

August 2008

Volume 3, Issue 4



**CONSERVE**  
...Today for a  
Better Tomorrow.

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## H2Oviedo Water Conservation Incentive Program to Begin

Following through on their commitment to conserve water and reduce potable water consumption throughout Oviedo, the City Council formally established the **H2Oviedo Water Conservation Incentive Program** at their August 4th meeting. The incentive approach is considered to be a "win-win" environmental initiative as residents can learn new ways to reduce water consumption and save money in the process. The incentive program is available for residents with or without irrigation systems and has been designed so as not to conflict with permitting procedures of homeowner associations. *Partner with us as we strive to reduce water consumption!*

### How Does the Program Work?

There are three (3) levels of participation: 1) Free water audit (everyone is eligible), 2) Free irrigation audit with up to \$250 incentive bonus and 3) Up to \$1,000 reimbursement for installation of Florida-friendly landscape upgrades (up to 2,000 square feet of modified yard).

The incentive program has been initially set up on a first come, first serve basis - but you must submit a completed application and own title to the subject property and be a City potable water customer in good standing for one year without disruption in service. There is a limit of \$1,100 of incentive monies. The incentive program relies on an audit of each home and yard using the St. John's River Water Management standards to establish an interior and exterior water budget. The audit will also identify areas of additional water savings such as inefficient irrigation systems, landscaping and appliances. The resident will be responsible for obtaining permits, if required, pursuant to City codes and homeowner association covenants.

### Where Can I Obtain an Application and Where Do I Submit It?

Applications are available on-line at [www.cityofoviedo.net](http://www.cityofoviedo.net) or with the Receptionist in City Hall. You must hand deliver your completed application to the receptionist at City Hall (first floor) beginning on September 29th.

### How Do the Incentives Work?

**Florida-Friendly Landscape Upgrades:** Installation of landscape upgrades such as drought tolerant turf grasses and plantings or installation of an alternative irrigation source such as a shallow well can provide up to \$1,000 incentive reimbursement.

**Water Bill Rebate:** Based on an established "water budget", the applicant must demonstrate a 90 day period of water wise potable use by meeting or beating water budget goals. The City water meter will be used to measure water usage. Qualified participants meeting goals in the 90 day period within 10% of the target water budget are eligible for a \$50 water bill rebate. Participants exceeding 10% savings are eligible for an additional \$50 bonus rebate. Participants will have 6 months to complete their landscape/irrigation modifications and contact the Water Conservation Coordinator for inspection. The City Finance Department will provide the rebate within two weeks following approval and documentation by City Utility staff.

**Free Irrigation Audit:** Up to thirty (30) participants on metered City irrigation can receive a free irrigation audit and be eligible for reimbursement of minor repairs from a private contractor. The City's Water Conservation Officer will screen applicants with the most potential for saving water for this service. The contractor will fix minor problems, install a working rain gauge and evaluate other water-saving modifications.

For more detailed information and questions about the **H2Oviedo** Water Conservation Incentive Program, contact Jay Stainer, Water Conservation Coordinator at 407-971-5691.



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Steve Henken**  
407-971-5605

shenken@cityofoviedo.net

**Deputy Mayor  
Dominic Persampiere**  
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**Councilman  
Stephen Schenck**  
407-971-5603

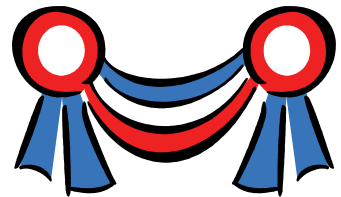
sschenck@cityofoviedo.net

## City of Oviedo Election Notice

The City of Oviedo, Florida will hold a General Election on **Tuesday, November 4, 2008**.

Candidates wishing to qualify for:

- \* Council Member, Group II (incumbent Keith Britton)
- \* Council Member, Group III (incumbent Stephen Schenck)
- \* Council Member, Group IV (incumbent Dominic Persampiere)



May do so in the City Clerk's Office beginning **Monday, August 18, 2008** through noon **Friday, August 22, 2008** during normal business hours.

A candidate must reside within the city limits of Oviedo for a period of at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the date of qualifying.

For additional information contact Barbara J. Barbour, CMC, City Clerk, (407) 971-5500, Email: [bbarbour@cityofoviedo.net](mailto:bbarbour@cityofoviedo.net)

Absentee ballots for this election are available through the Seminole County Supervisor of Elections Office by calling 407-585-VOTE (8683). The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

## City Council Invites You to a Town Hall Meeting



**The City Council is inviting all interested citizens to attend a **Town Hall Meeting** where you will have an opportunity to ask questions of your elected representatives:**

**When:** Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 7 p.m.

**Where:** City Hall, Council Chambers, 400 Alexandria Boulevard

## A Message from the City Manager:

By Richard Gestrich, City Manager

First, let me say how honored I am to be serving as your new City Manager! Along with my wife Beatrice, I want to thank everyone for a very warm welcome. We are both overwhelmed with your goodwill and good wishes. With the pending sale of our Pennsylvania home, my wife will be joining me by the end of August to start our new life in Oviedo. Now - on to work related matters.....

Within two weeks after my July 14th start date, the City Council held a special meeting on the FY 08-09 Budget and gave tentative approval to the FY 08-09 property tax rates. **In a nutshell - the FY 08-09 budget is balanced and City property taxes for most homeowners will decline.** The setting of the tax rate was the culmination of a challenging budget development process that began in March and required difficult decisions that were brought on by the passage of Constitutional Amendment One that was approved at a statewide referendum on January 29, 2008.

At their July 28th special meeting, the Oviedo City Council unanimously agreed to set a tentative property tax rate of 4.8626 mills (1 mill = \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation) to support General Government operations for FY 2008-09. This millage rate is the maximum rate allowed by a simple majority vote of the governing body in accordance with recent property tax reform legislation. The tentative tax rate, which will be the subject of two public hearings in September, represents a **tax decrease of 5.7%** compared to the rolled back tax rate of 5.1573 mills. The rolled back tax rate is the rate that would generate the same amount of property tax revenue as in FY 07-08 exclusive of new construction. At the public hearings scheduled for September 3rd and September 15th, the City Council cannot increase the millage rate without another public notification to all City property owners.

The City's combined tax rate, when including the voted debt service millage rate of .2316 for the new town center infrastructure, would be 5.0942 mills. Based on this combined tax rate, the average residential City taxpayer (\$200,000 assessed taxable value less the \$50,000 homestead exemption) would pay \$764 in City property taxes compared to \$852 in 2007, a decrease of \$88 compared to last year. If the property value for this homeowner increased by 3% (the maximum increase that was applied by the Seminole County Property Appraiser), total City property taxes would be \$795, a decrease of \$58 compared to last year.

The City's tax base or gross taxable value for 2008 is just under \$2.3 billion, which was **\$155 million or 6.4% less** than the 2007 tax base. The decline was due mainly to Constitutional Amendment One that was approved by a statewide referendum on January 29, 2008. Excluding growth from new construction and annexations, the citywide taxable value declined by \$230 million or 9.4%, which was attributed primarily to the doubling of the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000, coupled with an offset of \$83 million in new construction and annexations.

The FY 08-09 General Fund Budget includes a variety of expenditure reductions totaling \$1 million that were instituted to bridge a \$1.1 million budget shortfall caused primarily by Constitutional Amendment One and the resultant loss of \$1.1 million in property tax revenue. The effects of Constitutional Amendment One were compounded by the continued downturn in the State and national economy and the related adverse impact on municipal revenues. The expenditure reductions included the elimination of four full time vacant positions and the reduction of almost 12,000 hours of part time/seasonal hours in Recreation and Parks. Other cost reductions were made for right-of-way mowing, contributions to outside agencies, contract landscape maintenance and the City's pension contribution for general (non-public safety) employees. Costs will also be reduced for heating the City's two swimming pools through the conversion to solar heating. Despite these reductions, citizens will not see significant changes to City services and programs as the City Council remains committed to continue providing a high level of municipal services to City residents.

The City Council will conduct two required public hearings to adopt the FY 08-09 tax rates and budget on September 3rd and September 15th. The meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall, Council Chambers. On behalf of the Oviedo City Council, I encourage you to attend and participate!

Once again, I want to express my enthusiasm for being given the opportunity to serve as your new City Manager. In my short time living here, it is obvious that Oviedo has great potential and a very bright future. Both my wife and I hope to make a lasting contribution to Oviedo's continued growth and prosperity and to play an integral role in shaping Oviedo's future.

Sincerely,



## Oviedo Recreation & Parks Calendar of Events: Fun for Everyone!

The City of Oviedo Recreation and Parks Department presents events, sports and exercise for the entire family. Check the City's website at [www.cityofoviedo.net](http://www.cityofoviedo.net) under Recreation & Parks and Events for additional offerings.

**September 26 - Family Bingo Night** Bring the family for a fun-filled night of Bingo at Riverside Park on September 26th beginning at 7:00 p.m. Great prizes will be awarded to the winners. Cards cost \$2.00 each, with a 5 card maximum per person.

**September 30 - Post Camp Fun Day Program** This fun filled program is for those ages 6-12. Program hours at Riverside Park are 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Children must pack a lunch, 2 snacks, a bathing suit and a towel each day. The cost is only \$25/resident/day, and \$45/non-resident/day.

For further information on any of these fantastic programs, please contact Sal Rovetto at (407) 971-5579 or email [srovetto@cityofoviedo.net](mailto:srovetto@cityofoviedo.net)

**Note:** Events are subject to change of date or cancellation.

### Athletics Programs

#### Youth Volleyball Leagues

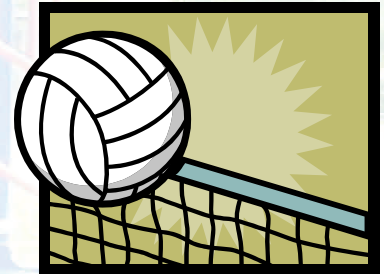
##### **Fall 2008**

Registration: July 12th - September 5th or until full

Player Placement Day: September 8th or 9th (See below for age group times)

Season: October 6th - December 8th

Cost: \$65 Oviedo Residents  
\$85 Non-Residents



\*\*Dates & Times subject to change

**For more information please contact the Gym at 407-971-5568.  
Age Cut-Off Date: September 1st, 2008**

#### **Reminder:**

**Player Placement Day is mandatory:**

Monday, September 8th (Fall 2008)  
8 & Under Recreational: 5:45 pm - 6:30 pm  
10 & Under Recreational: 7:00 pm - 7:45 pm  
12 & Under Recreational: 8:15 pm - 9:00 pm

Tuesday, September 9th (Fall 2008)  
15 & Under Recreational: 5:45 pm—6:30pm  
17 & Under Recreational: 8:15pm—9:00 pm

Players will be placed in the appropriate division as of the cut-off date, unless noted that a player wishes to play up in a particular division. No exceptions!

## Athletics Programs - Continued

### Youth Basketball Leagues

#### **Fall 2008**

Registration: July 12th - September 5th or until full

Player Placement Day: September 6th (See below for age group times)

Season: September 27th - December 13th

Cost: \$85 Oviedo Residents

\$105 Non-Residents

\*\*Dates & Times subject to change



**For more information please contact the Gym at 407-971-5568.  
Age Cut-Off Date: September 1st, 2008**

#### **Reminder:**

**Player Placement Day is mandatory:**

Saturday, September 6th (Fall 2008)

5&6 Recreational: No Draft

8 & Under Recreational: 8:30 am - 9:30 am

10 & Under Recreational: 10:00 am - 11:00 am

12 & Under Recreational: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

15 & Under Recreational: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

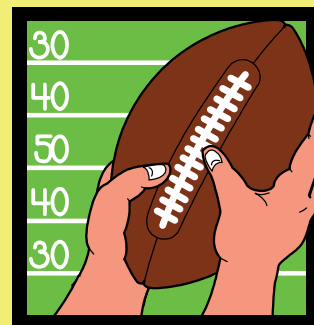
Players will be placed in the appropriate division as of the cut-off date, unless noted that a player wishes to play up in a particular division. No exceptions!

## Oviedo Recreation Presents Youth Flag Football

The Fall 2008 Youth Flag Football League registration is now open until August 21 at Riverside Park. Games begin September 13th and all age groups will play Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at Long Lake Park or Riverside Park. Players must be at least 6 years old by September 13, 2008 and no older than 14 on September 13, 2008. Birth certificates must be presented at the time of registration.

Assessment day (mandatory) will be held on August 23rd and games begin on September 13th.

- \* Registration: Now through August 21
- \* Where: Riverside Park, 1600 Lockwood Blvd.
- \* Who: 6-14 year olds
- \* Dates: Saturdays-September 13 to November 8
- \* Times: Will vary upon age group
- \* Cost: Oviedo Residents \$70/ Non Residents \$115



Included is a reversible mesh NFL jersey, flags and mouth guard. For more information call 407-971-5575 or email [mmcadams@cityofoviedo.net](mailto:mmcadams@cityofoviedo.net)

## Outdoor Tornado Siren System: Additions and FAQ's

The Oviedo City Council remains committed to emergency management initiatives dedicated to protecting life and property. One of these initiatives is the City's Outdoor Tornado Siren Warning System commonly referred to as the "**Alert of Last Resort!**" The Outdoor Tornado Siren Warning System will be expanded to include two additional sirens and the re-location of an existing siren at the following locations:

- \* Cross Seminole Trail at Pine Avenue (New siren site)
- \* Live Oak Reserve Blvd South Recreation Area (New siren site)
- \* Friendship Park on W. Broadway (Re-location from Aulin Ave.)

### Some Frequently Asked Questions About the Siren System:

#### **When Are the Sirens Activated?**

Only when a "**tornado warning**" has been issued for Seminole County or if tornado development has been spotted within the Oviedo community. A "**tornado warning**" siren activation will sound for "**3 minutes**". There will not be an all clear siren tone. Monitor local media to evaluate weather conditions.

#### **What Do I Do Upon Hearing the Siren System?**

Seek shelter in the safest part of your home or business. Generally, the center-most part of the ground floor away from glass windows and doors is best. Further protection is recommended by getting under a blanket or mattress. Do **not** call 911 upon hearing the siren system, rather, monitor local news media reports.



#### **Is the Siren System the Only Alerting Method I Need?**

**No!** We strongly encourage you to have multiple alerting methods including a weather alert radio, subscribing to free e-mail and text message alerts from local television media outlets and county emergency management as well as to monitor daily weather conditions.

#### **When Will the Siren System Be Tested?**

The siren system will be tested on the **1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 12 noon for 1 minute unless weather conditions are unfavorable!**

#### **What Affects My Ability to Hear the Siren System?**

Your ability to hear the siren system is impacted by ambient sound levels such as wind, rain, hail, and other outdoor or indoor noise producing equipment or vehicles. The siren system should not be considered your only alerting method for these reasons.

#### **Who May I Contact for More Information?**

Contact the Oviedo Fire/Rescue Emergency Management Department at 407-971-5611 or visit the city web site at [www.cityofoviedo.net](http://www.cityofoviedo.net)

## “On-Line” Services Making It Easier to do Business with City Government

The City of Oviedo is making it easier for citizens and businesses to transact business with your City government without coming to City Hall or other City facility. Some of these on-line tools have been in use for some time while others are new and will be available for your use in the near future.

These on-line tools are part of a suite of software applications that automate virtually all aspects of the City’s business operations such as utility billing, payroll and accounting, fleet maintenance, building permits, business licenses, and code enforcement. These software applications are provided by *SunGard HTE Public Sector (SPS)*, a leading provider of enterprise-wide software solutions that allows municipalities, other government agencies, and utilities to connect their departments, staff, citizens, and businesses with critical information and services.

Otherwise known as “Click2Gov” - the City of Oviedo is currently providing or has under development the following on-line services:

- \* **Utility Billing and Customer Information** – Provides our customers with the ability to pay their utility bills over a secure Internet connection using a credit card. (currently available)
- \* **Building Permits** – Allows citizens and contractors to inquire about the status, schedule inspections and view inspection results online. (currently available)
- \* **Business Licenses** – Allows for the renewal of business licenses and payment over a secure Internet connection using a credit card. (currently available)
- \* **Job Applicant Tracking** – Allows you to complete a job application online and submit it electronically to Human Resources (HR). Job applicants can create and maintain their own accounts and use that information to apply for open positions or review the status of any applications submitted to HR. (anticipated availability - October 1, 2008)
- \* **Citizen Request Tracking** – Enables citizens to enter a request for city services (or submit a complaint) and have that request sent to the proper City Department for resolution. The status of the service request is monitored until completion which allows City Departments to quickly and efficiently respond to citizen requests while collecting and tracking information. (anticipated availability - November, 2008)
- \* **Recreation Registration (3rd party software application)** - Allows citizens to register for a variety of recreation programs on-line (without having to come to a recreation facility) and pay for their registration over a secure Internet connection using a credit card (anticipated availability - October 1, 2008).

You can access these on-line services through the City’s web site at [www.cityofoviedo.net](http://www.cityofoviedo.net) - then click on *City Hall On Line* at the top left panel of the home page.

## City Of Oviedo

City of Oviedo  
400 Alexandria Boulevard  
Oviedo, Florida 32765  
Phone: 407-971-5555

**Growing in the Right Direction!**


















Questions or comments related to **Crossroads** may be directed to the City Offices at 407-971-5555 or via e-mail, [receptionist-ch@cityofoviedo.net](mailto:receptionist-ch@cityofoviedo.net).



## Memorial Building Programming Is Moving!!!



Beginning October 1, 2008, Memorial Building programming is moving to Riverside Park, 1600 Lockwood Blvd. Look for these programs at Riverside Park:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  Tai Chi Chih           |  Cheerleading/Dance       |  Babysitter Course  |
|  Free To Be Me          |  Pinochle                 |  Red Cross Training |
|  SNAP                   |  Be Center Stage          |  My Tot and Me      |
|  Dance/Twirling Classes |  Polynesian Dance Classes |  Mahjonn            |
|  Yoga                   |  Gymnastics               |  Bridge             |

\*\*\*The Memorial Building will be used exclusively for rentals.\*\*\*

**Weddings  
Anniversaries  
Baby Showers  
And More!!!**

**Receptions  
Family Reunions  
Birthday Parties**

Please contact Jenette Davis McKinney at (407) 971-5591 or [jdavis@cityofoviedo.net](mailto:jdavis@cityofoviedo.net) for more rental information.

