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**MARCH GENERAL MEETING**

**Community Redevelopment Agencies  
CRAs: What Are They About?**



**Roland Via**

*Former Mayor of Holly Hill*

**Edith Shelly**

*Daytona Beach City Commissioner*

**March 19, 2011**

10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Lunch \$15

**Holiday Inn Daytona Beach LPGA Blvd**

137 Automall Circle, Daytona Beach

RSVP by March 14, 2011 to Summer Clayton

[summer\\_c2@bellsouth.net](mailto:summer_c2@bellsouth.net)

Cancellations after March 15 will be invoiced.

Check in at 10:15 a.m., Speakers at 10:30 a.m., Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

**Annual Meeting**

**State of Health Care in Volusia County:  
Where Do We Go From Here?**

**Dr. Bonnie J. Sorensen**

*Director of Volusia County Health Department*

**April 16, 2011**

**Palmetto Club**

1000 S. Beach St., Daytona Beach

RSVP by April 12, 2011 to Maritza Patterson

[rpatterson11@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rpatterson11@cfl.rr.com)

Cancellations after April 12 will be invoiced

Check in @ 10 a.m. Speaker @ 10:15 a.m.

Lunch @ 11 a.m. Business meeting @ 11:45 a.m.



Dear Leaguers,

We had a wonderful lesson on the Volusia County Consolidation of Fire/Rescue by Howard Tipton of the Civic League—another non-partisan political organization. We may be embarking on a study on this issue so you may be hearing more about this issue in the future.

In March we will learn about CRAs: Community Restoration Associations. You've heard about them before---what are they and how do they impact us today and in the future? Plan to join us at this general meeting on March 19, 2011. Former Holly Hill Mayor Roland Via and Daytona Beach Commissioner Edith Shelly will be presenting to us what they know about CRAs.

Legislative Seminar and our State League Convention will take place in March in Tallahassee. Pat Gadbow and Maritza Patterson will represent our local league for this event. Pat Drago, Director on our board and Voter Service Chair on the LWVF board will also attend. We look forward to their report of the double league event.

And coming up in April is our Annual Meeting. In this voter we include items that will be discussed at our Annual meeting—our upcoming budget, our policies and our Nominating Committee report! Who will be are next board members? So please peruse these and be prepared for the Annual Meeting on April 16, 2011. Our speaker at our Annual Meeting will be Dr. Bonnie Sorensen, Director of Volusia County Public Health Department. This promises to be an interesting meeting—public health encompasses so many aspects of our life and community! You don't want to miss our Annual Meeting!

This Voter is full of good reading. Jean Snyder and her fundraiser committee have a fun event in store for us in May. We also have a feature on Helen Johnson—a most influential woman in our LWVVC history. Carol Grigas, our archivist, interviewed Helen and has shared with us a wonderful portrayal of her. And finally, this issue includes a report by Pat Gadbow who shares the tour of Farmton Key properties that fellow leaguers Summer and Dennis Clayton took with Pat Northey and other Volusians. This is an exciting Voter and I hope you enjoy reading it!

Remember to follow your passion.

*Sandy Horikami*  
LWVVC President



*President Sandy Horikami  
thanking Howard Tipton*

### **March 19<sup>th</sup> Program Speakers:**



#### **Roland Via—Former Mayor of Holly Hill**

Roland Via has a decade and a half of experience in intergovernmental affairs. He has served Volusia County and his City of Holly Hill as an elected official, five of those years as Mayor. He is the Volusia League of Cities Elected Official of the Year in 2009 and has served as its' President; he's a past executive on the Volusia Council of Government Board; served as one of seven regional mayors with the Central Florida Congress of Regional Leaders and fulfilled many other boards and posts on taxation, growth, water, transportation, redevelopment, recreation and public safety. For nearly 12 years he has shared information as a broadcaster on both radio and television. He serves on the Boys and Girls Club of Volusia and Flagler County Board and has coached youth sports for over three decades. Community involvement defines Roland Via.



#### **Edith Shelly—Daytona Beach City Commissioner**

Mrs. Shelley has served on the Daytona Beach planning board since 1992 including serving as board chairperson. During her tenure on the board, Mrs. Shelley has been a leader in the development of the plans and policies for the planning program in Daytona Beach. She has also served as the City's representative on intergovernmental committees including the development of the Volusia County Public School Facilities Element and school concurrency program. Mrs. Shelley has been ready to step forward when needed to take a leadership role in addressing planning

issues in Daytona Beach. When a major consultant study failed to deliver an acceptable community vision, Mrs. Shelley chaired a visioning process that was driven by local volunteers to produce a community vision. This effort covered nearly four years and culminated in the adoption of a vision for Daytona Beach that now serves as the guiding document for the City's overall planning program.

In addition to these important roles, Mrs. Shelley has chaired the planning board's Land Development Code Sub-Committee; served on the Downtown/Balough Road Redevelopment Area Advisory Board, the Mayor's Community Advisory Board, and the International Speedway Boulevard Coalition. While these are just a few of her accomplishments in the planning area, Mrs. Shelley has also been active in a variety of other civic efforts including the chamber of commerce, educational activities for both public and private schools, and the arts including serving on the Bethune-Cookman University Performing Arts Center Advisory Board.

**Recent Awards:**

Garden Club of America Civic Improvement Award - for outstanding service in the area of civic improvement  
Florida Planning and Zoning Association Surfcoast Chapter Focus Award - for significant contributions to the advancement of planning in Volusia and Flagler Counties

Mrs. Shelley has been married to her husband Denis, a Daytona Beach native, for 32 years. They have two adult daughters.

## **April 16<sup>th</sup> Program Speaker: Dr. Bonnie Sorenson**

As **Dr. Bonnie J. Sorensen** enters her 20th year in public health, she brings years of experience and expertise back to Volusia County. She started her public health career in Volusia in 1990 as an HIV expert and then advanced to become the Director of the Volusia County Health Department in 1996. In 2002, she was recruited to Tallahassee to oversee all 67 county health departments. In 2007, she had the opportunity to help launch the new California Department of Public Health in Sacramento under Governor Schwarzenegger's leadership. She returned home in August of 2009 to resume the Directorship of the Volusia County Health Department.

Dr. Sorensen obtained her Bachelors in Science, Doctorate in Medicine and Board Certification in Endocrinology and Metabolism at the University of Illinois. She obtained her Board Certification in Internal Medicine at the University of Florida. After 10 years of private practice in Palm Beach County, Dr. Sorensen attended a year of law school at University of Florida before discovering public health. She also obtained a Masters in Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University in 2000, the same year she won first place (in her age group) race walking the Disney Marathon.

As is typical of a public health professional, Dr. Sorensen migrated from a career of treating end-stage diseases to a career of preventing diseases by promoting healthy living. She was awarded the Outstanding Woman in Public Health Award in 2005 by the USF College of Public Health

## **Update on Children Services Committee**

Summer Clayton attended a conference sponsored by Thrive by Five regarding an exploratory partnership with Georgetown University. Maritza Patterson went to a meeting where the rating scales being utilized to assess Day Care Centers in Volusia County were explained. Assessors are trained to make observations based on environmental factors to complete these scales. It should be noted that a web site is now available that posts individual scores with explanations for the parents to make informed decisions regarding the center to select. Starting on July 1, 2011 these tools will be used throughout the state. The Early Learning Coalition continues to meet and when relevant one or more members of our committee will attend.

*Maritza Patterson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

## **LWVVC PROGRAM: PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS**

### **COUNTY CHARTER**

#### **The League**

- Supports protections of the County Charter and its principles, to include monitoring County Council to ensure that the principles are implemented.
- Supports an appointed (rather than elected) sheriff, property appraiser, and supervisor of elections, all with professional qualifications.

### **GOVERNMENT (revised position adopted 4/28/07)**

*The League of Women Voters of Volusia County is concerned about the negative consequences of rapid growth throughout the region. In order to preserve the quality of life in Volusia County:*

- LWVVC supports Volusia County and the municipalities within its borders working together to protect the environment while providing reasonable use of the land and restricting the use of wetland mitigation.
- LWVVC supports buffering of environmentally sensitive land and water bodies and encourages developing open, recreational and green spaces to enhance and maintain quality of life within the county and its municipalities.
- LWVVC supports giving public interest priority regarding the conservation of our natural habitats in Volusia County.
- LWVVC supports increased consideration to potable water issues, including the assurance of clean water in the Comprehensive Plans of Volusia County and its municipalities.
- LWVVC supports development of effective drainage systems to improve recharge and retention areas and reduce flooding in Volusia County and its municipalities.
- LWVVC encourages Volusia County and its municipalities to work together to direct regional growth in a responsible manner.
- LWVVC supports that any comprehensive-plan amendment or rezoning that permits increased residential density may be approved only if adequate public schools can be timely planned and constructed to serve the projected increase in student population.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

1. The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports efforts to conserve and protect our water supply as an essential part of ecosystem management. These efforts include:
  - a. The County Council's continued implementation of Volusia County's stormwater management ordinance.
  - b. LWVVC's continued participation in the LWV Coalition to monitor the St. Johns River Water Management District.
  - c. Sound management of Volusia County's designated sole source aquifer.
  - d. Protection of Volusia County's recharge area.
  - e. Establishment of a county-wide entity to govern water usage.
2. LWVVC opposes the development of a Ponce Inlet Marina.

### **STORMWATER**

1. Because stormwater basins and sub-canal systems cross city/community boundaries, LWVVC believes that Volusia County should be primarily responsible for their maintenance.

2. LWVVC supports both county and local stormwater fees.
3. There should be incentives for using reclaimed water.
4. Local municipalities should include street sweeping in their stormwater management plans.
5. In addition to preventing flooding, effective stormwater management plans must provide for:
  - a) reduction of pollutants entering the waterways.
  - b) reduction of desalination of salt water tributaries in the county.
  - c) reclamation of stormwater to reduce the demands on the aquifer.
  - d) reduction of runoff pollution entering the aquifer.

**CHILDREN’S SERVICES** (revised position adopted 4/24/2010)

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports making children’s services a top priority in Volusia County with an emphasis on:

- Prenatal health care that includes screenings for maternal and fetal wellbeing; maternal screenings and treatment for social- emotional health and for addictions.
- Comprehensive healthcare for children that includes preventive screenings and timely treatment of physical, emotional and behavioral problems.
- Age appropriate educational programs for children that include access to factual programs in sex education, parenting, child development and addictive substances.

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports the following recommendations for local legislative or community action:

- Create a resource center to collect, coordinate and disseminate information about services to children available in Volusia County, that will be made available to parents and professionals working with children.
- Require training of all childcare personnel in child development and behavioral interventions.
- Require licensure of all family childcare homes.
- Encourage employers to provide or subsidize childcare for employees.

**LWVVC Nominating Committee Report**

**Current Elected LWVVC Officers and Directors**

President	Sandra Horikami (2009-2011)
First Vice-President	Claudia Roth (2009-2011)
Second Vice-President	Maritza Patterson (2009-2011)
Secretary	Jeanne Snyder (2010-2012)
Treasurer	Christina Moseley (2010-2012)

<u>Directors (2009-2011)</u>	<u>Directors (2010-2012)</u>	<u>Nominating Committee (2009-2010)</u>
Rosemarie Gore	Betty Johnson	Ann Harrel, Chair
Linda Sullivan	Ann H. Smith	Gwen Azama-Edwards
	Joanne Pinkston McDuffie	Carolyn West

**Nominated Officers and Directors**

President	Pat Gadbaw (2011-2013)
First Vice-President	Claudia Roth (2011-2013)
Second Vice-President	Maritza Patterson (2011-2013)

<u>Directors (2011-2013)</u>	<u>Nominating Committee (2011-2012)</u>
Carla Christenson	Ann Harrell, Chair
Sandra Horikami	Mary Derr
	Carolyn West

**LWVVC Proposed Budget**

<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>2008-09 End-of-Year</b>	<b>2009-10 End-of-Year</b>	<b>2010-11 Budget</b>	<b>2011-12 Proposed</b>
Membership Dues	4,175	4,200	3,800	3,775
Ed Fund Transfer for Florida PMP			550	321
Bank Reserve Transfer				0
Contributions	1,458	1,080	500	1,000
Fundraising	466	5,656	700	4,500
Interest	9	10	6	10
Meetings	3,380	3,906	3,500	3,500
The Voter Sponsorship			100	
Other Income		99	0	100
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$9,489</b>	<b>\$14,951</b>	<b>\$9,156</b>	<b>\$13,206</b>

**EXPENSE:**

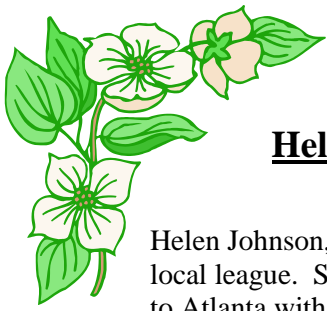
<b>A. Operating Expenses</b>				
PO Box	70	70	70	80
Postage	266	372	375	375
Printing	69	344	175	175
Supplies	33	93	100	100
Telephone	497	513	490	490
Web page			100	100
<b>B. Board &amp; Admin.</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>C. Delegate Expenses</b>				
LWVF Convention/Council	198	0	0	400
LWVF Legislative Seminar	420	0	0	500
LWVUS Convention	0	487	0	1,000
<b>D. PMP</b>				
LWVF	793	821	1,140	1,284
LWVUS	2,172	2,369	2,219	2,265
<b>E. The Voter Expense</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>F. Meetings, Pubs, Award</b>				
Meetings	3,552	3,760	3,500	3,500
Publications		169	0	100
Awards	125	145	100	150
<b>G. Fundraising</b>		<b>1,932</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>H. Miscellaneous</b>				
Other	60	155	37	38
Workshops	168	45	50	150
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$9,085</b>	<b>\$11,812</b>	<b>\$9,156</b>	<b>\$13,206</b>

**RESTRICTED FUNDS BALANCES:**

Membership Fund	143	68	68	68
News-Journal Voter Service Grant	520	520	520	520
Grant from LWVUS	500		500	
LWV Education Fund in Tallahassee.	5,640	5,340	5,340	5,055
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$6,803</b>	<b>\$5,928</b>	<b>\$6,428</b>	<b>\$5,643</b>

<b>RECONCILED BANK RESERVE</b>	<b>\$10,692</b>	<b>\$13,306</b>
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Budget Committee: Dennis and Summer Clayton, Larry Moore, Chris and John Moseley



## **Helen Johnson - A Vital Force for the LWV and Volusia County**

Helen Johnson, a very long time member of the League, took time recently to reflect on her service to our local league. She dates her membership in the League from the mid 1950's when she married and moved to Atlanta with her husband who taught at Emory University.

Like many who joined the League in the 1950's, she was interested in politics at a time when high profile women like Eleanor Roosevelt, one of the League's original members, were active and involved in key issues. Helen's activities in the League were also motivated by her interest in history, which was her major at Meredith College where she earned her bachelor's degree. Later, she and her husband, Professor John Hodges, moved to DeLand, where she earned a master's in history and government at Stetson and joined the school's faculty.

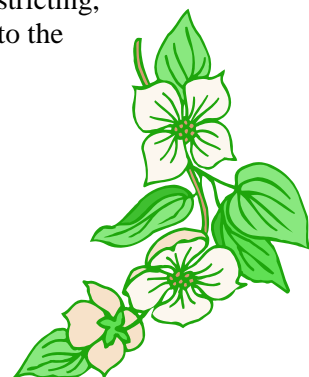
In DeLand, Helen became involved in the League's unit for that area and met Ruth Kerman, who became a close friend. She recalled a time when unit meetings took place in members' homes and met in the mornings, a setting that Helen believes facilitated learning about issues and, importantly for her, friendships. An early unit project was the effort to push successfully for Barberville Road now Route 40 and other issues like the adoption of a new county charter. A voter service that the DeLand Unit produced was a booklet about Volusia County government. Many successful projects were hatched at unit meetings held at Helen's house, where members insisted on meeting.

By the early 1970's, Helen served as chair of the DeLand Unit and was elected to the LWVVC board of directors. The 1980's, when she was president of the Volusia County League, was a time when the League enjoyed peak membership numbers and high visibility. Helen said, "The League was involved in all the important issues and had good links to state representatives." She recalled that the League launched an effective educational campaign to persuade the County to approve waste disposal for the unincorporated areas. To bring this about, Helen started a speaker's bureau to disseminate information to clubs and groups about waste disposal, landfills, and recycling. "The League was riding high, and it was fun!" Helen recalled. "The League was involved in all the good government movements."

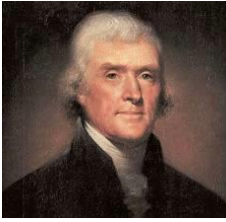
The League's image was bolstered by its sponsorship of the U.S. presidential campaign debates. In recent decades, a combination of several trends and events caused a decline in League membership, Helen believes. One was the fact that more and more women moved to full time employment and coped with increasingly busy schedules. She also noted that the League's effort to educate the public on ERA brought criticism from its younger members. This youthful contingent definitely supported passage of ERA. However they urged the League's leadership to use more aggressive tactics and lobby for the ratification of the amendment, an approach that was impossible given the League's mission to educate voters impartially on all issues. Helen noted this group tended to join the newly formed NOW, and the League probably lost some potential members because of this debate over tactics and the purpose of the LWV.

Reflecting on her decades long involvement with the League, Helen prizes the many friendships that she formed. She also said "it was my main source of interest for a long time. It helped me keep up with issues and all that work was fun!" It's obvious that Helen Johnson remains engaged in the key issues. She wants to see the League grow, and urges a return to unit meetings. She is monitoring redistricting, hoping it will actually happen. Obviously, Helen is as engaged as ever with issues important to the League!

***By Carol Grigas  
LWVVC Director & Archivist***



**BE PATRIOTIC!**  
**SUPPORT LWVVC'S FIRST "WINE TASTING PARTY AND SILENT AUCTION"**



Did you know that one of our Great Nation's Forefathers, Thomas Jefferson made this statement? "By making wine vine known to the public, I have rendered my country a great service as if I had enabled it to pay back the national debt;" – such is the importance of wine, according to Jefferson. And one of our first ambassadors – a leading member of the Continental Congress – Benjamin Franklin said: "Wine makes daily living easier, less hurried, with fewer tensions and more tolerance."



With two highly favored American citizens giving praise to wine, how can you say "No" to our next League of Women Voters of Volusia County FUND RAISER?



Our first LWVVC **Wine tasting and Silent Auction will be on Thursday, May 26, 2011 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Wine Warehouse, 3450 S Ridgewood Ave, Port Orange, FL.** The manager of Wine Warehouse will be providing 5-6 wines to taste; you will have plenty of time to browse for additional wines to purchase and the other big event that will take place: the SILENT AUCTION.

To attend this FUND RAISER – your Wine Tasting entry fee is: \$15.00 per person (cash or check, payable to LWVVC). We will, of course, accept any additional generous donations.

Now, as to the second part of this event: THE SILENT AUCTION. We are encouraging any members of the League to help us with this auction by soliciting area businesses that have previously supported us to contribute a basket or make a basket to donate to our cause. Any basket (small to large) – could have your own special, unique theme or crafts – with goodies inside – these auction items will be used to bid on from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. during the Tasting.

All money from the Silent Auction will go to augment the FUND. Contact Jean Snyder either at: [snyder.jean7@gmail.com](mailto:snyder.jean7@gmail.com) (ON THE EMAIL SUBJECT WRITE – SILENT AUCTION) to let me know if you are interested in designing/donating an auction item – giving you name and number.



Your FUND RAISING COMMITTEE: Carol Grigas, Chris Moseley and Jean Snyder hope this will be a fun event for everyone. Invite a friend, spouse, neighbor, or your friendly politician.

More information will be forthcoming.

**For now, MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!**

**Thank you,  
Jean Snyder, LWVVC Secretary and Fund Raising Committee Chair**

**Miami Corporation Headquarters**  
**January 12, 2011**  
**1625 Osteen-Maytown Road, Oak Hill**

Because we have great respect for Clay Henderson and Pat Northey, we wanted to understand why these otherwise staunch protectors of the environment would support changing the land use of 47,000 acres of poorly drained land in south-central Volusia County adjacent to the environment corridor to a city with 21,000 clustered homes and 4 million square feet (19,000 acres) of non-residential property, otherwise known as Farmton. There are a few privately owned outparcels scattered throughout the acreage.

Pat Gadbow, Summer Clayton and Dennis Clayton met at the Miami Corp headquarters at 9 a.m. for a tour of the land set aside for preservation. We were greeted by Glenn Storch, attorney for Miami Corp Farmton division, Clay Henderson, environmentalist, Pat Northey, Volusia County Commissioner at large, and Mike Brown, land planner for the Miami Corp. property in Brevard and Volusia. We were soon joined by Jim Dinneen, Volusia County Manager. We broke off into two vehicles with Storch, Brown, Dinneen, and the two Claytons in one and Pat Northey, Clay Henderson and myself, Pat Gadbow in the other. Our first stop was an example of what happens to private property in this remote acreage. A recently purchased 10 acres "out parcel" right on Maytown Road had been bought by an out-of-towner and cleared cut with a pond in the middle to drain the 10 acres then put up for sale. Miami Corp. bought it with the intention of slowly returning it to its natural state.

The total acreage of Farmton in Volusia is 47,000 and in Brevard, 12,000. Land set aside for conservation is 40,623 and for development 18,461 (all numbers rounded off). In the deal struck with the County which was not approved by the Department of Conservancy Agency (DCA) and is now in the hands of Administrative Law Judge David Maloney, calls for 21,300 clustered homes (90 to 100 thousand new residents) and 4 million square feet (19,000 acres) of non residential (business), the County put in Public Trust 1,140 acres along Deep Creek as well as 4,000 acres of mostly swamp land in conservation. Before this major comprehensive plan change request, the County allowed 1,350 ranchettes on the land or 2,700 clustered homes. (Most statistics in this paragraph are from articles by Dinah Voyles Pulver, News-Journal)



Can you see Dennis Clayton on the trail?

**Notes of our stops:**

- #1 Parcel of land cleared of all plants with man-made pond in middle to drain swamp then put up for sale. Farmton bought the property and is trying to restore it to its natural beauty.
- #2 Access road to Deep Creek 1400 hundred acres.
- #3 Cow Creek over low bridge, hunting hogs in February; and turkey in the spring.
- #4 Deep Creek area was under water, could almost ford the creek now. They never saw it so low, it goes out to the St John's River, with Frank Ford's property South to Lake Harney.



Group picture

- #5 The next destination was the other side of Deep Creek where the Cyprus Stumps formed an interesting other-worldly landscape. Our drivers Brown and Henderson were somewhat tempted to just drive across Deep Creek as it was so shallow due to the drought.
- #6 We drove around the loop to the south side of Deep Creek, parked the vehicles and walked in towards the St John's through the "Fairy Forest" nicknamed by those looking at photos in a Clay Henderson presentation. We took great care in walking as the cypress knees were everywhere and some so small you wouldn't notice, and came out at the river and then walked towards Frank Ford's property fence where we could view the kiosk across the river put up by the City of Sanford as part of the rails to trails walkway. The Volusia side is not yet developed and we were standing in a huge savanna normally under water. We retraced our walk along the river but continued further eastward into an area of cypress knees well over our heads some well over Henderson's 6 foot height. We walked along the creek exploring areas normally underwater we saw many birds overhead including an eagle. The cypress trees and knees were spectacular with their huge and quickly tapering trunks twisted into eerie shapes. Dinneen identified bear droppings which no one disputed. When asked about the gators, Brown talked about once finding one 13 feet + long and just 2 inches under the record. Gators, like bears and snakes hibernate in the cold in burrows and cave like structures along the banks. Tuesday was a very cold crisp day, perfect for hiking as long as you were sufficiently bundled up.
- #7 We traveled east and south and picked up the rail-trail which is not yet completed Stopped at a hunting camp which actually has running water from the kind of pump in the old western movies, but



Clay Henderson leaning on a cypress knee

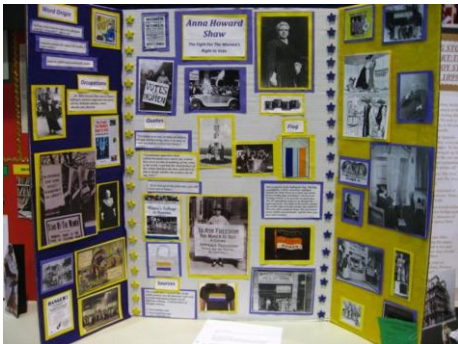
also like my Aunt Jenny had at #9 Plantation in Ormond when I visited her. The water tasted like iron, just like what I grew up with on little Lake Dot in Orlando in the 40s and 50s. We walked down the trail to an old railroad trestle with the huge piling still standing and the water under it was just a trickle, but the rails were high in the air indicating the more normal water level. We all had to look up to see the high water mark on all the trees. Dineen and Brown were busy trying to find old bottles; Storch climbed a rickety monitoring perch to capture an overhead view of the trails and trestle. There are plans to add horse trails next to the hiking/biking trails.

#8 We returned to the office and enjoyed a box lunch from Heavenly Ham. As we finished, a helicopter landed. Pat asked if we would have time to take a helicopter over view of the area. Dennis and I jumped at the opportunity. Up above it was much easier to get a feel for the vastness of the acreage which is bound on the northeast by the "Restoration" proposed development in Edgewater, on the east by parts of I-95 around the 442 interchange and to the southeast and south by Frank Ford's property and Brevard county; on the west by the St John's River; and on the north and northwest by private poverty and a small part of route 46 and Pell road. *By Pat Gadbow & pictures from Pat Northey*

## **2011 Volusia County Social Studies Fair Special Awards from LWVVC**

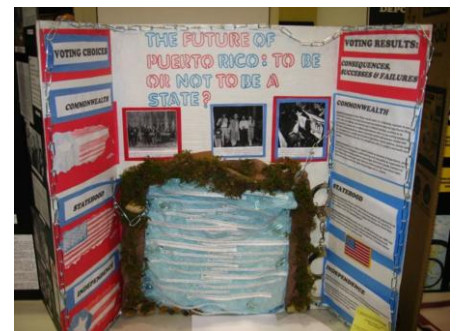
*LWVVC judges: Dr. Len Lempel and Ms. Rindy Nyberg*

Marina Bunn  
"King Akenaten's Rule vs. U.S. President Lincoln's Rule"  
Coronado Beach Elementary  
Ms. Donovan's 4th grade class



Armani Jackson  
"Anna Howard Shaw: The Fight  
for Women's Right to Vote"  
Campbell Middle School  
D. Hallet's class

Jovan Toscano  
"The Future of Puerto Rico: To Be or  
Not to Be a State"  
Pine Ridge High School  
Mrs. Jones' 9th grade class



## Observer Corps

### ***Volusia County Council, January 6, 2011***

At the first meeting of the year Calendar for Council Meetings was discussed and approved. The Council welcomed their new member, Joyce Cusack, and Pat Northey was selected to be Vice-chair.

County Manager(CM) James Dinneen spoke to the need to do more with less this coming year, difficult decisions, and county's responsibility to protect the citizens.

Final hearing held for change of zoning on 5 properties to Conservation. All owned by the county and/or St. John's River Water Management District. No public comment requested.

Veteran's Memorial Bridge on Orange Ave., Daytona Beach—The County is responsible for maintenance. Research completed and a public hearing was held in the fall—The decision was that due to age (50 years) replacement is proper action. DOT will provide the largest share of funding and stimulus funds may still be available. Gerald Brinton gave an interesting presentation on pros, cons and costs of 3 models of the bridge---low, high rise, or movable. Seven people gave public comments and council members had questions and ideas. Council opted for high-rise bridge because of the lowest maintenance costs.

**January 20 Discussion on naming Lefler Property**---it will be called Deep Creek Preserve. Several council members hoped there could be a process for naming public structures and properties. All felt that it was important that county be recognized when they help with funding. CM Dineen asked that a policy be developed for future naming-- Dave Byron will develop plan to share with council.

**Mini Budget Workshop**---subject was mini budget schedule and use of budget credits. This is a new mechanism for budget year. CM Dineen is not in favor of 1 time cuts and thinks removing a certain amount each year makes it easier to plan. \$5 million was the advised amount and once the debt service is paid less will have to be withheld. Dineen believes the County may be last resort in safety net as long as state keeps reducing funds for services. He seeks direction from council. Chair Bruno recommended budget workshops. The schedule was approved and there will be public notice.

**Echo Gallery at Ocean Center.** Seeking approval of Gallery Selection Committee. There was some dissatisfaction and concerns among the council members for the process for selection of exhibits, irregular hours, and security (some of the exhibits are very valuable). Because of the concerns, decision was made to approve only a 6 month interim process so there can be exhibits. Staff is to develop plan addressing concerns and return to council.

**February 3** New EVAC contract discussed. Contract includes county over-sight. EVAC must operate in the "Sunshine". It is updating software to allow more efficient billing and collection. The Council has hopes of consolidation but cities have concerns including local identity and pension systems. Council will work toward meeting with elected officials from the towns and cities to iron out concerns. The contract before council was approved unanimously.

**New Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** Selection of a firm for construction, management and general contracting service for the new EOC. Three firms had been selected by a selection committee--Welbro, Ajax and PPI. Each firm was given 20 minutes to present and council then asked questions. One of major concerns was a firm's commitment to hire local sub-contractors and purchase locally. Council was then given sheet with firms names and asked to rate each firm 1, 2, or 3 as to their preference. Each council member's ratings were read aloud, the numbers were totaled and the bid was awarded to Ajax.

**Feb. 17 Commuter rail (sun-rail) joint agreement.** George Rechtenwald made the presentation. He had met with DOT and ironed out most of concerns. Motion to approve--unanimous approval.

**Report on Growth management commission**--rules of procedure. Staff states that there must be a public hearing on the full document. Identified 5 issues that require direction from the council and asked that each issue be voted on. It was also noted that everyday there are changes from Tallahassee. Each issue was discussed and voted on.

**ECHO funding and program**--this item had been scheduled time certain for after 11am but had not been heard by 4:30 and unfortunately I could not stay longer.

**Linda**

**Burgher**

### **Edgewater City Council 2/7**

- Passed R2011-03 draft form allowing residents to contribute \$12.00 annually to a city scholarship program encouraging higher education for graduating high school students as well as providing additional funds to local elementary schools.

### **New Smyrna Beach City Commission 2/13**

- Passed Fairmont and Westwood Avenue stormwater improvements.
- Passed enclave annexation interlocal agreement with Volusia County for thirteen enclaves, comprising ten acres authorized by section 171.046 (2) Florida Statutes. 2144 Sundance Trail, 3148, 3140, 3128, 3132, 720 Wren Ave, 3120 Sundance Trail, 3112, 27 Minnow Drive, 333 Glencoe Road south, 325, 411, 415, 1889 SR44 parcel , 1889 SR44 parcel 2; 1981 Waterford Estates Drive, 1971, 1960, 1990, 1980, 1970, 1941, 1931, 2020, 2411 Glenmore Ct, 2051 Waterford Estates Dr, unassigned address on Rossmore Ct, and enclave 140 Finley St.
- Passed O 01-11 LDR amendment for C R A special parking district, to sundown.
- passed O 04-11 annexing 81 acres north and south of Paige Avenue, east of south Glencoe Rd.
- passed O 08-11 LDR allowing billiard halls in shopping malls.
- passed 09-11 LDR, correcting errors and omissions in O 21-09 incorporating transportation Impact Analysis guidelines methodology;
- Passed O 11-11 amending Master Planned Unit Development (PUD) agreement with Shelden Rubin, Trustee for 72 acres located north of SR44 and east and west of I05 to establish a separate PUD on the west side of I-95 consisting of 47.2 acres and making other revisions.
- allowed Joseph Richenburg, to do Eagle Scout project of a 24 by 12 foot tiki hut at Inlet Shores Park.
- allowed city to enter into a fifty-fifty special agreement with home owners on Fairmont and Westwood Avenues for paving, setting an assessment district by ordinance at a later date, also North Street can be added, have fifty per cent approval from land owners at present time.

**2/22**

- *Special meeting:* discussed request for proposals for development by sale or lease of city property at 103 Faulker St. The Community Redevelopment Act (CRA) has had inquires to move forward.
- *Regular meeting:* Passed R 09-11 declared certain carbine rifles and surplus property to be donated to Bunnell and Edgewater for law enforcement use.
- R 12-11 suspending application fees for voluntary annexations, 1/22/2011 to 2/21/2013;
- R 07-11 uniform method of collecting roadway paving non-ad valorem special assessment levied on lots adjoining 2600 blocks of Fairmont and Westwood Avenues.
- lengthy discussion of charging for parking at the boat launch on the north causeway, plus 27th street lot and Flagler Ave lot as work progresses on these and maintenance changes hands on the latter two from Volusia County to the city with the possibility of parking kiosks,
- Off street metered parking areas passed 18-11 on first reading, to be refined before second reading.

*Nora Jane Gillispie*

### **Ormond City Commission -February 1, 2011**

The Commission acted as the Community Redevelopment Agency. As such they approved close to 10,000 for underground utilities for the downtown corridor. They also rejected prior bids for signage that had been approved with CRA funding. These bids had to be rejected because DOT would not approve the size of the lettering. A revised signage resolution was brought to a first reading and passed.

First Reading of a revision to the general regulations of Historic Districts of the Land Development Code passed unanimously. Fees associated with minor alterations were deleted and guidelines established appropriateness of demolition and alterations.

Also passed was a Tax abatement resolution for three years for a local company in Ormond hiring local citizens.

*Maritza Patterson*

### **Port Orange City Council, February**

Mori Hosseini offered a \$5000 donation to the city for the purpose of conducting a gun buy-back program in the city. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Hosseini let the city manager know that the donation could be used for other purposes. After a 20 minute discussion, the council voted to use the money for gun safety courses for children and adults.

*Summer*

*Clayton*

### **DeBary, Preparations for SunRail**

The City adopted revisions to its Land Development Code on December 29, 2010 to allow for Transit Oriented Development (TOD). Transit Oriented Development is the functional integration of land use and transit. It is a land use planning concept that promotes a mix of residential, commercial, office and public uses, all within a comfortable walking distance to maximize access to public transportation, and incorporates features to encourage transit ridership.

These revisions are in the form a (TOD) Overlay District around the Ft. Florida commuter rail station in the southeast portion of the City.

The (TOD) Overlay District is an incentive based option and is not required. The overlay district serves as an opt-in, incentive based district that overlays but does not supersede existing zoning or land use districts. Incentives for developing under the TOD Overlay District include the elimination of the Planned Unit Development zoning requirement, higher densities, increased building heights, additional permitted land uses, and reduced parking and stormwater management requirements. The City may also consider other incentives for development under the TOD Overlay District alternative development option, including but not limited to economic incentives, expedited permitting, and development and infrastructure standards to enhance the physical and economic feasibility of transit-oriented and pedestrian-friendly development.

*Ken Fischer*

### **City of Daytona Beach**

The Wed. 2/16/2011 Daytona Beach City Commission meeting started at 6 p.m., & closed at 9:40. All 6 commissioners, the Mayor, City Clerk, Manager, and Attorney were present. Tone was professional, two opportunities for public input and comment, which were well used (~10 members of public spoke). 9 page agenda.

After presentation of beautification and commercial awards, the Ortona Elementary School principal made a presentation on a recent \$730,000 information technology grant it received (used in 5 schools), which enables (inter alia) kids to design their own programs which can be posted on the web. Very impressive.

Public comment, a pot pourri of thanks, grievances, suggestions, historical info: Concern re fluoridation. Announcement of upcoming Green Trends conference at Plaza Resort, the first "green" resort in the area. Thanks from Boy & Girls Club, which has major federal grant for to help students with academics. Invitation from historical society to a lecture series featuring local entrepreneurs. Request from taxi cab drivers for designated wait/pick-up stands. Urge support for upcoming Mary McLeod Bethune Educational and Cultural Festival. Concern that City's "seal" needs revamping.

Major items on the consent agenda: City OK'd to apply for \$1M grant for park building and amenities from Fla. Communities Trust. & for \$1.1M from US HUD for neighborhood stabilization grant [with comment from mayor: "we need Plan B if we don't get this"]

Discussion agenda: Different views on future role/necessity for "Community Relations Council," established in years past in response to race-related crisis. Few members now show up, therefore no quorum; members seek guidance about their charge, & inquire if body should be disbanded. Several options discussed, no decision.

Land use/public hearing: rezoning of ~15A for planned commercial development (Williamson North Professional Center) recommended by Planning Board, unanimously approved 7-0.

Administrative items: Staff summarized contents of revised RFP for beach pier restaurant (25 min. discussion), after long discussion re appropriate content of financial info sought from bidders. The Boardwalk business group presented a compromise proposal for motorcycle access & parking during Bike Week, but it was voted down 5-2 after long back-and-forth (including a fair amount of confusion re the particulars of the proposal). Again, following discussion to clarify the issues and options, a resolution was passed to give the formal 180 day intent-to-terminate the EMS dispatch service notice to the County; this leaves the matter open to various approaches before 9/30/2011.

Appointments: Several made without issue, based on staff recommendations.

Citizen and Elected Officials Comment: Concerns were expressed about lack of code enforcement, continuation of certain children's programs, and a matter involving police for B-CU. This observer had to depart at 8:30, a good hour before this lengthy meeting ended.

Later Addendum: A good write up with some background on the major issues, appeared in the Feb. 17 Daytona Beach News-Journal, Sec.C.

*Jody Williams*