



The Founders' GALA — GROVELAND, FLORIDA —

The Groveland Community Awards should recognize people, organizations, businesses, educators, volunteers, and public servants whose work reflects the City's strategic values in visible, lasting ways. Nominations should focus on demonstrated actions and outcomes within Groveland—not simply titles, popularity, or length of service.

General Eligibility and Nomination Standards

Nominees may include:

- Groveland non salaried team members, residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations, schools, educators, civic groups, volunteers, and community partners
- Individuals or organizations whose primary service, project, or impact occurred in Groveland
- People of any age, including youth nominees, who have made a meaningful contribution to the community
- Groups or teams whose collective work best represents a core value

Each nomination should include:

- Nominee's name, organization or affiliation, and contact information
- Award category being requested
- Nominator's name and contact information
- A clear description of the nominee's contribution, project, service, or achievement
- Specific examples of measurable or observable community impact
- The time period of the contribution, preferably within the previous 12 to 24 months, while allowing recognition of sustained lifetime service
- Supporting materials when available, such as letters of support, photographs, news coverage, project summaries, testimonials, or documented outcomes

Nominations should be evaluated on the **quality, consistency, and community impact** of the nominee's actions. A nominee may be considered for more than one category, but should receive recognition in the category that best represents their primary contribution.

ALL NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026.

Please forward to grovelandfoundersgala@gmail.com

Award Categories & Criteria

Vitality Award

"Creating Energy, Opportunity, and a Thriving Community"

Definition

Vitality reflects the passion, energy, innovation, and positive spirit that strengthen the organization and improve the quality of life for the Groveland community.

A nominee demonstrates Vitality by:

- Inspiring enthusiasm and optimism.
- Creating positive momentum within their team or the community.
- Encouraging innovation and creative thinking.
- Supporting employee wellness and organizational health.
- Improving the quality of life for residents.
- Demonstrating resilience and adaptability during change.
- Taking initiative to improve services or programs.
- Motivating others through a positive attitude.

Evidence may include:

- Launching a successful initiative.
- Improving employee or community engagement.
- Introducing creative solutions.
- Leading community events or programs.
- Increasing participation or collaboration.

Intentionality Award

"Leading with Purpose"

Definition

Intentionality means making thoughtful decisions that align with the City's mission, strategic priorities, and long-term vision.

A nominee demonstrates Intentionality by:

- Making decisions consistent with the Strategic Plan.
- Setting clear goals and following through.
- Demonstrating accountability for results.
- Using resources wisely.
- Planning proactively rather than reacting.
- Solving problems thoughtfully.
- Prioritizing long-term success over short-term convenience.

- Demonstrating consistency between words and actions.

Evidence may include:

- Completing strategic initiatives.
- Improving organizational efficiency.
- Responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources.
- Achieving measurable goals.
- Implementing long-term improvements.

Connectivity Award

"Building Relationships that Strengthen Groveland"

Definition

Connectivity reflects the City's commitment to collaboration, communication, and creating meaningful relationships throughout the organization and community.

A nominee demonstrates Connectivity by:

- Building trust across departments.
- Encouraging teamwork and collaboration.
- Developing strong relationships with residents.
- Listening respectfully to diverse perspectives.
- Creating partnerships with community organizations.
- Improving communication.
- Breaking down organizational silos.
- Bringing people together around common goals.

Evidence may include:

- Cross-department projects.
- Community partnerships.
- Improved citizen engagement.
- Successful conflict resolution.
- Strong collaborative leadership.

Knowledge Award

"Learning, Growing, and Sharing"

Definition

Knowledge reflects a commitment to continuous learning, professional excellence, innovation, and using information to improve City services.

A nominee demonstrates Knowledge by:

- Pursuing professional development.
- Sharing expertise with others.
- Mentoring coworkers.
- Using data to improve decisions.
- Seeking better ways to perform work.
- Encouraging innovation.
- Applying lessons learned.
- Promoting continuous improvement.

Evidence may include:

- Professional certifications or training.
- Process improvements.
- Mentoring colleagues.
- Data-driven decision making.
- New ideas that improve operations.

Heart Award

"Serving with Compassion"

Definition

Heart represents the City's commitment to compassion, kindness, integrity, respect, and genuine care for people.

A nominee demonstrates Heart by:

- Treating everyone with dignity and respect.
- Demonstrating empathy.
- Going above and beyond to help others.
- Supporting coworkers during challenges.
- Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment.
- Providing exceptional customer service.
- Building trust through kindness and fairness.
- Demonstrating humility and selflessness.

Evidence may include:

- Resident compliments.
- Peer recognition.
- Acts of service beyond normal responsibilities.
- Conflict resolution through empathy
- Extraordinary support through difficult situations