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Mayor touts Easter Egg hunt; City of Fanning Springs provides City of Old Town with piped-in water



Mayor Howell 'Trip' Lancaster III said the Easter Egg hunt by the Chamber of Commerce was a success.

**Story and Photo
By Terry Witt, Senior
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FANNING SPRINGS -
- Fanning Springs Mayor Howell "Trip" Lancaster III said Tuesday night (April 11) that the decision not to use city fire funds to pay for

the annual Easter Egg hunt resulted from a safety review that found \$500,000 would be needed to replace aging equipment used by firefighters on the Fanning Springs (volunteer) Fire Rescue Department.

The city's volunteer fire department has traditionally sponsored the Easter Egg hunt but Lancaster, speaking at the regular monthly City Council meeting, said he and Interim Fire Chief Roy Bass felt that because of the unsafe condition of fire equipment, the money would be better spent saving lives rather than funding the egg hunt.

Lancaster said the Easter Egg hunt conducted by the Fanning Springs Chamber of Commerce was a success. The Easter Egg hunt by the Chamber was in conjunction with a ski show and movie at Fort Fanning Park, which that Chamber held.

Lancaster said the Fire Department's second fire truck has a blown engine that would cost \$25,000 to repair, but the truck is so old and in such disrepair that it's not worth fixing.

IN OTHER NEWS

In other news from the once-a-month Fanning Springs City Council meeting:

- Councilman Tommy J. Darus III said Duke Energy plans to replace about 10 to 12 street lights with LED lights in the park and visitation areas of the city.

- Mayor Lancaster said the proposed band shell is on hold until donors come forward with money to fund the project.

- The mayor said an archaeological study has been completed at the site of a planned hotel. The hotel's owner paid for the study. The Seminole tribe must be contacted with a second letter to find out if the tribe has any concerns. Lancaster said a couple of arrowheads and shards of pottery were found.

- Lancaster said 100 percent of the project to provide City of Fanning Springs' drinking water to the City of Old Town has been completed. He wasn't sure of the number of hookups, but he said Old Town residents who have hooked to the system are pleased they have clean drinking water. Old Town had problems with arsenic contamination and needed a clean drinking water source, he said. Fanning Springs is piping water north to the other side of the Suwannee River to the growing unincorporated town. Fanning Springs City Council members believe supplying water to Old Town will increase water revenues for the City of Fanning Springs.