

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Workshop for City Manager, Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Archer City Hall, 4:00 PM
- Special City Commission Meeting, Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Archer City Hall, 6:00 PM
- Chamber of Commerce Meeting, Thursday, April 12<sup>h</sup>, Rail House Grill, 5:30 PM
- Joint City and County Commission Meeting, Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM
- Archer Historical Society, Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, SFCC Davis Center, 7:00 PM
- City Commission Meeting, Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM
- Code Enforcement Meeting, Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, Archer City Hall, 7:00 PM

# ARCHER NEWSLETTER April 2012



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE:

Good Day to everyone,

This year is passing so quickly. I remember my Dad saying "The older you get the faster they go." I understand what he meant. We are starting the 4th month of 2012. Soon your Commissioners and City Manager will start the familiar task of budget workshops to arrive at a balanced budget for our city. When I speak with our legislators, the term balanced budget is always mentioned. I am proud of the work our commissioners and staff do in keeping Archer fiscally sound.

I was reading a magazine called American City and County. Here is the readers digest version of an article. I was reminded that we have a wonderful resource available to everyone. The city website is another way you can add your "two cents". We want to hear from those we serve. Join our Facebook page. Many of you have chosen mobile device communication so you may like to text. We have an Archer Newsletter that is read by everyone in town. Vice Mayor Zander is always happy to receive articles. Your input helps us make better decisions. I always appreciate hearing from citizens whether its good news or bad, it shows they are getting involved. Thank you.

We responded to several citizen complaints last month related to crime and security. A meeting was held with the complainants, Sheriff's Deputies from different task forces, Commissioner Green, Manager Glanzer, and myself. The Sheriff's Department responded with increased patrols, stepped up drug

## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HOLD AN EVENT?

**Check out the New Archer Community Center. It is the place to be when you are planning for a banquet, wedding, plays, family reunions, class reunions meetings birthday parties, workshops, retreats and all other community events.**

**Please contact City Hall for more information**

**(352) 495-2880**

## THE ARCHER COMMUNITY CENTER IS EQUIPPED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- \* **Open space dance floor and stage with curtains**
- \* **Concession area with double door stainless steel refrigerator, Counter top and cabinets, Convection microwave (no stove)**
- \* **Heat and air conditioning**
- \* **Piano**
- \* **Tables and chairs**
- \* **Stage with lighting and hi-tech sound system**
- \* **Approximately two acres of outdoor space for other activities**

## **ARCHER COMMUNITY CENTER**



surveillance, traffic stops, and some arrests. I believe they have done a great job of responding to the concerns of our citizens.

I was walking with our engineers in the Holly Hills neighborhood the third week of March. We were asking people about their septic tanks and drain fields, trying to gather information to use for a higher grant ratio. This was only a pre survey walk around. Your Commissioners along with a survey team will soon be walking your neighborhood. I met a great group of people who are ready for the sewer system. Say Hi and meet your Commissioners while you help us complete the survey.

Archer Boy Scout Troop 730 retired its Troop flag and number on March 24th, 2012. They returned to Troop number 124 that was started in 1941 here in Archer. Commissioner Hope and I attended the awards ceremony. The fellowship hall of the Methodist church had about 75 people there to watch the scouts receive their merit badges, awards, and rank advancements.

The Archer Veterans Memorial is growing into quite a community wide celebration. I have had several people call asking how they can help. Do you know any Veterans from Archer? Please let them know about the dedication on the 28th of May and invite them so a grateful community may say thank you. Donations are welcome to help us offset the cost. There will be a car show starting at 9:00 with our own Billy Hipp spinning the tunes. Cowboys BB-Q will be serving up some great food. Come be part of the day long, city wide celebration to our Veterans.

## **FLORIDA HISTORY**

### **MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE**

When Mary McLeod Bethune, the daughter of former slaves, was a child, she desperately wanted to learn to read. But her family was poor, and none of her brothers or sisters were able to attend school. She begged her mother to let her go to school, and her mother agreed that Mary could go to the mission school in Sumter County, South Carolina. Every morning she had to walk five miles to school, and every afternoon she walked five miles to get home. That's a total of ten miles, which is about the distance from the traffic light in Archer to Butler Plaza in Gainesville! Imagine a child being willing to walk that distance every day to get an education!

She was such a good student that, after graduating from mission school in 1887 (when she was twelve years old), she was offered a scholarship to attend Scotia Seminary in North Carolina. She did not see her family again for five years. In addition to attending school full time, she had to work to pay for her room and food. When she graduated from Scotia in 1894, she won another scholarship to the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois. She was the only African American at that school.

Mary was a devout Christian who spent her spare time helping the poor and homeless people in Chicago. She wanted to be a missionary in Africa, but there were no missionary jobs available for her, so she decided to help African Americans in

the United States. She returned to her home town in South Carolina and taught school, sharing her salary with her family. She helped send her two younger sisters to school and helped her parents pay their bills.

In 1898, she married Albertus Bethune, who was also a teacher. They had a son, Albertus, Jr., in 1899. When he was six months old, she accepted a teaching job in Palatka, where she also did missionary work among the poor and worked part-time selling insurance.

Ms. Bethune wanted to open her own school for African American children. She rented a cottage in Daytona Beach and opened the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls. She had five students who each paid 50 cents a week for their education. In 1923, her school combined with Cookman Institute, forming the school known today as Bethune-Cookman Institute.

Frank Lopez gave me a copy of a letter Mary McLeod Bethune mailed out in 1940, asking people to attend a fund raiser for her school. The guest speaker was none other than the first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt!

Mary McLeod Bethune spent her life fighting prejudice and promoting education. Presidents Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover appointed her to several important positions. She died in 1955. Thirty years after her death, a postage stamp was issued in her honor. *M. Zander*

