future costs of the program to the city. Other council members are worried about costs to the city if we don't participate in the program. The City of DeLand has to pay \$83 for every animal that is dropped off at Halifax Humane Society if the person dropping it off says they are from DeLand. One city council member voted against the ordinance because he is uncomfortable telling responsible people they have to spay/neuter their animal. His alternative solution is to rent the Pet Vet Cruiser from the County. He did not get support for his position from the other council members.

Claudia Roth

Orange City Council

- The Council has spent the better part of a year in budget hearings.
- Water issues have also been the major topic for some time. Orange City has completed two new wells, but there is the feeling that too much water is being taken and more restrictions may be in order for the four city area of Orange City, DeLand, Deltona and DeBary; a major percolation area for the aquifer.

Bob Miller

School Board

May 12, 2009

Dr. Margaret Smith, the superintendent, presented an update on the financial status of the school district. The superintendent stated that the revenue side of the budget is different than in prior years. A portion of the budget uses federal stabilization dollars in lieu of state dollars. Volusia will receive about \$20.5 million in stabilization dollars, which does not make up the budget shortfall. The state also accessed two state trust funds and moved .25 mils (25 cents of local property taxes per \$1,000 of value) from the capital budget to the operating budget. This is an addition to the .25 mils already transferred from the capital budget this year.

Even with the stabilization dollars, Volusia will receive \$9.7 million less from the state for the 2009-10 school year than it did this school year. However, budget reductions are expected to be about \$20 million due to declining enrollment; the state funding formula (DCD), which results in fewer dollars for Volusia compared to neighboring counties; a new state requirement for a three percent non-reserved fund balance; and increased costs for items such as utilities and health insurance.

The next budget development workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 6 p.m., DeLand Administrative Complex, 200 N. Clara Avenue, DeLand.

Ann Harrell



LWVVC Membership Renewal Form
(July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VOLUSIA COUNTY
www.LWVVC.org

Please send this renewal form with your membership dues to:

LWVVC
P.O. Box 9695
Daytona Beach, FL 32120

- () Individual Membership \$50
() Household Membership \$75
() Student Membership \$25
() Contribution \$ _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work/Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Today's date: _____

I am interested in:

- _____ Election Issues _____ Voter Services _____ Children's Issues
_____ Natural Resources/Environmental Issues _____ Health Reform Issues _____ Observer Corps
_____ Membership Recruitment/Orientation _____ Programming
_____ Public Relations _____ Communications _____ LWVVC Archives

Other: _____

_____ Right now I cannot make a long term commitment but I am available for short term projects.