

August 2010

Volume 5, Issue 3



2009 & 2010



★ **TOP 100** ★
Places To Live

Award Winning City

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Recycling Rewards From The RecycleBank Comes To Oviedo!

Many people know recycling is the right thing to do, but they may not have the motivation to do it consistently. Oviedo's solid waste contractor, **Republic Services, Inc.**, is stepping up to help Oviedo become more “green” while encouraging citizens to recycle more. On June 21, 2010, the Oviedo City Council approved the City's membership with the **RecycleBank** through **Republic Services, Inc.**

Republic Services, Inc. partnered with **RecycleBank** to implement an award winning incentive-based recycling program that motivates citizens to recycle. Currently, the partnership includes over one million households in over 300 communities across 26 states and the United Kingdom that participate with plans to increase that participation significantly. The partnership is on pace to divert nearly one billion pounds of municipal solid waste from landfills to recycling centers every year while rewarding citizens for their positive “green” action.

The program is simple, but you must register to take part and receive your **RecycleBank** points. The points are then converted into Rewards which can be redeemed at **RecycleBank** partners such as Publix, Home Depot and for brand names such as Coca-Cola.



How the program works:

- Sign up for the program through **RecycleBank**. Watch your mailbox for more information on how to sign-up.
- Set your recycling out on your recycling pickup day.
- Log your recycling participation on the website or from a mobile app on your phone. If you have questions you can always call **RecycleBank's** toll free telephone customer service center.
- RecycleBank** and **Republic Services, Inc** do the rest. They track participation, recycling weights and reward redemption so you can reap the rewards for your participation.
- Collect your points and redeem them for rewards and discounts at over 2,000 local, regional and national businesses.

To find out more about the **Recycling Rewards** program from the **RecycleBank** and **Republic Services, Inc.**, check the City website: www.cityofoviedo.net .

Make Your Vote Count on August 24, 2010!



One of the most important choices you will make on August 24th involves the potential acquisition of Alafaya Utilities. Please take a moment to review the information about the acquisition on pages 6 and 7 of this publication.

Vacancy
to be filled on
September 20,
2010



Councilman
VacantGroup IV
407-971-5601

Deputy Mayor
Steve Henken
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shenken@cityofoviedo.net

Mayor
Dominic Persampiere
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Councilman
Keith Britton
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November 2, 2010, City Voters will Decide on Revisions to the Oviedo City Charter

The City Charter is similar to a Constitution at the State or Federal level. It serves as the foundation for what governs the City and guides its leaders and staff. As a municipal corporation, the City of Oviedo operates under the applicable laws of the State of Florida and in accordance with the *Oviedo City Charter*. The *Oviedo City Charter* adopting the Council/Manager form of government was approved by the electorate in 1986. Since that date, the *Oviedo City Charter* has been modified on a number of occasions, including amendments approved by voters in 2006.

The *Oviedo City Charter* requires a review of the *Charter* every five (5) years. To meet that requirement, the City Council appointed a Charter Review Committee in April 2010 and provided the Committee with guidance for examining a variety of Charter provisions. The Committee met 7 times and subsequently reported its recommendations to the City Council. After considering the Committee's recommendations, the City Council approved five (5) separate ballot questions that would be placed on the November 2nd general election ballot for voter consideration.

The proposed Charter amendments that will appear on the November 2, 2010 general election ballot are as follows:

- (1). Amend Section 3.07 of the City Charter** to require the City Council to fill City Council vacancies within 30 days when there is less than 6 months remaining in a term of office and to provide that the mayor cast the deciding vote when the vote is tied.
- (2). Amend Section 3.05 of the City Charter** to provide that at the City Council annually determine which City Council member shall serve as the presiding officer. If the Mayor is selected, the City Council shall select a Deputy Mayor. If the Mayor is not selected, then the council member who is selected as presiding officer shall serve as Deputy Mayor.
- (3). Amend Section 4.01 of the City Charter** to clarify that 3 votes are required to terminate the City Manager and to add a requirement of 4 votes to hire the City Manager.
- (4). Amend Section 4.05 of the City Charter** to require that the City have and maintain such departments to provide for the public safety unless 4 members of the City Council vote in favor of an alternative method of providing for the public safety of the City.
- (5). Amend Section 4.08.11 of the City Charter** to clarify that the City may issue indebtedness by voter approval in a referendum, except that self supporting utility revenue bonds may be issued without a referendum even if they exceed the five million dollar limitation.

A Message from the City Manager

City Council Gives Tentative Approval to FY 10-11 Property Tax Rates

By Richard Gestrich, City Manager

In the April issue of *CROSSROADS*, I discussed the challenges and difficult decisions that awaited the FY 10-11 budget due to the continued economic downturn we are all experiencing. An essential piece of the proposed budget was set at the City Council's July 26th special meeting, when council members unanimously agreed to set a tentative property tax rate of 4.8626 mills to support General Government operations for FY 2010-11 (the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2010). This millage rate is unchanged from the current fiscal year and represents the third consecutive year at this tax rate. The tentative tax rate, which will be subject to two public hearings in September, represents a **tax decrease of 7%** compared to the rolled back or tax neutral tax rate of 5.226 mills (1 mill = \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation). *The two required public hearings will be held on September 9th and September 20th at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall, Council Chambers.*

SUMMARY OF TAX BASE DATA FOR 2010 (FY 2010-11)

2009 Final Gross Taxable Value	\$2,071,084,388	
<u>Tax Rate and Taxable Value</u>	<u>Change In Taxable Value</u>	<u>% Change</u>
New Construction	23,840,308	1.15%
Re-assessment of Existing Properties	(143,046,260)	-6.91%
Personal Property	(957,955)	-0.05%
Tax Base Net Decrease	(\$120,163,907)	-5.80%
2010 Gross Taxable Value (from DR 420)	\$1,950,920,481	

When including the voted debt service millage rate of .291 for the new town center infrastructure, the combined City tax rate would be 5.1536. Based on this combined tax rate, a residential property owner in Oviedo with an assessed taxable value of \$175,000 less the \$50,000 homestead exemption would pay \$644 in City property taxes compared to \$642 in 2009. According to the Seminole County Property Appraiser, about half of all residential property owners in Oviedo will see a 2.71% statewide Save Our Homes inflation adjustment, which would result in a \$27 increase in City property taxes under the previous example (\$175,000 x 2.71% - \$50,000 homestead exemption or \$129,743 taxable value).

Virtually all other residential and commercial property owners will pay lower City property taxes as assessed values declined significantly as reflected in the re-assessment of existing properties below.

The City's tax base or gross taxable value for 2010 is just under \$2 billion, which is **\$120 million or 5.8% less** than the 2009 tax base. Excluding growth from new construction of \$23.8 million, the citywide taxable value for existing properties declined by \$144 million or 7%. *Since 2007, the City's gross taxable value declined by almost \$500 million or 20%.*

The FY 10-11 Proposed Budget

Earlier this year, our financial projections indicated the General Fund would face a budget shortfall in excess of \$1 million. Similar to last year, the shortfall resulted from declining property values and continued declines in other revenues that support City government. Property tax revenues will be \$600,000 **less** than in FY 09-10 and revenues from other sources such as sales tax, recreation fees, development fees and interest earnings are projected to be \$605,000 or 4.4% less than in FY 09-10.

The magnitude of the budget shortfall necessitated a comprehensive review of all departments and programs. This review, known as a "service level inventory", required all departments to "take stock" of all existing services and to propose reductions, consolidation of services or positions and potential outsourcing of existing services. This process led to a variety of expenditure reductions totaling \$934,000 that I have recommended pending final adoption of the budget by the City Council in September. *While these recommendations have been difficult, I am confident that the current level of City services will not be affected and the City's financial condition will remain strong.*

As you can see by the summary listing below, most of the budget reduction measures are related to the elimination of 16 positions in the General Fund coupled with operating expense reductions of \$350,000. The operating expense reductions were offset with higher City contributions to the Police and Fire pension plans and the citywide 5% health insurance increase.

✓ Workforce reductions	-\$1,039,000
✓ Police/Fire Pension	+304,000
✓ Health Insurance	+ 92,000
✓ Operating Expenses	-350,000
✓ Debt Service	+129,000
✓ Contingency (reserve)	-60,000

The smaller size of the City workforce is indicative of the budget reductions that occurred over the past few years. The total number of full and regular part time positions for FY 10-11 for all funds and departments will decline from 281 to 263 positions. This will result in a city workforce that is the same size as it was in FY 03-04. Contrasting this change with growth in our community since that time, the number of positions has declined to 7.5 per 1,000 population compared to 9.8 in FY 07. *Since FY 06-07, the city's workforce has been reduced by 68 positions or almost 20%.*

Take a moment to review the City's award-winning budget document that can be found on the City's web site by pasting the following link into your web browser: [http://www.cityofoviedo.net/files/FY10-11Budget\(Proposed\).pdf](http://www.cityofoviedo.net/files/FY10-11Budget(Proposed).pdf)

Sincerely,



Richard Gestrich
City Manager

Oviedo Recreation & Parks Fun for Everyone!

Congratulations to all our Oviedo Babe Ruth & Oviedo Little League teams competing in State & National Tournaments this summer.



Babe Ruth Baseball:

- 10 Year-olds: State Champions!
- 11 Year-olds: Southeast Regional Champions! Finished an impressive 13-0 in District, State & Regional tournament play!
- 12 Year-olds: State Champions, currently playing in the Southeast Regional Tournament in Ocala, Florida.

Babe Ruth Softball:

- 12 Year-olds: State Champions, will play in the World Series, beginning August 5th in Alachua, Florida.



Little League Baseball:

- 11-12 Year-olds: Sectional Champions, currently playing in the State Tournament in Crystal River, Florida.

In other sports news:

- **Adult Softball** leagues are wrapping up their summer seasons with a few weeks remaining. Come out and watch the exciting softball action every Monday, Wednesday & Friday nights at Oviedo Sports Complex. Open registration for the Fall 2010 season will begin on Wednesday, August 4th with leagues offered on Monday (ASA men's), Wednesday (ASA men's), Thursday (USSSA men's) & Friday (ASA coed) nights.
- The Summer **Adult Flag Football** season has ended, with team "Hooray" winning the regular season and tournament championships. Registration for the Fall 2010 season will begin on Wednesday, August 11th, with games taking place on Sunday mornings at Long Lake Park. Games are scheduled to begin on September 12th.
- Fall **Youth Flag Football** will begin registration on Sunday, August 1st at Riverside Park. Oviedo NFL Flag is the premier youth football league for boys and girls ages 5-14 (age as of October 2nd, 2010). This recreational program provides young players a fun and exciting opportunity to engage in non-contact, continuous action while learning lessons in teamwork. Four age groups are offered: 5/6, 7/8, 8-11, and 12-14. Games will take place on Saturday mornings, beginning October 2nd.

Don't miss a rewarding volunteer opportunity to coach one of our fantastic teams!

****Check out these other programs offered by Recreation and Parks****

Oviedo Aquatics Center

Water Aerobics - Monday through Friday 8:30 to 9:30 am.

Splash Zone Birthday Parties - Friday and Saturday evenings through September 25th.

Riverside Recreation Facility

SNAP Club is back in September - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesday of each month, 2 - 4 pm

5th Grade Dance - Friday, September 10, 2010 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Tickets on sale August 29th @ 10:00 am.

American Red Cross Babysitter Course - Thursday, September 9, 2010. Call for details.

Doggie Social Hour - Saturday, September 11, 2010, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Special Population Dances for Children and Adults - Friday September 17, 2010, 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Senior Field Trip to Hard Rock Casino in Tampa - Tuesday, October 12, 2010

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

Aquatics Programming

The 2010 Oviedo Barracuda Swim Team

- 165 swimmers from 6 years old to 15 years old this summer
- 4 Barracuda teams; Blue, Green, Yellow, and Red.
- The Barracuda's practice three hours a week and compete on meets on Saturday mornings at the Aquatic Facility. The summer starts off with a Fun Meet against the Blue Dolphins swim team and then competition between the 4 Barracuda teams in six meets at the Oviedo Aquatic Facility. They finish the summer with an Oviedo Barracuda Championship Meet, an official swim meet, and an end of the season party in the Splash Zone, with awards.



Each age group has a different coach and they practice four competitive strokes, starts, and turns. They learn swimming drills for each stroke and all about sportsmanship. Each swimmer receives a ribbon for the events they swim.

Swimming Lessons at Oviedo Aquatics!

Oviedo Aquatics offered 6 sessions of Group Swim Lessons this Summer teaching over 400 swimmers of all ages the important life skill of swimming and general water safety. Although the busiest season for Swim Lessons is the Summer, we also offer lessons in the Spring and Fall.

- The group lessons begin in March and run through October.
- Private Lessons will begin in September and run through April.

We offer classes ranging from infant to adult for all skill levels. For more information about our Swim Lessons program, check out the City website: www.cityofoviedo.net or call Liz Fiorey at 407-971-5582.

Summer Camps were a big success again this year!

Another year of "Fun in the Sun" at Oviedo Recreation and Parks Club Riverside/Middle School Day Camp!

- 1295 children participated in the various activities at the summer camps
- 827 from kindergarten through 5th grade, with
- 433 middle school campers
- 35 high school volunteers were a big help.

During our 9 week program, Mr. Antonio Ortiz; Camp Supervisor, Counselors and Campers traveled 8,717.86 miles. The campers, asked which trips were most memorable gave a thumbs up to: the **Brevard Zoo, Daytona Lagoon, Disney Quest, Firikin & Kegler, Florida Aquarium in Tampa, the Mascot Games, Typhoon Lagoon, and Wet & Wild...**just to name a few.

Campers also enjoyed games and activities such as Riverside Olympics, All Star Soccer, World Cup, Mud Volleyball, Kickball Tournament, Silent Speedball, Wall Ball, Talent Show, building a Fort, Camper of the week, Jazzercise boot camp, and we can't forget our Reading Program.

A special thank you to our fantastic **High School Volunteers**. They had an opportunity to work with children alongside our enthusiastic staff. The volunteers stated they would never forget their experiences here at Club Riverside and many expressed their desire to return as counselors. Our volunteers worked and earned 40 hours for their **Bright Futures Scholarship** and what bright futures they have ahead of them! Our 9 week program ran from June 14- Aug 13, 2010 from 7:30 am – 6 pm Monday- Friday.

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

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

Approximately 7,500 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. operates over 500 utility systems in 15 states and serves over 300,000 connections.

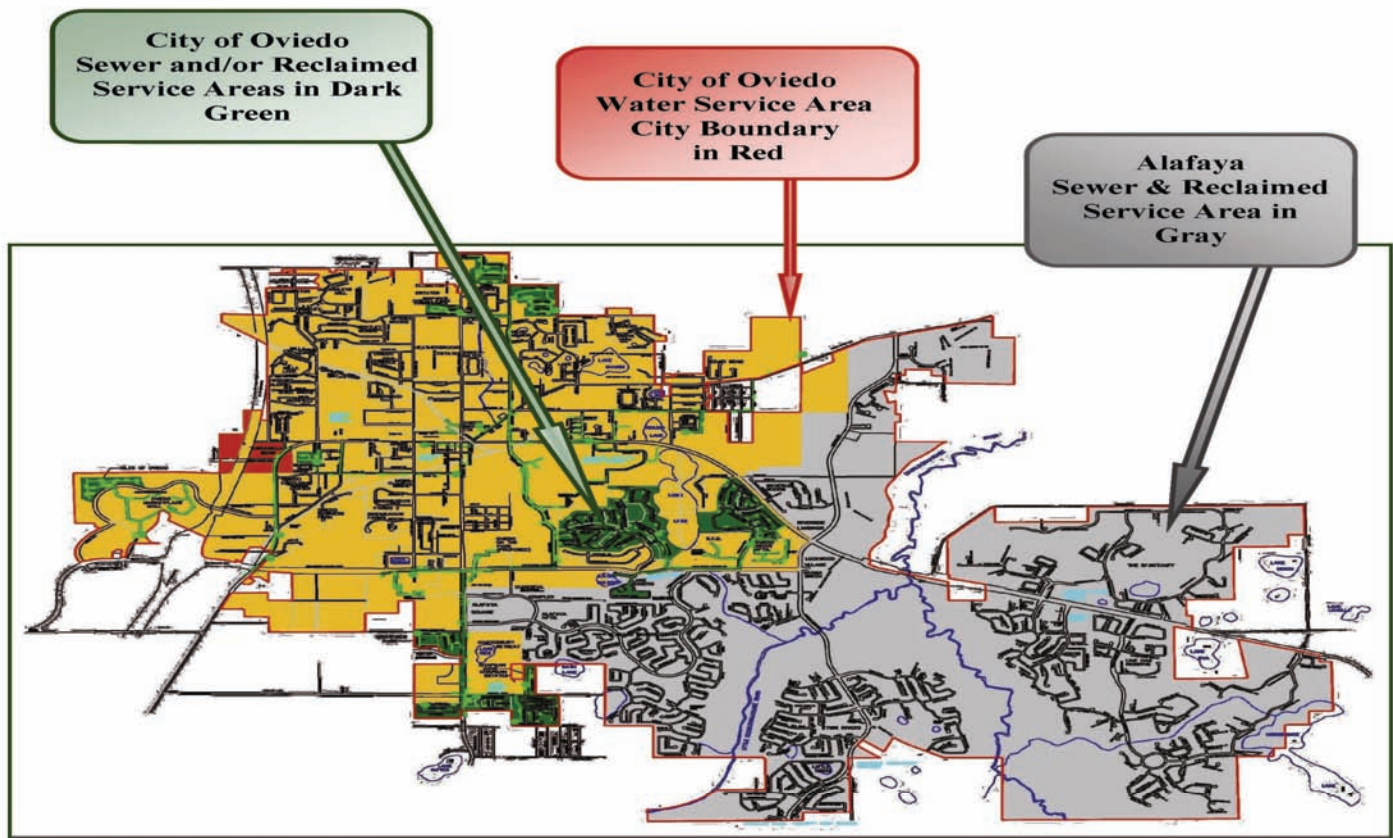
The Oviedo City Council recognized that City ownership would provide Alafaya utility customers with improved service at more reasonable long term cost and a more reliable supply of reuse water. To determine the feasibility and benefits of public ownership, independent financial, engineering and legal experts evaluated the acquisition of Alafaya Utilities by the City. The evaluation known as "due diligence" involved a comprehensive and detailed financial and engineering analysis of the Wastewater Utility and its assets.

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 negotiated the terms of a purchase and sale of the Alafaya Utilities assets. On April 15th, the City Council held a public hearing as required under Chapter 180 to disclose and address all relevant financial information related to the purchase and sale of a wastewater facility and allow for citizen comment and questions.

With the approval of the purchase and sale agreement at the public hearing, a referendum election has now been scheduled for August 24th to ask voters to authorize the issuance of revenue bonds that will fund the utility acquisition. The debt service on the bonds would be paid by revenues generated by the utility system and not from ad valorem taxation (i.e. property taxes).

On the adjacent page, you will find some questions and answers about the potential utility acquisition and its affect on utility customers and the city.

Utility Service Area For Oviedo Utility Customers



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE POTENTIAL PURCHASE OF ALAFAYA UTILITIES

Q. How would public ownership of the utility affect citizens and the City?

A. Public utility ownership would result in: **1)** Local control of rates and customer service rather than control exercised by a private company and the Public Service Commission (PSC) in Tallahassee, **2)** A higher level of service with improved reclaimed water availability and improved odor control, **3)** An improved credit rating resulting from a larger overall utility system, **4)** All utility funds will be accounted for in the City's Utility Enterprise Fund, **5)** Capital improvements that are needed to improve service will be completed in a timely manner and at lower tax exempt financing costs.

Q. What is the purchase price of the Utility?

A. \$28.75 million. An initial offer of \$42 million was made by the private utility owner.

Q. What will be the total amount of the utility revenue bonds necessary to finance the acquisition?

A. If approved by the voters on August 24, 2010, revenue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$36 million will be issued. This amount includes the \$28.75 million utility purchase price plus \$3.7 million for PSC-approved Phase II capital improvements and bond issuance costs (including a required debt service reserve equal to one year of principal and interest).

Q. How will the principal and interest payments on the revenue bonds and utility operations in general be supported?

A. The payments on the revenue bonds and utility operational costs will be self-supporting from the operating revenues generated by the utility system. All financial projections have demonstrated that no subsidy from the City's existing water customers or property owners will be needed.

Q. What improvements will the City make to the utility if the acquisition is approved by voters?

A. Shortly after the acquisition is completed, the City plans to proceed immediately with approximately \$3.7 million of capital improvements such as odor control improvements, reclaimed water system upgrades to increase reuse supply and availability, and tank rehabilitation and related facility upgrades to improve the wastewater treatment process.

Q. Will City ownership change how much customers pay for wastewater and reclaimed water?

A. Rates that have already been approved by the PSC will not change. Upon interconnection of the two reclaimed systems, former Alafaya Utilities reclaimed water customers will pay the same rates as other City reclaimed water users.

Q. What will the electorate be asked to vote on at the August 24th referendum?

A. The ballot question will be as follows: "The *City Charter* currently requires voter approval to borrow more than \$5,000,000. Shall the *City Charter* be amended to allow the purchase of certain wastewater and reclaimed water assets of Alafaya Utilities, Inc. and to issue bonds not exceeding \$36,000,000 bearing interest not exceeding maximum legal rates payable from the City's utility systems net revenues to acquire and improve such systems and the level of service provided to customers?"

Yes [] No []

City of Oviedo
400 Alexandria Boulevard
Oviedo, Florida 32765

www.cityofoviedo.net

Phone: 407-971-5555

Growing in the Right Direction!



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

ELECTION DAY IS EARLY THIS YEAR DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2nd!

Early Voting is available at the following locations:

Supervisor of Elections, 1500 E. Airport Blvd., Sanford;

Seminole County Libraries in Oviedo, Longwood, Lake Mary and Casselberry



Early Voting dates at all locations:

- October 18, 2010 through October 31, 2010

Early Voting hours at all locations:

- 10 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Friday
- 12 PM to 4 PM, Saturday and Sunday

Voting at your designated polling place on November 2, 2010 will be from:

- 7 AM to 7 PM

Absentee ballots for this election are available through the Seminole County Supervisor of Elections office by calling 407-585-VOTE (8683).