

City manager beams over recent award

By Shemir Wiles

Inverness City Manager Frank DiGiovanni took the opportunity during Tuesday's city council meeting to share his excitement about the city being named the 2009 City of the Year.

The veterans honor organization, the 40 & 8, presented the award to DiGiovanni on Sept. 11 in Rochester, N.Y., during the organization's annual meeting.

DiGiovanni was accompanied by Bob Plaisted, mayor of Inverness, and Debbie Davis, city clerk.

DiGiovanni spoke about how honored and humbled he was by the city receiving the honor. It was an incredible experience, he said, and was overcome with emotion as a room of 600 veterans stood to recognize and applaud the city of Inverness.

Speaking briefly, Davis said the award was a huge accomplishment and "very honorable." Plaisted said he was impressed by the standing ovation.

"It was a grand honor," he said.

In addition to commentary on the award, Assistant City Manager Tom Dick also unveiled a sign that will greet motorists entering the city. In green letters, the sign says "City of the Year 2009 by 40 & 8 veterans support." In the background, the head of an American bald eagle bursts through an American flag.

DiGiovanni also said an inaugural event to kickoff Cooterfest will be held where 40 & 8 members will be present in uniform.

Also at Tuesday's meeting:

— Council members present unanimously voted to appoint longtime Inverness resident David Ryan to the code enforcement board. Council president Marti Consuegra was not present.

— Council voted unanimously to allow the closure of U.S. 44 for the Christmas parade.

— Council members unanimously decided on a repayment schedule for a state revolving fund loan agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation pertaining to the construction of the waste water treatment plant.

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