

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Gym Restoration Committee, February 8th, Archer City Hall, 4:00 PM
- Commission Budget Workshop, February 9th, Archer City Hall, 3:00 PM
- Congressman Stearns Representative, Archer City Hall, February 10th, Archer City Hall, 2:00 PM
- Chamber of Commerce Meeting, February 10th, Railhouse Grill, 5:30 PM.
- City Commission Meeting, February 14th, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM
- Recreation Committee Meeting, Archer City Hall, February 15th, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM
- Archer Historical Society, Old Depot, Thursday, February 17th, 7:00 PM
- Sewer Committee Meeting, February 17th, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM
- Code Enforcement Meeting, Archer City Hall, February 22nd, 7:00 PM
- City Commission Meeting, Archer City Hall, February 28th, 7:00 PM

ARCHER NEWSLETTER

February 2011



HELLO FROM MAYOR FRANK OGBORN

Your Commissioners have been busy working hard for you! This week Commissioners Parker and Lopez were in Ocala receiving grant money from the USDA to finish our Community Center. I got to see the building for the first time today. Commissioner Lopez gave me some wonderful history about the old gym. I can't wait for it to be done! What a jewel for our town!

All of your Commissioners went to two different sewer plants to inspect their operations, talk to the operators, and ask questions. I came away with a greater conviction that we need sewer here in Archer if we are to stay a city.

Commissioner Zander writes a wonderful history piece for the newsletter. They are a look back in time. I would like some stories from families who have been here a long time. Tell us your Archer family story.

Commissioner Zander and I attended a Crime Watch meeting at the Bethlehem church in the Holly Hills neighborhood. Deputy David Tate gave an excellent presentation and assured us that the Sheriff's department is committed to helping us fight crime.

RECREATION

The City of Archer Parks and Recreation Department (CARD) seeks to promote healthy families through progressive recreational/educational programming. We hope to address young people's most pressing daily concerns – somewhere to go, something to do, and someone to hang-out with; while attending to parents concerns about engaging their children in healthy, fun-filled activities that promote character development.

Here are a few projects that we hope to bring on-line very soon. Your input and participation is highly valued in making this a reality:

- The newly built Community Center, Converting the “old fire station” into a recreational/educational resource center, 4-H Projects, On-line Tutoring Programs, National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) – Football, Basketball, Soccer, Baseball, and Cheer Leading

CARD is a community service initiative administered by an ever-expanding group of dedicated volunteers (have mercy on our city manager!). Please consider becoming a volunteer. Volunteer opportunities for sharing, caring adults and teens are available in many areas, including:

- Serving on the City of Archer Recreation Committee , and sub-committees, Athletic Coaches, 4-H Leaders, Monitors/ chaperons:computer labs, leisure activities, field trips, etc Academic Tutors – K-12
 - Add other interests/skills that you would like to contribute
- Contact: Carolyn Khalfani (281-0588). Doug Jones (225-6883), City Hall (495-2880)

ARCHER CRIME WATCH

Deputy Lowe had hoped that each neighborhood or street in Archer could have its own Crime Watch, but for that to happen, we would need a lot more participation.

People on the Crime Watch list can e-mail each other about any suspicious activities they see or about and crimes committed, things stolen or vandalized on their property, potential prowlers they've spotted, suspicious vehicles seen apparently "casing" the neighborhood, and so on. If you would like to be on the Crime Watch list, just send me your email. My email address is marjoriezander@bellsouth.net. If you let me know, I'll include you on the Crime Watch list and forward to you all emails about crimes or potential crimes in Archer, along with tips about how to keep your property safe.

Marjorie Zander



HELLO FROM MAYOR OGBORN (continued)

Commissioner Green attended an Alachua County League of Cities meeting for me. He got to meet the mayors from all of the cities in Alachua County, and he said they fed him pretty good as well! I'm sorry I missed it!

We attended a three-day workshop for elected officials. It was a very intense course that helps us in the work we do for you. We discovered that Archer wasn't the only city with budget challenges! On top of that, Commissioner Green attends all the sewer meetings and chairs the committee on sewer.

Whew! That is a fraction of what your Commissioners do for Archer. This is an exciting time for us all. Come to the meetings. Watch us on the City website. Help us to be the government of the people.

Until next time.

Mayor Frank Ogborn

FLORIDA HISTORY CORNER

I would like to dedicate this month's Florida History Corner to Mr. Duke, who passed away last month. He always liked to tell stories about the old days in Archer, and one story I especially remember was the one about Ma Barker's gang buying gas at Mr. Duke's gas station (now Archer Automotive) a few days before their famous shootout with the FBI.

It was January of 1935. Doc Barker, Ma Barker's older son, was arrested by the FBI in New York City. When they searched his apartment, they found a map of Florida with a circle drawn around Marion County. So the FBI headed to Marion County in search of the rest of the gang.

One FBI agent overheard gossip in an Ocala barbershop about a group of fishermen who were renting a large house on Lake Weir. The barber said they had come in for haircuts and tipped him \$50. That

would be a very large tip today, but in those days, during the Depression, it was a great deal of money, not the kind of tip an ordinary citizen could afford.

The FBI went to the house on Lake Weir, and an agent knocked on the door, pretending to be selling magazine subscriptions. He saw high-powered rifles inside the house. Ma and Fred Barker and their partner in crime, Paul Karpis, were very friendly and invited the young man to go fishing with them. The young agent was able to recognize Fred Barker by his tattoo. Karpis left for a trip to Miami that evening.

The next morning the FBI surrounded the house and ordered Fred Barker to come out. He opened fire on them and the agents barely escaped with their lives. Gunfire was exchanged between Ma and Fred Barker and the FBI for several hours. Finally, the Barkers stopped shooting. Agents found Fred dead with eleven bullet wounds. He was still clutching a machine gun. Ma Barker was shot three times, once through the heart.

Meanwhile, Doc Barker was sent to Alcatraz. When he tried to escape, he was gunned down by prison guards. His last words were, "I'm all shot to hell!" *M. Zander*