

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Energy Efficiency Committee**, Wednesday, May 4th, Archer City Hall, 5:00 PM
 - **City Commission Workshop**, Friday, May 6th, Archer City Hall, 2:30 PM
 - **City Commission Meeting**, Monday, May 9th, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM
 - **Planning and Zoning Board**, Tuesday, May 10th, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM
 - **Chamber of Commerce Meeting**, Thursday, May 12th, Rail House Grill, 5:30 PM.
 - **Recreation Committee Meeting**, Tuesday, May 17th, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM
 - **Archer Historical Society**, Thursday, May 19th, Old Depot, 7:00 PM
 - **City Commission Meeting**, Monday, May 23rd, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM
 - **Code Enforcement Meeting**, Tuesday, May 24th, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM
- ZUMBA Dance Classes.** Every Thursday starting April 7th from 6 to 7 PM at the Archer United Methodist Church

ARCHER NEWSLETTER MAY 2011



Hello from your Mayor

I have seen an increase in the number of people attending city meetings. That is so important and wonderful. We, (your commissioners and city staff) never forget that this is the government of the people and that we work for you. Thank you for attending.

This month I would like to tell you about John Mayberry, Administrative Services Coordinator for the city of Archer. John is responsible for the oversight of the city office and its functions. Originally from North Carolina, John and his family have called Archer home for over 10 years. Prior to working for the city, John worked for a government contractor spending time in various Middle Eastern countries. His last 3 years were spent in Baghdad and Dubai. Needless to say, John doesn't care much for the beach these days. He has seen enough sand to last a lifetime! John and his wife Amanda have raised 3 children here and consider Archer a great place to live. They are very excited about the possibilities the future holds for our town and look forward to participating in its growth.

Last week there was a Mayors meeting in Tallahassee. Mayors from all over Florida brought their local business representatives to meet with legislators and with Governor Scott. The focus of discussion was jobs, jobs, jobs. I took Fletcher Hope of Maddox Foundry with me. It was 2 days of meetings and lots of walking. We met with 7 different Senators and representatives, and were able to talk with them about our project. If you ever go to Tallahassee, be sure to visit the old Capital Building. It was a trip thru time and very interesting.

ARCHER RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Sign up now for Fall Sports

We are now holding early signups for Fall Sports so that all participants have an opportunity to help in fundraising.

Stop in at the Archer City Hall Monday thru Friday 8:30 to 5:00 pm or at the Old Archer Fire Station on Thursdays from 4:30 to 7:00 pm for an application for Fall Football, Soccer, Flag Football and Cheerleading. We need adult volunteers for Coaching, Parent helpers, and a Soccer Program Coordinator

The Recreation Department is also offering recreational programs with the 4H club and adult volunteer opportunities!

Contact:

**Carolyn Young Khalfani 281-0588 or
City Hall at 495-2880**

Yulee Day

JUNE 4th 9 to 6 PM

Mark your Calendars on June 4th for Yulee Day sponsored by the Archer Historic Society. The event will open at 9am and a parade will follow at 10am. Take part in the festivities, music, vendors and fun. At 2pm a ceremony will be held to honor Veterans and following that an emotional Flag Retirement Ceremony will be presented a local Native American Group. Please remember to mark your calendars and invite your friends to this wonderful event.



Hello from your Mayor (continued)

Your newsletter will soon include a section on Santa Fe College. Shellie Banfield is the new Coordinator at the college. We are excited about the upcoming programs and want to make sure everyone takes advantage of the wonderful resource we have right here in our own back yard. Thank you and welcome to Archer Shellie. That's it for this edition. Remember to put Yulee day on your calendar. Until next time.

Frank Ogborn

Mayor City of Archer

Volunteers Needed

The city has openings on several boards and needs the services of several citizen volunteers to help the city on two committees.

Recreation Committee has two vacancies

Energy Efficiency Committee has one vacancy

Please come by city hall or go to cityofarcher.com to obtain an application. If you have questions about these committees please call 495-2880 and ask for John Glanzer, City Manager

ARCHER HISTORY

Donkey Ball at the Fair

By Sarah McIntosh

One of the major cultural events of the summer season of 1987 in Archer was the donkey ball game, an adaptation of the modern American pastime, softball.

By one o'clock the fair was well underway. While some people were content to wander aimlessly, just observing all the activity, others were going from booth to booth trying their luck at ringtoss and a variety of other games. After everyone had ample time to explore all the booths, the firehouse doors were opened, and a fish fry got under way. As everyone gathered around the tables to enjoy the meal, a large red van pulled up near the adjoining softball field. The donkeys were soon unloaded in preparation for the evening's event. The donkeys took all the noise and activity in stride and even seemed a bit bored. On the other hand the human players who were preparing to participate in the game looked at the donkeys with apprehension and appeared to be wondering what they'd gotten themselves into. The game of donkey ball follows the same basic rules as softball. Using a wiffleball bat, the batter hits a ball thrown by the

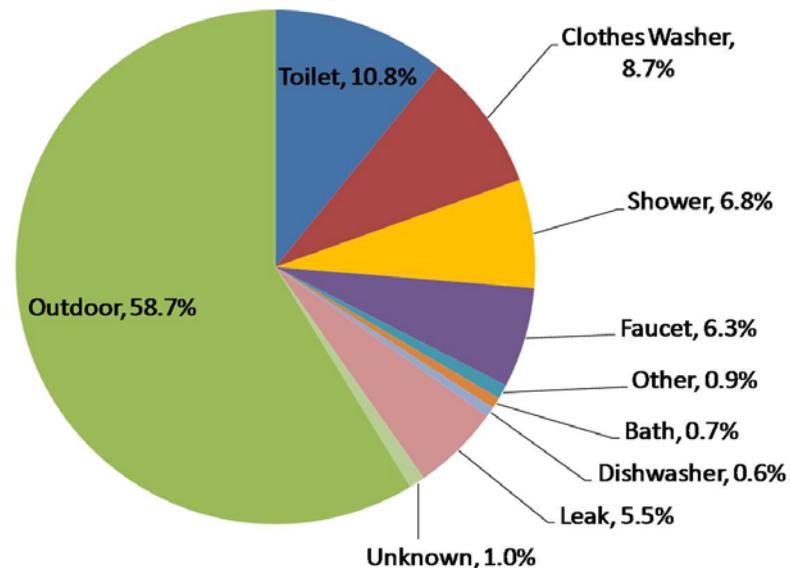
Transportation For those Without Cars

MV Transportation a contractor with Alachua County is hoping to set up a temporary transportation program aimed at Alachua County Residents who do not have the means to travel to Gainesville. MV Transportation has been tasked to create three routes in western Alachua County. These will be point to point routes with the ability to deviate $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile off the main route to pick up riders. The three routes are proposed for Archer to Butler Plaza, Newberry to the Oaks Mall and Alachua/High Springs to Walmart. The Archer route will run two days a week From 7:30AM to 3:00 pm at 45 minute intervals Riders will be picked up Across from the Clinic in down town Archer and be taken to Butler Plaza. The cost for a one way trip will be \$1.00 (\$2 for a round trip). If you wish to be picked up at your house and you live within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the route you may call for reservations to be picked up and dropped off at your residence. The cost for this service will be \$2.00 per a one way trip or \$4.00 for a round trip. The startup date and days of service are yet to be decided. The funds for this service are very limited and it is only expected to be available for ten to twelve months. If any of the routes have poor participation, the service may be discontinued earlier. MV Transportation also provides for transportation for those on Medicaid to and from medical appointments and transportation services to individual with certified disabilities for information call 352-375-2784 for more information.

Water Rates Continued...

The new billing will also allow the Water fund to operate without having to transfer monies from other Funds. The city has not initiated the charging of the rates pending the installation of new billing software. The bill you receive at the end of June will reflect the new rates. The city in working with Alachua County will be hosting a citizens workshop on water conservation and what you can do to conserve water in your home or business. This workshop will be held on June 7th at 7:00 PM at City Hall. The city also has available at City Hall pamphlets which have suggestions on the conservation of water.

TYPICAL WATER USE IN A HOME



pitcher, who is the only player not on a donkey. After hitting the ball, the batter must mount his, or her, donkey and make the round of the bases, hopefully returning to home plate and scoring. In the meantime, all the people playing in the infield and outfield are trying to maneuver their donkeys into a position to get the ball and prevent the batter from getting to a base and scoring a run. It sounds simple enough, but in reality it becomes a mass of confusion. The donkeys' earlier boredom quickly turned into stubbornness and orneriness, resulting in a hysterical comedy of human error and animal obstinance. The crowd roared with laughter as players were unceremoniously dumped from donkeys' backs, or tried to drag sitting donkeys after a ball that had landed just out of reach.

Some players, in the rush to get to a base, ended up facing the wrong end of the donkey, who would then proceed to the wrong base. Eventually, after an hour of zany amusement, the allotted five innings were played, and the game was over. A bit of small town Americana went into history relatively unnoticed except in the memories of the participants, spectators, and the donkeys.

Archer Sewer Project

On April 25th the Archer City Commission moved to make an application to the State Revolving Fund for a Pre-Construction loan in the amount of \$733,000. This loan will make it possible for the city to create all of the detailed engineering drawings necessary to apply for the construction funding for the proposed Wastewater Treatment System. In addition the City will be making an application for a Disadvantaged Small Community Grant, the outcome of that grant application will not be known until this fall. Baskerville Donovan the City's Engineers on the project have recommended a collection and treatment system to the Commission whose cost will be in the neighborhood of \$9,070,000.00 the \$733,000 preconstruction loan is part of the total project cost. Also included in the cost is a \$1,000 allotment for each connection for the decertification of septic tanks and hook up of the plumbing to the system. The current proposed location of the plant and spray fields is located south east of town along the CSX rail line. The location of the treatment site will require the annexations of several parcels of property which the city is currently negotiating. A burning question in everyone's mind is when will it be built and what the cost will be to the user. The city will not move forward to construction until it has assembled a financing package favorable to the citizens of Archer. So the commencement of construction will depend on the city's ability to locate funding sources. The most optimistic scenario would put the bidding of the project in the spring of 2012 but it could be several years after that

depending on financing. Cost to the customer cannot be pinned down until bids are received but the city is trying to achieve a funding level which would place the average cost per month in the \$50 dollar range. On May 16th at 7:00 PM the city will hold a special City Commission Meeting at City Hall to consider a resolution approving the Facilities Plan for the System. The public is strongly encouraged to attend and make comment at this meeting.

Archer Water Rates to Increase

On January 10th of this year the City Commission voted to modify the method of billing and rates of the city's Potable Water System. One of the major changes to the billing system was the lowering of the residential base rate and the removal of the 3000 gallons of water use built into the base rate. The Base rate is currently \$15.31 and provides for 3000 gallons of water. The new residential base rate will be \$11.70 but will have no water included. Commercial Base rates were also reduced from \$18.71 to \$17.50. In addition to the change in the base rate the current seven tiers of billing rates was reduced to 4 levels. These rate changes were the result of a three month study conducted by the Florida Rural Water Association. The purpose of the study was to reorganize the Water fund into a true enterprise fund and require the fund to stand on its own without support from other city funds (a requirement of Florida Statutes). Using the new billing Structure the water fund will be able to fund a depreciation account for the replacement of pumps and water lines.