

ARCHER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010



CELEBRATE YULEE DAY!

Yulee Railroad Days will take place in downtown Archer on west Main Street on Saturday, June 5th from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. There will be arts and crafts and cannon blasts, a parade, lots of good food, gospel singing, Florida Cracker story telling, a Civil War reenactment, tours of the unique 105-year-old Maddox Foundry, Masonic Lodge magic shows, rail car rides, and, at 2:00 PM, there will be a “Flags of the Fallen Warriors Ceremony.”

Yulee Day is in celebration of the birthday of David Levy Yulee, Florida’s first senator and owner of Cottonwood Plantation in Archer, Florida. Yulee gave the town of Archer its name, after Florida’s first secretary of state. A great time will be had by all!

RECREATION

The City of Archer and the Recreation Department extend a warm welcome to youth of all ages to have fun with sports. We are currently accepting registration forms for our upcoming Youth Coed Flag Football season, as well as for our fall sport season. Contact City Hall with any questions and, most importantly, please get involved. Also, don’t forget about Zumba and Zumba Gold exercise classes at the Sante Fe Davis Center. (See the schedule on the back page of this newsletter.)



SEWER SYSTEM

A Message From the Mayor

I cannot stress enough how important it is for the City of Archer to get a sewer system. I see a problem now and in the future with septic tanks built in the 50's. I am concerned about how and who services these systems. Inspections are conducted by the Alachua County Health Dept. and take place upon request or installations only. Septic tank systems that comply with state standards provide acceptable levels of treatment and removal of phosphorous, bacteria, and viruses. However, these systems provide little removal of nitrogen, salts, and certain organic chemicals. Nitrogen can leak into the water or into the aquifer, which is where we get our drinking water. If the septic tank is located where the capacity of the soil to absorb the effluent from the tank is exceeded, and the waste added to the system moves to the soil surface above the drain field, the overland flow from rainfall may carry contaminants

directly to the surface water or improperly sealed water well. Many of the small communities are low density with very little room for storm water runoff. Storm water absorbs back into the earth.

The City Commission interviewed three engineers last week, and one will be selected to come up with plans for some type of sewer system suitable for the City of Archer. We have gone through this process before, and I am sure that we could have secured this system at a much lower cost years ago.

The sewer system will bring in businesses to help create a tax base and offer our citizens jobs, so that they will be able to spend more in our town.

This is my opinion only-- If we do not get the sewer system, the City of Archer will not be able to maintain in the future. I do not see how we can continue on the revenues coming into Archer. I would like to ask that the citizens sacrifice to make Archer a better place to live.

Mayor Roberta Lopez

HISTORY CORNER ZACHARY TAYLOR GOES TO THE DOGS

In 1840, the Second Seminole War was not going well. The soldiers couldn't find the Seminoles, who were experts at hiding in the swamps. General Zachary Taylor decided to import Cuban bloodhounds to help track the Seminoles. The dogs cost \$152.72 each, which was a lot of money in those days!

Thirty-three dogs were brought from Havana, but it was soon discovered that the dogs had been trained to obey commands in Spanish, so Cuban dog trainers had to be hired. The dogs were so valuable that they were mounted on horseback to protect them, and the soldiers waded alongside in the mud. Because the dogs would only eat fresh beef, a herd of calves had to be brought along with the

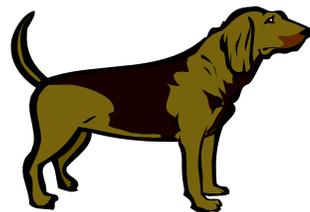
army! Imagine the dogs mounted on horses, men walking, and mooing calves following along! No wonder they couldn't sneak up on the Seminoles!

Unfortunately, the dogs were not very good at tracking Seminoles. On a trial run, the dogs became very excited and eagerly sniffed out Zachary Taylor himself, to his great disgust! The dogs showed no interest in Seminole footprints that were pointed out to them.

Finally the dogs were retired from the war. John Quincy Adams asked if, like retired soldiers, they were to be offered retirement pensions!

The "dogs of war" were probably the only participants in the Seminole War who had a good time!

M. Zander



MEETINGS:

Archer Historical Society, 6:30 PM, third Thursday of each month, City Hall

Archer City Commission, 7:00 PM, 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, City Hall

Recreation Committee, 6:00 PM, first and third Thursday of the month, City Hall

Personnel Committee, 2:00 PM, June 2nd, City Hall

Restoration Committee, 7:00 PM, June 15th, City Hall

Codes Enforcement, 7:00 PM, June 22nd and July 27th, City Hall

Planning and Zoning, 7:00, July 13th, City Hall

DON'T FORGET:

Zumba fitness class, Monday 6-7 PM and Zumba Gold (low impact) Monday 4:30- 5:30 PM, Sante Fe College - Davis Center

YULEE RAILROAD DAYS

Downtown Archer, Main Street, Saturday, June 5th, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM