



## City of Eustis News Release

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Commissioner James T. Rotella

*For Immediate Release –*

*News Release 14/08  
February 13, 2008*

### **Eustis' Parent-Oriented Funding assists local children's programs**

EUSTIS – On February 7, 2008, the Eustis City Commission conducted a workshop to hear presentations from local children's programs who applied for funding assistance through the City's Parent-Oriented Funding program.

During the Regular City Commission Meeting that followed, City Commissioners discussed and made the difficult decision on how to best distribute available funds, budgeted at \$40,000, to these organizations that provide Eustis children with recreational programs.

The amount provided to each organization was based on the number of Eustis children served, the amount of funding received from other sources, and the amount of the initial request to the City.

The consensus of the Eustis City Commission was to distribute the \$40,000 as follows:

- \$13,864 – Eustis Jr. Panther Football League: Dr. John Radnothy explained that out of the estimated 220 children in the Jr. Panther League, 200 of them will be Eustis residents. The program has been active for over 12 years and provides children lessons in life, teamwork, football, and other sports.
- \$20,796 – Eustis Little League, Inc.: David Griswold presented the Commission the Little League's program which serves children between the ages of 5 through 14. Of the estimated 600 children that participate in the program, 300 are estimated to be Eustis children. This program requires improvements to the fields leased from Lake County School Board and their ongoing program costs.
- \$3,674 – Eustis Middle School Band Boosters: Jim Beyer presented the Commission the Band Boosters request for funding. Of the estimated 149 children in the program, 53 are estimated to be Eustis residents. Funding will be used to purchase new musical instruments, travel costs, and other activity costs.
- \$1,664 – Tri-City Ballers: Walter Canady spoke to the Commission about the association's goals and expenses. Out of an estimated 60 children in the program, approximately 24 will be Eustis residents. The Tri-City Ballers program takes gifted athletes, between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and teaches them basketball skills, lessons in life and academics. This non-profit organization's main expenses include tournament costs, travel expenses, and uniforms.

Eustis Parent-Oriented Funding is intended to provide assistance to non-profit, parent-oriented recreation organizations that operate within the city and provide activities and services to Eustis youth. Only those programs that include Eustis youth are eligible to participate in this program and amounts awarded are intended to help pay for the Eustis children. In order to compete for these funds, an organization must complete a formal application and provide all accompanying information. The grant submission timeframe is normally early November thru December.

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