

**DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc.**  
**Ninth Birthday Dinner Celebration**  
**Tuesday, August 11, 2020**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Amy Munizzi, President welcomed everyone and thanked Jimmy Hawkins for helping to set up everything at the Christian Church at DeLeon Springs for our evening together. Pastor Doug Knight offered the prayer. Approximately 25 members and guests enjoyed dinner and fellowship, and then everyone introduced themselves. The evening included a reception for the 2020 DSCA, Inc. \$1,000 Merit Scholarship winner Jenny Rodriguez and her parents Maribel and Irineo, who were honored with a cake and Jenny was presented a Certificate of Award. She shared some information about herself, including how she chose her future goals. Jenny, who had a 4.0 grade point average and ranked 24th in her graduating class, will major in Nursing/Health Sciences at University of North Florida beginning in September. Members wished her well, offered words of wisdom and encouraged her to stay in touch with us.

Secretary Colleen Kurczi stated the June 9<sup>th</sup> minutes (no July meeting) were e-mailed to members and are posted on the website. Andrea Smiley moved approval; Jim Simmons seconded and the motion passed.

“Accomplishments” review: Amy handed out a page showing what we have accomplished so far this year. It’s quite impressive, including our upcoming MES backpack give away, awarding THREE Ride Into Reading bicycles and a college scholarship. We also hosted a Water Quality community meeting with Volusia County Utilities and helped our community understand the FDEP’s mandates for spring shed areas, put in place to reduce pollution. Amy thanked everyone for their enthusiasm, time and donations in support of the activities we do to better our community. (The list will be on our website and is included here).

Additional Information:

Autumn in the Oaks Art, Music and Crafts Festival update: Amy stated that we are excited to have a new location that has been offered for this event, which is much larger than the previous location, is fenced and has a new stage that has just been built that is also larger than what we had before. Due to virus concerns, many events like this have been delayed and the DSCA, Inc. Board felt it best to hold off until this concern is past. Once we have a new date, we’ll begin gearing up to present another excellent event for our community.

McInnis Elementary School has a new Principal, Mr. Paul Struska and new Assistant Principal Joselyn Baker.

Amy announced we have received enough funds to purchase 80 backpacks and with additional funds we are purchasing some of the school supplies to fill them. CCDS members have also donated school supplies, Volusia County Emergency Management donated hygiene packets and Family Health Source donated hand sanitizers for all the backpacks. We will fill the backpacks next week and then Colleen and Amy will deliver them to the school.

Jim Simmons gave some information about the Little Free Lending Library at DeLeon Springs United Methodist Church and the food pantry they continue to offer, free of charge to the MES service area.

Andrea Smiley stated she is still holding off on collecting coupons for Troopons Coupons for Soldiers or used cell phones and accessories for Cell Phones for Soldiers. She encouraged everyone to continue holding them for future donation.

Robin Knight shared that the Friends of DSSP are hosting a plant sale in front of the park on Tuesdays.

Amy handed out the Summer DeLeon Dispatch and encouraged everyone to take additional copies as needed. The e-edition is on our website.

Next DSCA, Inc. General Meeting: Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> (which was subsequently moved to the 15<sup>th</sup>) 6:00 p.m., The Christian Church At DeLeon Springs, 4481 Mills Rd.

## Happy Ninth Birthday DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc.!

### Here's what you've accomplished so far in 2020:

#### **JANUARY:**

Hosted our Annual Visioning Meeting to review what we previously hosted and supported to enrich our community; received input from members for what they would dedicate resources to in 2020.

Posted the DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship Application and Criteria to our website, and sent it out to the press, local schools and organizations.

Coordinated with Volusia County Utilities to facilitate a date and location for a public meeting to discuss wastewater options for pollution reduction in the DeLeon Springs Springshed Basin.

#### **FEBRUARY:**

Hosted a Water Quality Informational Meeting in conjunction with Volusia County, Jones Edmunds Consulting, DeLand Utilities and others to inform our community about Basin Management Action Plans and other legislation designed to help protect our drinking water quality and beloved DeLeon Spring from further pollution. Nearly 50 people attended to observe educational displays, hear the options before us, and have a lively question, answer and discussion time.

#### **MARCH:**

Published the Spring Edition of the DeLeon Dispatch Newsletter.

Designed, donated and completed the "McInnis Elementary School Media Center Landscape Project" in conjunction with Cutting Edge Grounds and Lawn Maintenance who donated their services. Volunteers removed overgrown, invasive vegetation and a dead tree, then replanted flowers, waterwise sod and plants; installed gravel and patio stones, and reinstalling picnic tables and benches, to create a new outdoor gathering space for staff, children and families.

Agreed to sponsor the Chuck Lennon Park Hiking Trail, designed and created by Volusia County Parks and Recreation and Kevin Phelps.

#### **APRIL:**

DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship Board met (virtually due to virus-related meeting restrictions) and chose Taylor High School senior Jenny Rodriguez as the 2020 scholarship recipient. DSCA, Inc. members voted to fund the scholarship at \$1,000.00, with contributions from donations in memory of Archibald Clifford "Cliff McInnis.

#### **MAY:**

Attended the Volusia County Council meeting and spoke in support of the passing of the acceptance of a \$2.5 million dollar FDEP grant for water and wastewater lines to be brought to the downtown area of DeLeon Springs, in conjunction with the FDEP's Basin Management Action Plan to protect water quality and reduce nitrogen loads from septic systems.

Participated in the McInnis Elementary School Adopt a Family program, along with the Christian Church At DeLeon Springs, purchasing well over \$1,500 worth of food that MES staff delivered to local families in need. Ministry Linaje Escogido also delivered food, and the DeLand MOMs Club also contributed funds.

Purchased goodie bag and party items for all 54 fifth grade students, then participated in the McInnis Elementary School Fifth Grade Car Line Celebration to honor each graduate.

Awarded the 2020 DeLeon Springs Merit Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000, to Taylor High Senior Jenny Rodriguez, via their Virtual Awards Ceremony. Jenny is a DeLeon Springs resident and will attend UNF to study Nursing and Health Sciences.

Met with Volusia County Parks and Recreation, and Volusia County Environmental Management staff regarding rerouting the completed Chuck Lennon Park Hiking Trail away from an osprey/eagle nest and to get the new trail under construction so the public may enjoy these public-funded lands.

### **JUNE:**

Presented THREE new DSCA, Inc. Ride into Reading Third Grade Challenge bicycles at the homes of McInnis Elementary School top scoring girls Laurel Ashley with 706 points and Abigail Kavanah with 609 and top scoring boy Alejandro Santiago with 302 points. Students were awarded new bicycles, certificates, and each received a helmet donated by JC's Bikes & Boards. 100% of the 3rd grade students participated in this Challenge. This is the seventh year DSCA, Inc. has sponsored this challenge and marks 15 bicycles and helmets that have been awarded.

Sponsored another Adopt-A-Family Food Drive for McInnis Elementary School families in need.

Began building the new stage at "Spring Garden Place" in anticipation of future festivals.

### **JULY:**

Sponsored the Town of Pierson's July 4<sup>th</sup> Family Fun Celebration

Published the Summer Edition of the DeLeon Dispatch Newsletter.

### **AUGUST:**

Hosted a birthday dinner to celebrate DSCA, Inc.'s nine years of service to the community of DeLeon Springs, and a reception for DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship winner Jenny Rodriguez who was awarded her Certificate and a \$1,000 college scholarship.

Sponsored a DSCA, Inc. Backpack Drive in conjunction with the Christian Church at DeLeon Springs with a goal to purchase and deliver 60 backpacks to McInnis Elementary School students, filled with school supplies and hygiene items in time for the 2020-2021 school year's "Meet Your Teacher" event.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS ENRICHED OUR COMMUNITY BY CONTRIBUTING YOUR TIME, TALENT, MONEY, ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT!**

Not yet a member?

Please join us and be part of the revitalization of DeLeon Springs.

Visit our website's "Join Us" tab at:

[www.deleonspringscommunityassociation.com](http://www.deleonspringscommunityassociation.com) to learn more.