

April 2010

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2009



★ **TOP 100** ★
Places To Live

Award Winning City

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2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

By now you've mailed back your 2010 Census form, but what happens if you don't? If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a **census taker**, who will ask you the questions from the form. A census taker is a person from your community who is hired by the Census Bureau to make sure that your neighborhood gets represented as accurately as possible. The census taker's primary responsibility is to collect census information from residences that have not sent back their 2010 Census form.

- The Census Bureau provides the census taker with a binder containing all of the addresses that didn't send back a filled out census form.
- The census taker then visits all of those addresses and records the answers to the questions on the form.
- If no one answers at a particular residence, a census taker will visit that home up to three times, each time leaving a door hanger featuring a phone number; residents can call the number on the hanger to schedule the visit.
- The Census Bureau will not contact you by email.
- They will not ask for your bank account number or social security number.
- They will have a badge, a handheld device to enter your information, a confidentiality notice and a Census Bureau canvas bag. If you don't see their badge, ask for it.

United States
Census 2010

The census taker will ONLY ask the questions that appear on the census form.

Your participation in the 2010 Census is vital and required by law, (Section 221, of Title 13 of the U.S. Code). However, the Census Bureau is very successful in getting participation by explaining the importance of the questions we ask and how the information benefits our communities. The census taker who collects your information is sworn for life to protect your data under Federal Law Title 13.

Why take a Census? The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

By 2010, there will be an estimated 310 million people residing in the United States. Counting each person is one of the largest operations the federal government undertakes. The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years.

In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more. For more information, visit the 2010 Census Web site at <<http://www.census.gov/2010>>.



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Results from Recent City Council Meetings.....

Council Adopts Red Light Camera Enforcement

On March 1, 2010, City Council adopted an ordinance authorizing the use of red light camera enforcement at several busy Oviedo intersections including: *Alafaya Trail and Mitchell Hammock Road, Mitchell Hammock Road and Lockwood Boulevard and State Road 419 and Lockwood Boulevard*. The selected intersections will be monitored prior to the installation to determine the specific need.

The use of red light cameras is intended to enhance motor vehicle safety; specifically in terms of reducing the number of red light violators and is not being implemented for the purpose of producing revenue.

Council also approved the use of an existing agreement between the City of Winter Park and Gatso USA for implementation of the cameras. Gatso USA will assume the entire cost of camera installation and maintenance, as well as, any necessary right of way procurement. Camera installation and implementation of the program may be affected by pending state legislation. The City will not install the cameras until the 2010 legislative session is completed.

In-Car Video Cameras Approved for Use in City Police Patrol Cars

At the March 15th Council meeting, unanimous approval was given to purchase 30 in-car video cameras and related supporting equipment. The in-car video system is a practical technology that can be used to document contacts and interactions between Police Officers and the general public. The technology also provides the City and the Police Department with a record for review of criminal investigations, motor vehicle traffic stops and police officer interactions with citizens. Video records will be instrumental in training of new officers through viewing and learning from the recorded video records as part of critiquing officer responses and technique.

The \$163,000 in-car video system will be funded through a \$69,000 Byrne Law Enforcement grant and \$94,000 in federal confiscated funds.

Charter Review Committee Appointed

The Oviedo City Charter provides for creation of a Charter Review committee every five years to undertake a review of the City's Charter. The newly formed Committee that began meeting on March 17th will review and study the existing City Charter and submit their findings and recommendations to the City Council by May 17, 2010. City Council will then determine which, if any, recommendations to place on a future referendum for voters to consider.

The committee is comprised of seven members of which five were selected by City Council. The two remaining members were then selected by the committee itself from a pool of applicants. The Charter Review Committee was appointed by City Council at their February 15th meeting, they will meet Wednesdays through April 7th and then make the decision on whether to continue weekly meetings. The meetings are held at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall. Check the website for actual meeting days and times. As always, the public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

A Message from the City Manager

Budget Challenges and Difficult Decisions Await FY 2010-11 Budget

At their March 8th budget workshop, the Oviedo City Council was provided with their first look at the budget projections for the upcoming FY 2010-11 General Fund budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2010.

First, some good news about the current budget year. Compared to last year at this time, FY 09-10 revenues are more in line with budget projections, although there are some under-performing revenues that will be monitored closely. At this time, it does not appear that the City is facing the severe budget shortfalls that led to the mid-year budget reductions in 2009. More importantly, it appears that the City's financial condition as measured by its reserve for economic uncertainties (i.e. fund balance) will be maintained at or slightly above the required 15% level. Although several major revenue sources continue to underperform compared to budget estimates, the revenue losses are expected to be offset with under-spending or savings in operating expenses and personnel costs.

With respect to the FY 10-11 budget, there are a number of assumptions and a variety of variables that are influencing the projected budget shortfall, the most critical of which, is the Property Appraiser's projected 10% decline in assessed property values. While this is a preliminary estimate that remains uncertain until around June 1st; when combined with the tax rate remaining at the current rate of 4.8626 mills, the result would be a \$900,000 loss of property tax revenue. This loss of revenue is at the heart of the \$1.5 Million shortfall.

The challenge of bridging the projected budget shortfall is more than just an exercise in slashing costs. It is an opportunity to decide what is important and what we value in terms of services (and the level of service) that are provided to our citizens. To the extent possible given new financial and economic realities, it is an opportunity to preserve the City's financial position while maintaining the current mix of municipal services that our citizens have come to enjoy and expect. These service priorities are generally reflected in the City's *Strategic Plan* that was adopted last year and was reported on in my letter in the July, 2009 issue of *Crossroads*.

The options available to reduce costs and balance the FY 10-11 budget revolve around containing and reducing personnel costs since labor costs comprise more than 70% of City operations. Given the loss of almost \$1 million in property tax revenue, it is not realistic or feasible to provide a wage increase to City employees in FY 10-11. In the current economic environment, it is also important as a matter of fairness that all employee groups be treated equally; in other words, one employee group should not be given a wage increase at the expense of another group. This approach is complicated somewhat by the fact that current collective bargaining agreements for Police and Fire obligates the City to provide a wage increase effective October 1, 2010, equal to 2.6% for Police and 3.13% for Fire. That can only be changed through the collective bargaining process or as a voluntary concession by the respective bargaining units.

The bad news about the budget is this: the budget in its current form is not sustainable given the combination of declining revenues and continued wage and pension increases for Police and Fire. Although public safety is highly valued, there will need to be some easing of these increases otherwise further reductions in other non-public safety operations and the general employee workforce will likely result. This is not an equitable option as more than 50% of the General Fund payroll is comprised of Police and Fire collective bargaining personnel.

Despite our upcoming budget challenges, I am confident that by recognizing the severity of the problem early in the budget process we can address the projected budget shortfalls while preserving the core services that the City provides to its residents. In July, after consulting with Department Directors and other City staff, I will be recommending a budget to City Council that includes a mix of cost reductions and other measures to bridge the projected shortfall while preserving current service levels and maintaining the City's strong financial condition.

Sincerely,



Richard Gestrich
City Manager

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

Upcoming Athletic Programs for Spring & Summer 2010:

Adult Softball - Open registration from April 28th through May 7th. Leagues will be offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (co-ed) evenings. The season is scheduled for 10 weeks, with play beginning the week of May 17th at the Oviedo Sports Complex. Please call Patrick Fitzsimons at 407-971-5569 or email him at pfitzsimons@cityofoviedo.net for fees and other information.



Adult Flag Football - Registration is from April 14th through April 26th. All games will be played Sunday mornings at Long Lake Park, beginning on May 9th.

Start Smart Baseball - Register your youngsters (ages 3-6) between April 1st and April 22nd at Riverside Park. The Start Smart program is designed for youngsters (and their parents) to begin learning and playing sports.

For other information or information on the cost of these programs, contact the City at 407-971-5575 or Patrick Fitzsimons at pfitzsimons@cityofoviedo.net, 407-971-5569. Visit our website at www.cityofoviedo.net for more information on any of these programs.

Archery - Registration from March 22nd through April 14th (or until full) This 6 week program is a **Beginners Level Course** at the Oviedo Sports Complex. It takes place on Saturday mornings April 17- May 22. To participate you must be 8 years or older (including adults) and will enjoy learning Olympic-style archery in a program that develops sportsmanship, self-confidence and friendship. **Archers with experience** can take the **advanced course** on the same dates. A **family course** allows archers of all ages to practice their shooting skills. Cost for each program is \$35 for residents, \$45 for Non-Resident Members and \$55 for Non-Residents.



Pitch, Hit & Run - Local Competition - Free - April 18th, 10AM at the Oviedo Sports Complex. Pitch, Hit & Run is an exciting baseball skills competition that provides boys and girls, ages 7 to 14, an opportunity to showcase their pitching, hitting, and running abilities. PHR participants can advance through four levels of competition, including Local and Sectional competitions, Team Championship events at all 30 Major League ballparks, and the National Finals at the MLB All-Star Game. The event is free, please bring a copy of each participant's birth certificate. Registration begins at 9:30am.



Riverside Programs

- ✓ **Babysitter's Course** - Friday, April 9th or Saturday, May 8th, 10:30 - 5:00 PM, ages 11 through 15.
- ✓ **Family Bingo Night** - Friday, May 14th, 7:00PM till ???
- ✓ **Seniors Field Trip to St. Augustine** - Thursday, April 22nd, Depart 7:30 AM, Return 5:30 PM.
- ✓ **Zellwood Sweet Corn Festival Seniors Trip** - Friday, May 28th, Depart 12:00 PM, Return 6:00 PM.
- ✓ **Doggie Social Hour** - Saturday, May 29th, 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

For more information on these programs and outings, please call Jenette McKinney at 407-971-5591 or email: jdmckinney@cityofoviedo.net.

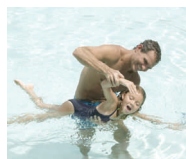
- ✓ Skateboard Clinic for Beginners - Registration begins April 17th. Classes begin May 1st and May 2nd.
- ✓ Skate Around the State - Visit other skate parks starting April 24th. Depart 11:00 AM, Return 5:30 PM
- ✓ Rippin' Riverside Skate Park Grand Re-opening - May 15th, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- ✓ Rippin' Riverside Skate Park's Friday Night Mini Competitions - Starts April 16th at 7:00 PM
- ✓ 5th Grade Dance and Prom - Dance: April 16th; Prom May 28th.

For more information on these programs, please check the website: www.cityofoviedo.net under Recreation and Parks.

Aquatics Programming

Group Swim Lessons: Offered March through October at the Riverside Pool

All swimmers must complete a swim test prior to registration. For the entire schedule, pick up a flyer at one of our facilities or check out www.cityofoviedo.net. For more information contact Liz Fiorey at lfiorey@cityofoviedo.net or 407-971-5582.



* **April Lessons:** Registration begins on March 27th. Lessons from April 12th through April 29th.

May Lessons: Registration begins on May 8th. Lessons from May 10th through May 27th.

Registration is at 8 a.m. for residents and 10 a.m. for non-residents

Stroke Clinic for Young Swimmers

These clinics are designed to help refine the strokes of young swimmers. They are offered Saturday mornings at Riverside Pool April 24— June 5. Each clinic focuses on one stroke incorporating kick and stroke drills. Stroke clinics are not meant to be swim lessons, all swimmers must pass a swim test prior to registration. Contact Liz Fiorey at 407-971-5582 with questions. **Registration begins: March 29th.** Program Dates: April 24th - Freestyle; May 1 - Backstroke; May 8th - Breaststroke; May 22nd - Butterfly; May 29th - Starts, and June 5th - Turns

Poolside Birthday Parties

Oviedo Aquatics offers birthday parties for children turning at least 4 years old. Parties are held on Friday and Saturday evenings at the Splash Zone. Parties are not private rentals and there may be more than one party at the same time. Reservations began February 1, 2010 for parties from April 16th - September 25th, 2010. Call Emily Waitt or Lori Hickey at 407-971-5567 for information and to book a party.

Summer Camps are Back!!

Adventure Camp – Adventure Camp is here again....As you think about signing for camp this summer just remember if you **DO NOT** like to try new things, if you **DO NOT** like to rock climb, playing adventure games, shooting archery, going canoeing, compete in crazy challenges against other campers, and if you really **DISLIKE** going on a sweet field trip once a week; **DO NOT** sign up for Adventure Camp. Youth ages 6 through 14 are welcome. Camp dates are June 14th through August 13th. Adventure Camp is located at 148 Oviedo Blvd. at the Gymnasium & Aquatics Facility.

Basketball & Volleyball Camp - Basketball camp and Volleyball camp are designed to help young players develop their skills, learn the game, and practice and compete using the skills they have learned at the camp. There will be drills and scrimmages throughout the week, and camp playoffs on Fridays with an award ceremony to follow the games. **Ages 7 through 14 are encouraged to participate.**

Basketball Camp Dates

June 21st-25th

July 19th -23rd

July 26th-30th

Volleyball Camp Dates

June 28th -July 2nd

July 12th -16th

August 2nd-6th

Sports Sampler - This is an all new camp just for 6-8 year olds. If you like sports and want to try them all to see which one you like the best. Sports Sampler is the place for you. -**Archery** - **Rock Climbing** -**Basketball** - **Flag Football** -**Volleyball**-**Swimming** Campers will learn the basics of a variety of sports in this half day format. A new sport everyday, sometimes two in a day. **Camp runs from 9am-1pm**, June 14th - 18th, July 6th - 9th, and August 9th -13th

Club Riverside and Skateboard camp programs. Registration is ongoing and camp begins June 14th and runs through August 13th.

For more information on these programs, please check the website: www.cityofoviedo.net under Recreation and Parks.

!! Check Out Our New and Improved Website !!

On Thursday, February 18, 2010, the City of Oviedo unveiled its new, updated website. The website has a distinctly fresh new updated look. Navigation panels in blue on the right and left side of the screen allow the user to select information such as: City Council Meetings and other Special Meetings, job openings, paying utility bills, registering for recreation opportunities and building permit information.

The center section of the homepage is filled with information on important topics currently affecting Oviedo citizens. Additional navigation panels in red and green provide the user with information designed to answer questions on a variety of topics from additional news alerts, events around town, available community resources, and what to do to experience Oviedo. You can even read the Crossroads by clicking **Crossroads Newsletter** in the green navigation panel on the right side of the page.

Click on the **"I want to know how to..."** tab for answers to questions a new or current resident may have, or **use the Contact Us tab to sign up for e-news, to receive the Crossroads in your email** or to contact us via the city directory.

The large buttons at the bottom of the page take the reader quickly to a variety of helpful pages, many of which provide direct access information.

Click on the **E-News button** to subscribe to the **Crossroads Newsletter** rather than traditional snail mail; check out information on **Solid Waste and Recycling**; find out when you can water by clicking the **Water Conservation button** or sign up for recreation opportunities from the **Oviedo Recreation & Parks Department button**.

If you have questions or suggestions regarding the website, please call us at **407-971-5555** or email by clicking **webmaster** at the bottom of the home page.

Subscribe to the Crossroads Newsletter and receive it in your inbox instead of your mailbox! Visit our website: www.cityofoviedo.net/contact to request yours!

LIGHTNING: PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR HOME



Did you know you reside in the **Lightning Capital of North America**? With nearly **30 million** lightning strikes resulting in **400 people** injured and nearly **50 to 60 deaths** each year it pays to know how to protect yourself and your home. Your **Oviedo Fire Rescue Emergency Management Department** offers these safety tips to better protect your family, home, appliances and electronics from lightning related damage.

Protect electronic equipment by using power surge protection - Surge protection devices provide protection to electronic equipment such as televisions, audio equipment, computers, appliances, etc.

The higher the "joules" protection the better the device can absorb the lightning or power surge. It is suggested to provide better protection for your expensive electronic equipment, invest in the best high quality surge protection you can afford.

Protect yourself and your family during a storm - The safest place is inside a building. Carports, porches, pavilions, tents, bus stops, covered walkways, trees, etc. do not offer lightning protection. Vehicles are also considered a safe place of refuge if a building is not accessible. Avoid showering, swimming, washing dishes, laundry, using telephone, computer use, etc during a lightning storm.

If your home is hit by lightning, Call 911 immediately! The Fire Rescue Department will carefully survey the attic, electrical system, etc., for damage and the presence of fire. Specialized thermal imaging and heat sensing equipment is utilized for this situation. The longer you delay in calling for Fire Rescue response the more likely it is a fire will develop and perhaps be beyond control.

Is There a New Utility in the City's Future?

Approximately 7,400 of the City's 11,700 residential and commercial water customers are provided central wastewater services by Alafaya Utilities, Inc., a private utility company owned by Utilities, Inc. Utilities, Inc. is a portfolio company of Highstar Capital, and through its approximately 90 subsidiaries, operates over 500 utility systems in 15 states and serves over 300,000 connections. Under City ownership Alafaya's customers may receive improved service at a more reasonable long term cost and a more reliable supply of reuse water. The Oviedo City Council authorized the City Manager and selected financial, engineering and legal consultants to evaluate the potential acquisition of Alafaya Utilities by the City. The evaluation known as "due diligence" is an essential step to determine the financial and physical condition of the wastewater facility.

Pursuant to Chapter 180, Florida Statutes, the City is authorized to acquire, operate, construct, own and manage water, wastewater and/or reclaimed water facilities within the State of Florida. In accordance with the authority granted under Chapter 180, the City has been negotiating the terms of a purchase and sale of the Alafaya Utilities assets.

Once the City and the seller conclude the purchase and sale agreement, a referendum will be scheduled this August to ask voters to authorize the issuance of utility revenue bonds that will fund the utility purchase. **It is important to understand that utility operations including the payment of principal and interest on the revenue bonds will be self-supporting from operating revenues generated by the utility *without any subsidy from the City's existing water customers or property owners.*** Despite the fact that this will be "self-supporting debt", the City is required by its charter to have any issuance of debt exceeding \$5 million approved by City voters.

It is in the public interest that long-range planning, management, financing, maintenance, upkeep and operations of water and wastewater utilities be coordinated by affected local governments. The acquisition of Alafaya Utilities is a significant step toward achieving this goal. Other benefits of public utility ownership include: 1) Local control of rates and customer service, 2) Higher level of service for consistent reclaimed water availability and improved odor control, 3) An improved credit rating resulting from a larger overall utility system, , 4) Capital improvements that are needed to improve service will be completed in a timely manner and at lower tax exempt financing costs, and 5) All utility funds will be accounted for in the City's Utility Enterprise Fund.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on April 15, 2010 at 6:30 PM at City Hall, 400 Alexandria Blvd., as required under Chapter 180, Florida Statutes, to disclose and address all pertinent financial information related to the purchase and sale of a wastewater facility. This is an important opportunity for you to better understand this potential acquisition and ask questions that may concern you. As always the public is encouraged to attend and participate in the next steps of the acquisition process.

Congresswoman Suzanne Kosmas Tours City's Stimulus Projects

Congresswoman Suzanne Kosmas recently reviewed project plans for the Recovery Act-funded North Lockwood Blvd. resurfacing and sidewalk project in Oviedo. Congresswoman Kosmas visited the project on February 8 to view the progress of the job-creating infrastructure improvements. The tax relief and recovery package has provided over \$1.3 billion to Florida for improvements to roads and bridges, including more than \$1.75 million for the City of Oviedo.

City projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 include:

North Lockwood Blvd. Resurfacing from CR419 to CR426.

ARRA funded and currently under construction. The project includes resurfacing the entire 1.8 mile section and in those sections that require it, total road base reconstruction and installation of underdrain.

North Lockwood Blvd. Trail/Sidewalk project.

ARRA funded, awaiting notice to proceed from FDOT. The project includes construction of approximately 8,000 LF of 6-foot and 8-foot wide concrete sidewalk along the west side of North Lockwood Blvd. The sidewalk will complete a section connecting CR 419 to CR 426 along the west side of the roadway adjacent to the City's Shane Kelly Park.



From left to right: Oviedo Public Works Director Tony Segreto, Congresswoman Suzanne Kosmas, Engineering Manager Tom Radzai, and Oviedo City Manager Richard Gestrich.

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Growing in the Right Direction!



Questions or comments related to **Crossroads** may be directed to the City Offices at 407-971-5507 or via e-mail, gbigelow@cityofoviedo.net.



SPRING IS IN THE AIR.....

*So Mark Your Calendar for the
16th Annual Taste of Oviedo!!!*

When: Saturday, April 17, 2010

Where: Oviedo Boulevard (between Mitchell Hammock and the Roundabout)

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Subscribe to the Crossroads Newsletter and receive it in your inbox instead of your mailbox! Visit our website: www.cityofoviedo.net/contact to request yours!