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Three Fanning Springs leaders honored for service



Fanning Springs Mayor Trip Lancaster presents retiring City Councilman Ron Queen with a plaque recognizing his four years on the board.



Former Fanning Springs Mayor Jim White is presented the Lifetime Achievement Award by Fanning Springs Chamber of Commerce President Mike Michaelis as Mayor Trip Lancaster (left) and Chamber Vice President Tom Andresen (far right) look on. Andresen is holding a plaque that will bear the names of future winners.

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Doyle Frierson, retiring superintendent of operations for the city of Fanning Springs (center) accepts the Outstanding Service Award from Fanning Springs Chamber of Commerce President Mike Michaelis (right) as Mayor Trip Lancaster (left) is present for the event.

Story and Photos

By Terry Witt, Senior Staff Writer © Nov. 9, 2017 at 3:17 p.m.

FANNING SPRINGS -- Two longtime public servants in the City of Fanning Springs and a retiring City Council member were recognized Tuesday evening (Nov. 7) for their work on behalf of the city.

Jim White, former mayor of the city, was given the Lifetime Service Award for his 42 years of work for Fanning Springs, and Doyle Frierson, retiring superintendent of operations was given the Outstanding Service Award.

Councilman Ron Queen, who is vacating his seat to move back to Delaware for health and family reasons was honored for his four years on the council.

Fanning Springs Mayor Howell E. "Trip" Lancaster III said it was White who first approached his grandfather former State Rep. Howell E. Lancaster Sr., with a request to have Fanning Springs incorporated as a city.

"He is part of the reason there is a town," Mayor Lancaster said.

Fanning Springs Chamber of Commerce President Mike Michaelis presented White with a plaque and showed him a second plaque that will honor future lifetime service winners. White is listed as the first recipient.

"I thank you. I was honored to serve," White said.

Frierson also received high praise for his work with the city, first as a contract employee and later as superintendent of operations. Lancaster said he always got

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straight answers from Frierson and he appreciated his honesty. Michaelis also gave Frierson an award.

Frierson, who will soon retire, said he appreciated the city allowing him to work “all those years, “especially Mr. Jim.”

Councilwoman Barbara Locke said the loss of Frierson will leave a void in the city. “It’s not going to be the same,” she said.

Frierson was working for the city when the water system was installed. He was in charge of water and sewer, roads and dog-catching as the city’s superintendent of operations and only outside employee.

Queen said Delaware, his home state, has some of the most pristine beaches in the world. He said it was the first state to sign to United States Constitution.

As a parting gift, Queen gave the Fanning Springs Volunteer Fire Department a check for \$1,000 on behalf of Fanning Springs AmVets Post 422.

Queen said he was happy to see so many people turn out for the council meeting.

“It was an honor to serve this city,” he said. “In some small way, I hope I made a difference in Fanning Springs.”