

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Zumba classes every Thursday, 6-7 PM, Archer United Methodist Church
- City Commission Meeting, Monday, October 10th, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM
- Planning and Zoning Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 11th, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM
- Chamber of Commerce Meeting, Thursday, October 13th, Rail House Grill, 5:30 PM
- Archer Historical Society, Thursday, October 20th, Old Depot, 6:30 PM
- City Commission Meeting, Monday, October 24th, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM
- Codes Enforcement Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 25th, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM
- Archer Halloween Party, Sunday, October 30th, 5 PM, Archer Community Center

ARCHER NEWSLETTER October 2011



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Happy fall, everyone!

It sure didn't feel like fall to me, but today is the first day after the Vernal Equinox. This phenomenon occurs twice a year, once in March and again in September. An equinox is when the sun is in the same place as the earth's equator. On the day of the equinox the night and day are close to equal lengths. The sun is above and below the horizon almost equal amounts of time and passes directly overhead.

In early England the Harvest Festival was always celebrated on the first full moon after the Equinox. It was a time to give thanks for the bountiful harvest and a time to prepare for the coming winter. The harvest moon always seems bigger and brighter although it really isn't. The time between sunset and moon rise is shorter. This allowed farmers to harvest later into the evening.

The new bed tower at the Veterans Hospital had a Grand Opening last night. It is a beautiful state of the art facility. Staff from Congressman Cliff Stearns and Senator Marco Rubio's office were there along with County Commissioner Susan Baird and me. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held Saturday the 24th of September. Our veterans deserve the best in health care and they certainly have a first class facility with the opening of the bed tower. I was surprised to learn that we have the second largest V.A. hospital in the country. God Bless our veterans!

HALLOWEEN PARTY!!!

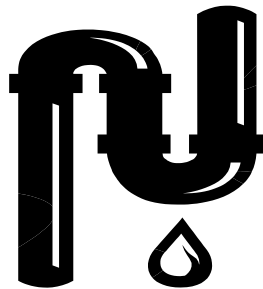
**THE CITY OF ARCHER
HALLOWEEN PARTY
For Archer youth and their families
at the Archer Community Center,
5-7 PM on Sunday, October 30th**



WATER BILLS

If your water bill is not paid by 5 pm on the 14th day of the month your service becomes scheduled for disconnection. At this point there is a \$40 fee assessed to your bill. ***This applies regardless of your service being physically disconnected or not.*** This is by City Ordinance (Ordinance 10-2010; Sect. 21-30).

City staff is not authorized to override this fee so please do not ask them to. Once your account is brought current Public Works will be notified to reestablish your service.



Mayor's Message continued:

September 27 at 7:00 p.m. the Alachua County League of Cities meets at city hall in High Springs. The mayors from all of the cities in Alachua meet to discuss pending legislation in State and County governments that affect our cities. October will see four of your Commissioners attend the Florida Institute of Government Advanced Training for Elected Officials. It is an intense 2 day training that lasts the entire weekend. These seminars help us to better serve you.

This time of year is budget time. It is not a fun process to go through. Your city staff and elected officials have done the best job for the city that can be done given the shape of the economy. We have a balanced budget and for the first time in a long while were able to fund a little depreciation. I am very proud of everyone who attended these meetings.

I hope it cools down soon and the “Dog Days of Summer” are soon behind us. Where did that saying come from?

Take Care Everyone,

Mayor Frank Ogborn



FLORIDA HISTORY CORNER- The Depression

Everyone talks about how we are in a depression again. All those in my generation remember stories from their parents about living through the 1930's Depression.

Mama told me about how her family had fun in spite of being poor. On Saturday nights they rolled up the rug and invited the neighbors over to dance to records on the Victrola. The number one hit song was "Bye, Bye, Blackbird." Some neighbors brought music instruments and performed, and everyone had a good time.

In Florida the Depression began early. There was a terrible hurricane in 1926. In those days hurricanes didn't have names, and there was at that time no way to know when they were coming. Mama told me she remembered an evening when the sky was bright yellow and no birds were singing. She asked her dad what was wrong, and he said, "I think there's a storm coming."

The next day the infamous 1926 hurricane struck. Mama's house was right on Biscayne Bay. The roof blew off and the bay came up into their house and the house next door. The little boy next door drowned.

Everybody was broke. My grandmother's new sewing machine got repossessed. In early 1927, my grandmother got pregnant, but they couldn't afford another child, so my grandfather took her to get an illegal abortion. There were no antibiotics back then, and she got an infection and died. My mom was only 10 years old. My grandfather was told by his

angry in-laws that he was not fit to raise a child, and my mom went to live with her aunt. There was never enough to eat, but my mom's aunt had groves of lemon and orange trees. Mama ate so many lemons and oranges during the Depression that it took the enamel off her teeth.

My dad, who grew up in Okeechobee, remembered the horrible hurricane of 1929, when Lake Okeechobee flooded and drowned many farm workers. The waters covered his backyard, which was several miles from the lake. He was happy because it gave him a chance to play with his toy boats. He told me that candy cost a penny apiece, but he never had a penny. When I was a kid, if I asked my dad for a dollar, he always gave me \$5.00. He didn't want his children to lack for things the way he did as a child.

My paternal grandfather worked in the phosphate mines and did roofing on the side to support his family. They had chickens, cows, and orange trees, and there were plenty of animals in the woods for hunting, so they never went hungry. Dad's mom used flour sacks to make clothing, and when the clothing wore out, she made patchwork quilts.

They were poor, but they managed. Both my parents got scholarships for college (where they met each other). Times were harder than they are now, but they still found a way to survive and to enjoy life as much as possible.

M. Zander

