TIME CAPSULE SUPPLEMENT

* **HISTORY** 
  + As you know, history is very important to Dunedin. Included in the time capsule are two books on the history and imagery of Dunedin and how it has developed its charm over time. Growth and development have been very intentional in providing structures that fit with the look and feel of our town. Over the last few decades, our community has indeed changed from a very sleepy beach town to a robust area with shops, restaurants, and events that provide entertainment for locals and visitors alike.

* **ARTS & CULTURE** 
  + Included in the time capsule are several items relating to our Scottish heritage. Our relationship with our Sister City in Stirling, Scotland was developed in 1964. This relationship came about due to Dunedin’s rich Scottish history (you can learn more about the History in the books here). We strive to honor and grow this cultural distinction through support of the many Scottish civic groups, including the Scottish Arts Foundation, Scottish American Society, the New World Celts, and the Dunedin Highland Dancers. We are proud of our City’s Pipe Band in recently earning the distinction of World Champions in Grade 2 in 2018 and North American Champions in Grade 1 in 2019. We hope the achievements and celebration of Scottish culture in Dunedin have grown and been embraced these last 50 years.
  + Public Art is a cornerstone of our community. In 2023, we had several key public art projects completed, including the painting of the Curlew Water Tower with “Sylvia and Henry” and the installation of “The See” at the New City Hall. These public art projects were a result of committee feedback and artist selection to best represent Dunedin. Sylvia and Henry, painted by Tom Stovall, represents Sylvia Earle on one side, renowned oceanographer and marine biologist, calling special attention to Earle’s designation of Dunedin as the home of the Gulf Coast’s Hope Spot. And Henry pays homage to Henry Scharrer, settler and resident of Caledesi Island, where native gopher tortoises call home. Each piece of public art is inextricably tied to the Dunedin Community and creates a sense of place and pride. “The See”, by artist Heath Satow, is a piece where every resident and visitor of the community can see themselves reflected in the Community. The idea behind the piece is a contemporary interpretation of a water droplet to remind viewers they are a part of something larger. A single drop alone can’t impact change, but enough drops together can be the catalyst for great change. The artist related this to many drops making an ocean, much like many individuals coming together to create a city. Many of our businesses and residents have included public art as part of their buildings and property, which has created Dunedin’s unique vibe. We hope public art continues to be woven into the fabric of the community in 2072 through the foundation we laid through the implementation of the Public Art Master Plan, adopted in 2018, and the execution of landmark public art.
* **TORONTO BLUE JAYS** 
  + The Toronto Blue Jays have called Dunedin home since 1977, when they moved to our small town. At the date of this writing, they are the only Major League Baseball franchise to have never changed where they play their Spring Training baseball. In the months of February and March, Dunedin explodes with Spring Training Major League players and baseball fans.
  + TD Ballpark, as it is named in 2023, was originally called Dunedin Stadium at Grant Field. Grant Field opened in 1930 and was named after a former mayor of Dunedin, Albert J. Grant (served 1927-1928), who had donated the land. The first Toronto Blue Jays game was played at Grant Field on March 11, 1977, when the Blue Jays beat the New York Mets 3-1. From 1977-1989, the Blue Jays played at Grant Field, which had a seating capacity of 3,417. The stadium has also been known as Knology Park (2004-2008) and Florida Auto Exchange Stadium (2010-2017).
  + In 2019, the Blue Jays began a stadium renovation with the announcement that TD Bank had acquired naming rights for the renovated stadium and would be named TD Ballpark. The $102 million renovation included upgrading seating capacity from 5,500 to 8,500, adding a 360-degree concourse around the outfield, an air-conditioned bar, suites and VIP seating, new concessions areas, restrooms, a Jays shop, conditioning equipment, and training areas.
  + The Player Development Complex, located on Solon Avenue, was also upgraded and tripled in size. As of the renovation, it includes six full-size fields (one with synthetic turf), five-bay and seven-bay batting cages, two 10-pack gang mounds, and a new half-field. The 110,000 sq. ft. two-story clubhouse/administration building includes a 10,000 sq. ft. weight room; eight locker rooms, two dining rooms, and two training rooms; three sports labs, two fuel bars, a movement studio, and a barber; a variable depth pool, plunge pools, and a sauna; classrooms; large conference rooms; several huddle rooms and call rooms; all of the administration offices; and staff collaboration spaces.
  + Discussions between the City and the Blue Jays began in September 2014, and the success of the negotiations was important for the local economy, as it is estimated that the stadium and training complex generate $80.3 million in economic benefits annually. In 2017, ahead of the renovation, the Blue Jays signed a new 25-year agreement with Dunedin to keep Major League Baseball in town. The partnership has been beneficial for the entire community, serving as an economic driver, attracting tourists, and enhancing business revenues.
* **BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT**
  + Entrepreneurs make up the backbone of our business community. You’ll find a Chamber of Commerce business directory included in the time capsule. How have businesses changed over the years? In 2023, breweries, restaurants, retail, and service businesses create the Dunedin community vibe and collaborate to sponsor annual events like Mardi Gras, St. Patrick’s Day, Día de los Muertos, Pride, holiday events, and many more celebrations and festivals. Additional business corridors serve residents and visitors outside of our thriving downtown area – Patricia Avenue, the Causeway, and Skinner Blvd/S.R. 580. One of the significant topics being discussed in 2023 is the availability of affordable housing for employees who keep these businesses thriving. It is something of a new challenge that we hope has ultimately been addressed by 2072. There is a significant opportunity to impact the business and community environment through the potential development of the Coca Cola plant, which opened in the 1940s and processes orange juice for all of the McDonald’s franchises across the country. If you had an orange juice at a McDonalds while this plant was operational, it came from Dunedin. The plans for this 27.5-acre site are still undecided at the date of this writing, as the plant has been in discussion to close its doors in 2024.
* **COVID-19 PANEDEMIC**
  + In March 2020, the entire world shut down due to the global pandemic. The highly contagious and deadly COVID-19 virus shuttered businesses, closed schools, and minimized public gatherings – including public and City meetings. Teachers, parents, and students entered a new world of teaching and learning through remote or virtual classrooms. Employment shifted drastically across all sectors of business, with our own City employees working remotely and utilizing virtual platforms like Zoom and Teams. Commission Meetings were livestreamed through social media platforms like Facebook - allowing the public to engage through Zoom. Face masks, like the one included in the time capsule, became a requirement for many states and governments through passage of laws and mandates to serve as a level of protection for this deadly virus. Now, after what feels like an eternity but is only 3 years later, the world is back to business as usual for the most part. However, the virus persists and cases still pop up. Has the world of 2072 eradicated Covid-19?
* **CITY SERVICES**
  + **Library** –one of our most beloved assets is the Dunedin Public Library. It’s more than a place to read; it is a community gathering place to learn, engage, and grow. A Dunedin Library Card in 2023 gives you access to hundreds of thousands of physical materials, 5 platforms to read, listen, stream, and download digital materials, 21 electronic databases to research and learn, and over 3000 adult, teen, and youth programs that enrich and educate lives of all in and around Dunedin.
  + **Fire Rescue** – In 2023, we have three fire stations serving the community with fire rescue and emergency medical response. In 2021, we opened and dedicated our state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center on Belcher Road to provide a central incident command center to better serve the community during hurricanes and other emergency situations.
  + **Solid Waste & Recycling** – One of Dunedin’s premium services is solid waste and recycling. We know the future of waste management and recycling will be challenged and we hope that during these 50 years, technology and other innovations have improved our ability to minimize waste and improve recycling to support our environment and land ecosystems.
* **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
  + Gladys E. Douglas Preserve
    - The Gladys E. Douglas Preserve is a civic collaboration we are most proud of, which could have ended much differently. While Gladys Douglas was a well-known philanthropist in Dunedin and had wished to bequeath the property as a preserve, the action wasn’t solidified in her will. With the imminent sale of the property, a collaborative effort between the City, Pinellas County, and the public developed to save the land. With a $10 million price tag, the City had limited resources. The City redirected $2 million from a parking garage project and the County pledged $3.5 million. A private donation of $2 million was committed, leaving a balance of $4.5 million to be raised. The community banded together through road-side sign waiving and social media pleas, and through the fundraising capabilities of the Pinellas Community Foundation, was able to raise the required funds of $4.5 million, which included a second private donation of $2 million.
    - Preserving the initial 44 acres was just the first step in what we have at the Gladys Douglas Preserve. Adjacent to the property was the State owned 80.4-acre Jerry Lake, including some surrounding land. The state agency, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, requested the sale at the appraised value of $495,000.00. On April 19, 2022, the City Commission agreed to purchase the Jerry Lake property and provide a contiguous 125-acre preserved area for all future generations to enjoy.
    - On February 25, 2023, the ribbon cutting of Phase I of the Gladys Douglas Preserve took place. To prepare for Phase I, the City’s Parks and Recreation Department installed crushed concrete walking trails, cleaned and removed non-native invasive vegetation, and installed protective fences to ensure the wildlife and native vegetation, such as the Florida Rosemary Bald, remains protected for generations to come. As one of the largest protected areas in the County, we are proud of the work it took to save this land and we hope future generations have continued to love, enjoy, and protect this beautiful land.
    - The project was recognized by the Florida League of Cities in 2023 with a Local Action Award, which highlights a citywide effort that addresses a local need
  + **Golf Club of Dunedin**
    - What will the future of golf look like in 50 years? We don’t know, but we do hope that the historical significance of the community treasure Dunedin has in the Dunedin Golf Club have come to be appreciated and valued. The Dunedin Golf Club had a long history of being a private golf club since its opening on January 1, 1927. For nearly 20 years, this course served as the home of the PGA, hosting 18 Senior Tour Championships. The course was designed by world-renowned golf course architect Donald Ross, providing historical significance to this course.
    - As the golf course hit some challenging times, the City stepped in to take over operations of the Club in 2023. Through the transition, the City Commission dedicated funding towards the upcoming renovation of the golf tees and grounds to restore the Donald Ross characteristics. We are just beginning to walk in the first steps of this transition and the dedication towards preserving a Donald Ross inspired course. We hope the work we’ve begun today has continued to preserve this gem in our community to attract both top golf professionals and casual players, serve our community, and to host events and make memories.
  + **DREAM Plan**
    - The idea of Dunedin’s Resilient Environmental Action Master Plan (DREAM) came out of a collaborative effort between the City’s sustainability staff and the Committee on Environmental Quality in late 2019. Through a review of other municipalities’ environmental plans and best practices, the DREAM project team began setting milestones, including stakeholder feedback, community forums, data review, goal setting, and plan writing. On March 24, 2022, the City Commission adopted the DREAM plan, Resolution 22-07.
    - The DREAM plan lays out initiatives, projects, programs, and education for the community, including actions taken by residents, businesses, and the City. With more than 150 action items, the initial focus is on the first 15 actions taken toward implementation of this plan. The actions laid out in the plan are meant to guide projects and work productively toward advancing sustainability and resiliency in our community.
    - The DREAM plan was recognized in 2022 by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Future of the Region Awards with a First Place Award in Community Preparedness and Resiliency.
* **CITY HALL**
  + It was a long road to get to the finished product of City Hall; we hope, as you read this letter from the past, that it has lived up to its purpose of being a 100-year-old building that allows the City to collectively convene and serve our residents.

The development and discussion for the City Hall you see before you was the culmination of 20 years of discussion as to what was needed for the community and municipal government. Through 2020 and into 2021, plans were developed, discussed, tweaked, and presented in public forums in 17 public meetings. Collectively, the wave design was selected and the project moved forward. On March 31, 2021, the project was awarded to Manhattan Construction as a hard bid for $22.8 million. The project was funded primarily from the Penny for Pinellas Tax Fund with support from the building, utility, and CRA funds. While a bank loan was required for a short-term low interest rate of 1.3%, the building is scheduled to be fully paid for by 2029, leaving a legacy of good financial stewardship to those government servants following in our footsteps.

What was not known was the impact COVID-19 would have on the construction industry. As the world recovered from COVID, shortages of materials, labor, and shipping and transportation delays were felt across the globe. Due to the hard-bid contract, the City was able to maintain the cost as contracted and reduce escalations.

Features of the building include:

* A Solar Energy System, generating more than 216,000 kilowatts of solar power per year, reducing electric demand and creating a cost savings in annual utility bills.
* Energy efficient features on lighting systems were intentionally created through the design process, clean air systems and filters that were installed, electric vehicle charging stations, and the use of sustainable building materials where feasible, including natural stone and brick, bamboo flooring, and recycled finishes.
* Window striping was intentional for birds; also included were ~~as well as~~ several bike racks placed around the building, a water refill station, and recycling bins.
* The landscaping installed around the building includes 98% Florida Native plants and 100% Florida Friendly plants with low drip irrigation to reduce water waste and support wildlife.
* The adjacent surface parking lot surrounding the building has created 200 parking spaces, which provide convenience for residents and visitors during high-demand events and weekends.

The Grand Opening of the building was held on May 19, 2023, and celebrated all the hard work and highlighted the benefits of the building to residents. Bringing employees together has created efficiencies and has broken down barriers in departments we hope will continue as we operate as one City. Improved service to Dunedin residents was paramount in the purpose of the building, bringing together forward-facing service departments such as Utility Billing, Permitting, and Engineering. The invocation at the event was delivered by Pastor David Shelor, and a copy was included in the time capsule for remembrance of his words as to how this building is more than just business; it is a home to our community and serves as a physical place to unite us, celebrate our diversity, and reconcile our divisions.

* **THE DUNEDIN VIBE**
  + Golf Carts – at the time of this writing in 2023, more than 1,400 golf carts were registered in Dunedin. Golf carts are an important alternative transportation mode and provide the backdrop to several celebratory parades throughout the year. The City is currently reviewing the infrastructure plan to potentially expand the program’s boundaries and focus on golf cart safety and education.
  + Pinellas Trail – Data from the County confirmed Dunedin is the busiest section of the beloved 50-mile Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail. New trail markings and signs were installed in 2023 to help educate bikers, walkers, and runners to keep right and pass left. E-bikes were all the rage.
    - Dr. Beach named Caladesi Island #4 on Best Beaches in America in 2023. Honeymoon Island State Park attracts 1.25 million people annually and is one of Florida’s most popular beaches.
    - Veterans – In 2023, Dunedin had 13 Veteran monument markers/parks, including the Purple Heart Park; Dunedin was Florida’s first Purple Heart City dedicated by the Military Order of the Purple Heart in 2006.
* **BUILT ENVIROMENT**
  + Not long ago, the City Commission was very intentional in smart growth planning and development, which balanced business growth with maintaining Dunedin’s small-town charm and preserving historical homes and buildings. Some recent changes to Dunedin’s development/redevelopment leading up to 2023 include the adoption of mixed-use development and an overlay district south of downtown designed to preserve the history and character of Dunedin’s oldest neighborhoods. Since 2018, when the City adopted a historic preservation provision of Chapter 111 of the Land Development Code, there has been a renewed spirit to preserve and recognize our historical homes with a Historic Designation Plaque awarded through the City Commission and Historic Preservation Advisory Committee. To date, we currently have 20 homes with this local Historic Preservation designation and four homes on the National Register of Historic Places: The J.O. Douglas House (1880), Andrews Memorial Chapel (1888), Blatchley House (1916), and Dunedin Isles Golf Club (1926). We hope this program and the preservation of Dunedin’s unique history has grown in 2072.