

2nd & Official Holy Family Groundbreaking Celebration
Holy Family Site – April 26, 2011
Mayor Van Johnson Remarks

I like to welcome and thank each of you for coming out this morning to take part in the official groundbreaking ceremony to adapt this old Spanish-style structure for reuse into a contemporary Senior Citizen Center.

The facility originally built in 1928, and operated as an outreach center and school for Blacks by three African-American sisters of the Holy Family Order of New Orleans until 1968 - where integration necessitated the schools closure.

One of the schools most notable Alumnus is Dr. Frederick Humphries, an Apalachicola native and former president of Florida A&M University.

The city purchased the property from the Catholic Church in 2004, using funds received from a Florida land acquisition program created to preserve and conserve the state's unique natural resources.

Through an ongoing effort to expand and improve city services, the building will now be adapted from its original use into a dedicated place to serve the needs of our senior population.

In addition, because of its prior use - an area inside will be set aside to display local African-American History and Culture.

None of which would be possible without the support received from our past and present Legislative Delegation, along with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the Florida Department of Communities Affairs, and the Franklin County Tourist Development Council.

Lastly and most importantly – I like to thank the residents of this community who embraced the project from the beginning and waited patiently for this moment. It's going to take your continued support and interest to sustain what we start here today.

Again, welcome and thank you!