

# ARCHER NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2010

### MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Hurricane season is upon us, and it is time to prepare and know what to do when the storm is coming. Please take advice from this list compiled from several sources:

- Most important: Listen to the radio or TV for information.
- If someone in your home depends on electric-powered life-sustaining equipment, review your family emergency plan for back-up power or make arrangements to evacuate.
- Secure home, close shutters, secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.
- Turn off or unplug unnecessary electrical equipment.
- Be sure enough water and food supplies are on hand for at least three days.
- Turn your refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep the refrigerator door closed.

- Don't forget to plan for your pets before the storm.
- Pack an emergency bag, especially if you have a baby or small children.
- Secure all important papers, such as insurance, birth certificates, etc.

### PLEASE POST EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

Alachua County Emergency

ManagementOffice-352-264-6500

Alachua County Sheriff's Office-  
352-955-1818

Alachua County Fire Rescue-  
352-384-3101

Progress Energy- 1-800-228-8485

American Red Cross- 352-376-4669

City of Archer- 352-495-2880

*Roberta Lopez*

# FLORIDA HISTORY CORNER: THE WAR OF JENKINS' EAR



Did you know that a war was once fought over a man's ear? To know the true story, you need to know the part secretly played in that war by Horace Walpole. He was a Member of Parliament and the son of Robert Walpole, the first British Prime Minister.

Horace kept two secrets from his father; the first secret was that Horace was involved in a love affair with Thomas Grey, the poet who wrote the famous "Elegy in a Country Churchyard." The second secret was that Horace was a Tory.

The two political parties in Britain were the Whigs and the Tories. In 1732, the Tories wanted to go to war against Spain and perhaps get some of the gold Spain had taken from Mexico. The Whigs were afraid that Britain would lose any war against Spain, which was very powerful at that time. Prime Minister Walpole was a Whig.

A bar that Horace and Thomas sometimes visited was frequented by a one-eared drunkard named Robert

Jenkins, who would tell tall tales to anyone who bought him a drink. Jenkins' favorite tall tale was how he, an "honest ship's captain" (he was actually a pirate) had been attacked by the Spanish, who had cut off his ear. At this point in the story, he would pull out the "ear" (actually a piece of dried sheepskin) and show it to his audience. (The fact is, the English had cut off his ear many years previously as punishment for his being a pickpocket.)

Horace Walpole knew that many members of Parliament, perhaps even some of the Whigs, were looking for an excuse to go to war against Spain. They were uncomfortable with the riches and power Spain had gained by its invasion of the Americas. Since Florida was not far from Mexico, and there was gold in Mexico, all of Europe suspected that there would also be gold in Florida. (There wasn't.) The Spanish, the French, and the British all wanted control of Florida.

Robert Jenkins, though a drunkard, was nevertheless a good storyteller. Horace cleaned him up, sobered him up, and took him to tell his story to Parliament. Jenkins told

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his story and displayed the “ear.” Members of Parliament were (or pretended to be) outraged! What a dreadful thing that an “honest ship’s captain” should have his ear cut off! The Spanish should be punished for this atrocity! Prime Minister Walpole protested to no avail.

General Oglethorpe of the British colony in Savannah laid siege to St. Augustine for over a month, but was not able to do any damage. Oglethorpe had some consolation for this defeat when the Spanish attacked Savannah, and over 200 Spanish soldiers were killed in the “Battle of Bloody Marsh.” Then Oglethorpe sailed home to England, bringing the War of Jenkins’ Ear to an end.

The only person who benefited from the war was Robert Jenkins. He was given a comfortable job with the wealthy East India Company on the tropical island of St. Helena, where he drew a much larger salary than he had ever made from piracy! Back in England, Horace Walpole started a publishing company to publish Thomas Grey’s poetry, then bought a castle and began interior decorating. *M. Zander*

## **FAMILY DOLLAR BREAKS GROUND**

You may have noticed some new construction taking place at the corner by the traffic light; Family Dollar Stores has chosen to open a store in Archer. We welcome Family dollar to Archer, and look forward to their opening.

The first Family Dollar store was opened in Charlotte, NC, in 1959. It was a relatively small, self-service operation located in a neighborhood convenient to low and middle income consumers. The merchandise assortment featured basic goods for family and home needs. The no frills, low overhead, cash-and-carry environment provided good value at the lowest price points. As the company opened more stores, it became clear that this merchandising concept filled a niche in the marketplace and held great promise for supporting a chain of much larger size.

Refinements have been made through the years, but they have never lost sight of their original concept. From the beginning, all their efforts have been focused on meeting the needs of their customer

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## **FAMILY DOLLAR CONT.**

base for good quality, low-cost, basic merchandise.

Those refinements, combined with their mission and vision has led Family Dollar to become a leading Fortune 400 company. Their core values have led the Company to be a strong and stable corporation among the S&P 500.

## **BIDS REQUESTED FOR ARCHER CIVIC AUDITORIUM**

Advertisements for bids for the completion of the Archer Civic Auditorium have been advertized and prospective bidders have until September 28<sup>th</sup> to place sealed bids with the City of Archer. The auditorium project has been a seven year project to turn the old auditorium which was once part of the old Archer High School into a multipurpose civic auditorium for e use of Archer Citizens. Mayor Roberta Lopez has made the renovation of this historic structure a primary goal of hers for the last seven years. In addition to over four hundred and twenty five thousand

dollars in grant funds Mayor Lopez and her committee have raised over five hundred thousand dollars in cash and in-kind donations to make this dream become a reality.

Once the bids are opened and a firm chosen work will begin to finish off the interior of the building. We hope to have a grand opening early in the spring of 2011. The building will have a concession area, a raised stage on which plays, bands, and other events may be held to entertain the citizens of Archer.

In an ongoing effort to continue to raise money for the auditorium commemorative bricks for the construction of a brick walkway a “Pathway of Memories” are for sale at City Hall or by calling City Hall at 495-2880. Bricks that are purchased will be imprinted with the name of a loved one, your family name, or the name of a special person whose memory you wish to preserve. Only a limited number of bricks are for sale so please do not hesitate to call today!

Bricks cost one for \$85, two for \$150 or three for \$200.

*John Glanzer*

## **BYRNE GRANT TO HELP FUND LIFE SKILLS AND TUTORING PROGRAM**

The city of Archer has been granted a \$15,000 Grant from the Justice Department. This grant whose purpose is to fund projects which work to reduce crime through teaching life skills, improving infrastructure or working with communities to work create programs such as Crime Watch. Archers Grant is designed to help in the creation of Crime Watch neighborhoods, placement of lighting in areas frequented by drug users and pushers.

One of the most important uses of the grant money will be the funding thru Archer Community Access center programs which will strive to teach life skill to young adolescents and tutoring programs for children who need help in school, Akil and Caroline Khalfani of Archer Community Access Center will be teaming with the City of Archer to provide funding for a life skills program and tutoring for children in need. Contact Akil at 352-281-0588 for more information.

## **WORK ON HOLLY HILLS RETENTION BASINS TO BEGIN**

The City of Archer, in coordination with Alachua County, is beginning work on the expansion of the retention basins located in the Holly Hills neighborhood. The Holly Hills neighborhood has been the scene of flooding in extensive rain events in spite of the location of three retention basins in the neighborhood. Alachua County is the recipient if a CDBG grant designed to mitigate potential problem areas which may develop in a tropical storm or Hurricane. This CDBG grant is targeted for low to middle income areas which have housing or infrastructure needs as it relates to hardening for storm related issues. The City of Archer has been awarded as a subrecipient of this grant \$54,000 towards the improvement of the retention areas. Engineering studies are taking place right now and actual work will begin after the start of the New Year, with Completion of the project scheduled for June of 2011. We would like to thank Alachua County for their award of the grant money.

## **Home Rule County Charter Amendment #3 on the Ballot**

The unique characters of Alachua County's diverse cities clearly demonstrate the importance of local home rule. Hawthorne voters have a different vision for their community than do those of High Springs. Surely someone who lives in La Crosse sees things a bit differently than a Gainesville resident might. The municipalities of Alachua County seek to offer their citizens the option of true home rule through County Charter Amendment 3.

The proposed dual vote amendment to the Alachua County Charter is needed to protect municipal autonomy. This amendment gives city residents a voice in regulations and standards as they apply within their city. With this amendment, a city's voters can "opt out" of proposed changes to the county charter that take away or alter a city's power or authority. Under the current county charter, a simple majority vote of county residents can alter important municipal powers.

The U.S. Supreme Court has said that the power to regulate is the power to destroy. Currently the county charter could establish fire and police standards that cities and their residents could not afford. This would essentially legislate city fire and police departments out of existence by making the Sheriff and County Fire Rescue the only reasonable financial option.

Without this amendment, voters countywide have the authority to change the character of our cities and more importantly, override the desire of city residents through regulation – with little or no say by city voters. Without this amendment, regulations could be passed overriding local city standards including tree protection, adult businesses restrictions, landscaping, architectural guidelines, pet leash laws, sale of alcoholic beverages, redevelopment, charitable solicitation, and billboard and sign codes.

Throughout the state, local governments have been forced into the court system to resolve questions of Home Rule authority.

## Home Rule Cont.

Unfortunately, hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars have been spent in legal fees between cities and counties. By codifying how such decisions are made and by placing the decision making authority firmly in the hands of the voters, this amendment will help stop this costly litigation between the governments and put that money to better use.

It's important to note that this charter change doesn't take anything away from unincorporated voters. It only affects changes to existing municipal powers and regulations. Rules in unincorporated parts of the county would still be decided countywide.

One size does not fit all when it comes to municipal regulations. County Charter Question 3 will allow Archer to continue to be different from Micanopy and Alachua; and Waldo to make local decisions different than Newberry. City residents need to have a separate voice in their own affairs. Home rule protects a city's self-identity and way of life.

## Budget Hearings September 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

The Archer City Commission will be holding their preliminary and final budget meeting this month on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at City Hall.

The Commission has kept the millage rate the same this year as it was last year at 5.000 mills (\$5.00 per \$1000 of assessed value). This in spite of a roll back rate of 5.2519 mills this represents a *decrease* in taxes of 4.8% .

This year Commissioners cut over \$59,000 out of the budget to create a balanced General fund budget without the need to transfer reserve monies. It is going to be a very slim year this year. There are no frills or secondary expenses in the budget.



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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

September 13<sup>th</sup>

City Commission Meeting  
Archer City Hall – 7 pm

September 14<sup>th</sup>

Alachua County Commission  
Meeting 9:00am  
Jack Durance Auditorium

September 20<sup>th</sup>

Joint Planning-Zoning Board City  
Commission Meeting  
Archer City Hall - 7 pm

September 21<sup>st</sup>

Recreation Committee Meeting  
Archer City Hall – 7:00 pm

Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>

MTPO Transportation Feasibility  
Workshop  
GRU, 301 SE 4th Ave.

September 27<sup>th</sup>

City Commission Meeting  
Archer City Hall – 7 pm

October 4<sup>th</sup>

Long Range Transportation Meeting  
Jack Durance Auditorium 5:00 pm

## **GRU SLUDGE BED MEETING POSTPONED**

The announced meeting of September 15<sup>th</sup> with GRU and the Alachua County Planning Commission to report on the findings of several years worth of environmental studies of GRU's wastewater sludge beds west of Archer has been cancelled. Instead GRU will present its findings directly to the Alachua County Commission on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 9:00am. GRU applied for and received a permit from Alachua County in 2007 to spread the sludge generated from Gainesville's wastewater treatment plants on county land just to the west of Archer. Many citizens and residents near the facility have complained of illnesses and odors which they believe are caused by the operation. For several years GRU has been asked to provide the results of environmental studies requested by citizens and Alachua County's Environmental Department.