

FRIDAY LETTER
February 16, 2007

Honorable Mayor Walters and Council Members:

The informational items for the week include:

ADMINISTRATION

Public Information Officer Susan Vernon-Devlin attended the Oviedo Winter Springs Regional Chamber of Commerce Business to Business Expo on Thursday. The Chamber announced it had over 140 new members as a result of the January membership drive. Ms. Vernon-Devlin also attended the State of the County presentation, along with other members of the City's management team.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police: Administration

Three new police officers, Ashley Jones, Matthew DePanics, and John DePasquale, were sworn in on Monday, February 12, at 11:00 a.m.

Police: Community Policing (Patrol & Traffic Operations)

Patrol criminal case summaries are prepared on a regular basis and forwarded to the PIO for editing/redaction and are posted to the Public Safety/Police City Web Site.

Police: Emergency Communications

This past week, Police emergency dispatchers handled 123 incoming emergency 9-1-1 calls in addition to about 1345 non-emergency citizen telephone contacts.

Police: Investigations & Community Response Team (CRT)

The last Friday Letter documented an Oviedo Police response to an Armed Robbery that occurred in the driveway of a Kingsbridge West residence. The victims had been targeted and followed home from a gun shop in another county. The armed suspects took 2 handguns from the victims, who were not physically harmed during the crime. Oviedo Detectives are pleased to report that one of the four suspects in the case already has been arrested. The investigation into the identities of the other suspects is ongoing. Anyone with information on this case can call CRIMELINE at 1-800-423-TIPS or Oviedo Detectives at 407- 971-5710.

Related to that robbery, Community Policing Officer Justin Varkony has been recognized as the 2nd recipient of our recently created "I Got 'Em" crime scene processing award. Officer Varkony's extra effort and dedication to processing the crime scene located latent fingerprints that resulted in a positive match to a suspect, giving detectives physical evidence which helped lead to the arrest. That supporting evidence will strengthen the prosecution and is a testament to the dedication of our officers who work every day to protect and serve the people of Oviedo.

Police: Community Relations & School Programs

The Community Relations Officer assisted with the Orientation Training for the newly hired police officers. The training provides the background of our Police Department and is the first segment of the new officers' training period.

The Community Relations Officer attended the monthly Seminole County TRIAD meeting held in Lake Mary. Prevention of crimes against the elderly and other safety concerns for senior residents of Seminole County were discussed. Oviedo Police maintain a list of elderly city residents who have little local support; they are contacted routinely and given specific assistance during emergencies. Anyone who knows a senior citizen in Oviedo who should be added to that list should e-mail Community Relations at rvanheusen@cityofoviedo.net

The Community Relations Officer assisted Girls and Boys Town with their monthly CINS/FINS case staffing board conducted at the Educational Support Building in Lake Mary. The board evaluates at-risk youth and recommends a course of action for assistance to the youth and family members.

Police: “Community On Patrol” Volunteer Program

“Community On Patrol” held their first monthly meeting in the C.O.P.S. & Volunteer Center. Topics included final preparations for the start of the city wide volunteer patrols that began on February 13th. The eleven members of the all volunteer unit successfully completed over 60 hours of classroom and specialized hands on training. Using their marked Community On Patrol vehicle and police radios, these trained civilian volunteers have become extra eyes and ears for the police and will assist Police Officers with non-law enforcement duties such as directing traffic, assisting stranded motorists, providing crime prevention materials to residents/groups and conducting well-being checks on elderly residents. COP Volunteers already are asking to take on more non-enforcement duties to allow them to better serve the residents of Oviedo. The inaugural members of Oviedo’s Community On Patrol are **Mary Blake, Dennis Landstedt, Tony Melkunas, Pam Metcalf, Bill Muse, Dean Paulus, Tom Poppell, Mark Rasberry, Donna Serafin, Bob Squeglia and Lynda Visco.**

Four Community On Patrol members already have received special recognition:

Bob Squeglia and **Dennis Landstedt** received “Outstanding Volunteer” awards for their dedication to the Oviedo Police Department “Volunteers In Policing” program during 2006. Dennis logged 318 hours and Bob donated 451 hours of their valuable time to the Police Department. They work in the C.O.P.S. & Volunteer Center at Oviedo Marketplace and help staff the front information desk; both assisted with various events, services and safety programs at the C.O.P.S. Center and around the city. They now are taking on a new challenge as members of the Oviedo Community On Patrol, in addition to their V.I.P. duties at the center.

COP members **Lynda Visco** and **Donna Serafin** received “Letters of Appreciation” for helping to organize the Community On Patrol Program. Lynda earned recognition for using her talents to help coordinate the many administrative duties that come with setting up and running a new volunteer program. She also was recognized for initiating Blood Bank donations by COP members and their families to assist victims of the tornados that recently struck Central Florida. Donna was recognized for her graphic arts skill in redesigning pamphlets about the COP program, as well as designing the business cards and identification cards for program members.

Police: C.O.P.S. & Volunteer Center at Oviedo Marketplace

“Volunteers In Policing” members conducted the weekly citizen fingerprinting, completing a total of 31 print cards. There were 24 non-residents and 7 city residents fingerprinted.

The Community Relations Lieutenant attended the monthly “Oviedo Citizens In Action” meeting. The meeting was hosted at the C.O.P.S. & Volunteer Center at Oviedo Marketplace.

The Oviedo Police Explorers held their weekly meeting in the C.O.P.S. & Volunteer Center. The topic of discussion was final preparation for participation in the annual “Learning For Life Super Weekend” in Ocala. The event brings together hundreds of young people from around Florida for numerous team and individual competitions such as tug of war, canoe racing, archery, skeet shooting, volleyball and much more. For more information about the Oviedo Police Explorer Program, contact Corporal Carl Rager at crager@cityofoviedo.net

AARP conducted a Driver Safety Class hosted in the C.O.P.S. & Volunteer Center at Oviedo on Saturday, February 10, 2007 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The course was open to persons 50 years of age or older and gave driving safety information. The 32 graduates of that class now are eligible for discounts on their auto insurance. To register for the next AARP DRIVER SAFETY CLASS IN OVIEDO, call AARP Instructor Fred Fruehan at 407-339-6205.

Police: Public Information Office

A media release was sent out in reference to an arrest of a suspect in the Kingsbridge armed robbery call mentioned above under Police Investigations. The victims had been targeted and followed home from a gun shop in another county.

Police: Special Weekly Traffic Enforcement

To provide safe and well-controlled vehicle and pedestrian traffic ways during the week of Sunday, February 18 to Saturday, February 24, 2007 special traffic enforcement will be conducted by teams of Oviedo Police Officers at these locations in the City:

Clark St. & Graham Avenue	Speeding / Stop Sign
Pine Avenue	Speeding / Stop Sign

Remember school is in session. Be extra careful driving in the area of our community's schools, school crossings and bus stops.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Chief White attended the monthly Central Florida Fire Academy Board of Directors meeting. The department is a consortium member of the academy. This membership includes reduced tuition rates for fire and other career programs as well as provides no cost for use of the academy burn building, maze trailer and portable training tower, and a multitude of other training props. The department participates in annual live fire training exercises as well. This week the portable maze trailer was utilized at Fire Station 46 for all Oviedo firefighters.

Chief White attended two separate meetings with the consultant hired by Seminole County to study Fire and EMS services. The meetings included all the other municipal governments as well as Seminole County. Matrix Consulting Group was the consultant selected to perform the study.

Chief White also attended the State of the County address with other City staff. The presentation provided an overview of accomplishments to date as well as goals of the County for the future.

Chief White attended the Seminole County siren task force meeting. The agenda included presentations from a representative from the National Weather Service and a vendor presentation from American Signal Corporation. Chief White had already met with the representatives from American Signal Corporation earlier this week prior to the county task force meeting. This has proved helpful in determining what type of system, quantity of siren devices, and other associated components would be necessary to implement a siren warning system for the Oviedo community.

End of year statistics for 2006 concluded that Oviedo Fire Rescue Emergency Management responded to 4,032 calls for emergency service, transported 1,218 patients to area hospitals, maintained an average response time of 5 minutes, completed 13,825 hours of combined firefighter training, completed 2,250 hours of combined emergency medical service training, completed 1,258 inspections, reviewed 351 construction plans, delivered 92 public education events, recorded a fire loss of \$114,000 and a dollar save of \$971,000.

Prevention and Public Education

The Prevention Division held a meeting with Development Services, specifically the Building Department and Code Enforcement, to establish procedures for reporting and dealing with issues outside the scope of the Fire Department.

The Fire Marshal attended several meetings for such issues as pre-applications, site plans, and general fire department requirements of new businesses.

The Fire Inspector completed a life safety inspection at Lawton Elementary school. This was the last school in our jurisdiction requiring inspection for the 2006-2007 school year. In record time, all seven schools have been inspected.

The Fire Inspector attended to commercial building re-inspections and coordinated various public education requests.

Training

Members of the Fire Rescue Department participated in search and rescue training this past week utilizing the Central Florida Fire Academy portable maze tractor trailer. The trailer is on loan to Oviedo from CFFA. This training requires participants to maneuver through a series of confined spaces during blackout conditions. Firefighters perform this training while wearing structural firefighting gear and self contained breathing apparatus. This intense training activity better prepares firefighters to deal with dark and confining search and rescue operations during actual fire situations.

The Training/EMS Division Chief attended the Seminole County Medical Directors' meeting held at Station 44 this week. Topics of discussion included hospital complaints, septic patients, c-collars and mechanism of injury. Reports were reviewed as a training mechanism (what to write and what to avoid).

Suppression/Rescue

The Suppression/Rescue Division responded to multiple requests for emergency, non-emergency, and service related assistance from the citizens, visitors, and the business community this week.

Personnel attended a Medical Directors' meeting to discuss current EMS practices. A review and discussion of past EMS incidents was also conducted at this meeting.

Personnel completed multiple hours of Fire, Rescue, and EMS related training.

Members assisted with Public Education events at the fire stations and throughout the City. The events included fire station tours, general fire safety education, and life safety education.

The annual NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) data for 2006 was collected and sent to the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office. This data includes information such as type of incident, amount of dollar loss and save for fires, civilian and fire service personnel injuries and casualties, type of occupancy responded to, fire cause, call time, etc. The information collected by the State is reviewed and placed in an annual report that is distributed throughout the State. This reporting also meets one of the requirements for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

Personnel completed assigned pre-emergency planning of commercial buildings as part of the monthly pre-emergency plan program. These are important components to plan and prepare tactical considerations for our commercial occupancies in case of potential fire, hazardous materials, rescues or other type emergencies.

PUBLIC WORKS

Current Engineering Services and Capital Projects

Little Econ 10-inch Water Main	Public Works Administration Building
Lockwood Road Reclaim	S.R. 426, Phase III / PD & E
Girls and Boys Town Sewer Force Main	New Downtown Amphitheater
Kingsbridge West Reclaim	City Hall Restriping and Signage
36 inch Water Main	Franklin Street Fountain
S.R. 426, Phase II Widening	Shane Kelly Equestrian Trailhead
CUP Renewal	Friendship Park

Sewer Capacity Analysis - Orange County	OSC Senior Field
Oviedo Boulevard Extension	OSC Restrooms
Utility Rate Analysis	Shane Kelly Restrooms
Kingsbridge West, Phase 1 / Lake Rogers Retrofit	Shane Kelly Chemical Storage Building Pad
Mitchell Hammock / Division Intersection Analysis	Trail Extension from C.R. 419 to Geneva Drive
Mitchell Hammock Median Improvements	Oviedo On The Park Phase 1
Gateway Beautification Design	Twin Rivers Park (SNID)
S.R. 434 Median Landscaping	Covington Street Drainage
Carolyn Drive	Jourdan Crossing Ditch Pipe
Foxfire Trail	Graham Avenue Drainage
School Zone Safety Improvements	Lake Jessup Drainage
Road Resurfacing	Fire Station No. 48
Traffic Calming	Fire Administration Building

General

Precision Sidewalk Safety Corporation (PSSC) is repairing sidewalk tripping hazards within Kingsbridge West and Alafaya Woods. PSSC uses a new technology which repairs the existing raised sidewalk at a minimal cost. Previously, standard sidewalk repair for tripping hazards included removal of the entire sidewalk panel. Now, just the “raised” section can be effectively trimmed down without affecting the structural integrity of the sidewalk.

Roadway resurfacing for 2007 has started with milling of existing roads in Alafaya Woods this week. Repaving of these roads is scheduled for next week. Future road improvements will continue in Alafaya Woods, Twin Rivers and Lockwood Road in the coming months. Surface treatments to be used include asphalt overlay, asphalt recycling and microsurfacing.

Active Capital Projects Construction

Oviedo Boulevard Extension

Irrigation and Landscaping activities are under way along Oviedo Blvd. and are scheduled for completion around the end of March.

Lockwood Reclaim Transmission Main

Construction continues on Lockwood southbound, south of Mitchell Hammock to Longbranch. The southbound outside lane on Lockwood Blvd. is closed from Mitchell Hammock to Longbranch for the installation of the reclaimed water line. Access to local businesses and residential areas will be maintained at all times. This lane closure is expected to remain in place for about another week, slightly longer than initially anticipated due to weather and unexpected conditions. The inside southbound lane remains open to traffic. The northbound lanes will not be impacted by this activity. After pipe installation, the south bound lanes will be reconstructed from Mitchell Hammock to Long Branch. Some impact to traffic is to be expected. Following this work, reclaim water line installation will take place along Old Lockwood.

Friendship Park Improvements - Phase I

Bids for construction of this project were opened on Tuesday, January 23rd. There were four bidders. Staff’s recommendation of award is scheduled to go to Council on Monday. With Council’s concurrence, notice of award will be issued next week. Construction will commence in March and will take approximately five months. The project will provide new playground equipment, landscaping, waterwise gardens, educational signage, walkways, fencing, benches, picnic tables and grills.

Twin Rivers Preserve II Park (SNID)

Twin Rivers Preserve II Park was advertised for bid on February 11th. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled for February 28th at 10:00 AM and the bids will be due on Monday, March 12th at 2:00 PM. The park

will include access and parking areas at McCully Court and Hart Branch Drive. These parking areas will be interconnected with stabilized trails. There will also be meandering mulch trails, picnic areas with tables, benches and grills and informational and directional signage. Selective clearing and landscaping will enhance the natural environment of this area.

RECREATION AND PARKS

Contract Signing

Bill Christie of Central Florida United Soccer Club met with the Recreation and Parks Director and the Assistant Recreation and Parks Director to begin the process of signing the contract for the Spring soccer season.

Babe Ruth Opening Day Ceremony Planning Session

The Recreation and Parks Director, the Assistant Recreation and Parks Director, the Athletic Supervisor and the Parks Superintendent met with Bill Sheridan and other members of Oviedo Babe Ruth to plan opening day ceremonies and activities for the Spring ball season.

Gymnasium

Oviedo's inaugural step show will take place at the Gymnasium tonight, Friday, February 16, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Seven local high school step teams will be competing for prizes awarded for first, second, and third places. The step team from Jackson Heights Middle School will be performing as well. Ticket prices are \$7 at the door. For more information please call (407) 971-5568.

Riverside Park

Last Friday, February 9th, Riverside Park hosted its annual Father/Daughter Dance. Over 80 couples enjoyed the evening, setting an attendance record. Couples enjoyed appetizers, drinks, desserts and danced the night away. Great door prizes were awarded, and Charles Wells Photography was on hand to take pictures in order to commemorate the evening.

Athletics

In the world of Athletics, registration is currently taking place for Pee Wee Sports Camp, Youth Flag Football, Adult Racquet Ball, and Wednesday Night Adult Flag Football.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Employment

The Human Resources Department has received 75 applications for the Police Chief position by the closing date of February 12th. The most qualified candidates will be scheduled for a telephone interview over the next two weeks. A representative from the International Association of Chiefs of Police will visit the City to meet with the City Manager, Mayor and City Council Members, the Police Department personnel, department directors and selected members of the community on February 28th. From these meetings a comprehensive list of tasks, duties and responsibilities will be developed for the assessment, which will be conducted in mid-March. We are hoping to finalize the selection by mid-April.

The City is proud to announce the names of new employees who have joined the City team in the first two weeks of February. They are: Tim Roberts, Maintenance/Construction Worker I in Recreation and Parks; Benjamin Morales, Maintenance/Construction Worker I in Public Works; Police Officers John DePasquale, Ashley Jones and Matthew DePanics; Recreation Aides Andrew Levitt, Anthony Young, Ivar Barker and Rebecca Siff; Lifeguards Ryan Walsh, Chris Ippolito, Ashley Hayes; Water Safety Instructor Kelli Dowling; and IT Intern Caitlin Smith.

Safety and Risk Management

During the past week, a safety training program was presented to employees on the dangers of blood borne pathogens. Rob Ross, from Public Risk Management, led the classes. His discussion included taking proper precautions from exposures, reporting exposures, and medical treatment. He emphasized that no one can tell if a person may be infected with the HIV or Hepatitis virus, and that everyone should

take the necessary precautions to prevent becoming infected when responding to providing first aid or cleaning up a spill involving a body fluid.

During the first four months of our current fiscal year, we have had six workers' compensation cases. Our total number of workers' compensation cases for the previous year was 33.

One of our emergency rescue vehicles was struck by another vehicle, causing about \$10,000 in damages. Claims have been made to the other driver's insurance company to pay for these damages.

Employee Recognition

As part of the Staff Appreciation and Recognition (StAR) Program, the Employee Recognition Team wanted to have immediate recognition for our Employee of the Month recipients. The **Employee of the Month** recipient is recognized at their place of employment with their co-workers. For January's recipient, the Assistant City Manager presented the award at Evans Street on Friday, February 2nd with Public Works Staff, Recognition Team Members and the Public Information Officer all present. The City of Oviedo wishes to congratulate Jim Woodger, Waste Water Pretreatment Officer in the Utilities Division of Public Works on his selection as employee of the month for January 2007.

Jim was selected for the following reasons:

- his ability to anticipate and evaluate problems and develop solutions
- his dependability, making himself available to assist in emergency situations
- his positive, upbeat attitude
- his leadership abilities and his willingness to assist and train others so that they can further their careers
- his outstanding customer service externally and internally

Jim is a great asset to the Utility Division and to the City. Our sincere thanks to Jim for his service and congratulations once again.

Jim was the first recipient of the "Golden Chicken" Award (Pictured Below) which is an award that was created by the Recognition Team for the Employee of the Month winner to pass along each month to the new recipient. The intent of this award was to create more excitement and involvement for the nomination of the Employee of the Month candidates by employees in the City.



Employee Family Picnic Plans

The Recognition Team is currently working on the next City employee event which will be the Employee Family Picnic. This event was added when the StAR Program was adopted and the first one will be held on April 28th at Round Lake Park in Oviedo. Employees and their families are invited to attend the event (those employees without family in the area can bring a friend as their family member for the event). The planning is still in progress, the next Recognition Team meeting will be on Wednesday, February 21st.

Retirement Recognition

Another addition of the StAR Program is Retirement Recognition in which an employee who retires from the City after working for 10 years and who is at least age 55, or if they have worked a total of 25 years with the City, they may be considered retired for the purpose of the City giving them a recognition gift upon their departure. The police and fire employees will be eligible for the gift after meeting the requirements of their respective pension plans. The first recipient of this recognition award is Police Officer Diane Farrell who retired from the City on November 21, 2006. Diane served in the Police Department for over 17 years!

Relay for Life Participation

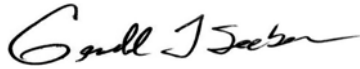
The City of Oviedo is participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life walk at Hagerty High School on March 23rd and 24th to raise money for cancer research and awareness. Last year the City had two teams participate in the event that helped raise over \$10,000. The Oviedo Relay for Life event raised over \$70,000 in total funds last year for cancer research and awareness. This year Oviedo's Relay for Life theme is "United we walk...the 50 states". The team's that will be participating on behalf of the City of Oviedo are the City of Oviedo's, "Team Louisiana" and the Police Department's "Team Pennsylvania". There are various fundraising events that will be taking place for both teams from now through the night of the event at Hagerty High School. If you or someone you know would like to make a donation to help support Relay for Life, please make checks payable to The American Cancer Society.

Please note the following important meetings, work sessions and upcoming events:

Upcoming Meetings

Monday, February 19, 2007	City Council Regular Meeting	6:30 P.M.
Monday, February 26, 2007	City Council Work Session	6:30 P.M.

Until next time,



Gerald J. Seeber
City Manager