



MARY ESTHER CITY REVIEW

www.cityofmaryesther.com

October 2005

Comments or questions? Call 243-3566.

CITY ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The City has two new Council members. Margaret McLemore was selected to replace John Oler, who resigned on August 22, 2005. Mr. Oler resigned due to his wife's appointment as City Clerk. Lynne Oler has been with the City since 1988. Lee Griffin was chosen to replace Mr. Dick Pillsbury, who resigned on September 18, 2005 and moved from the area.

Laura Aldrich, former City Clerk, accepted the position of City Clerk of Indian River Shores.

Tammy King was selected as Deputy City Clerk.

The City has passed the 2005/2006 Budget. We also have a new employee, Carrie Gagnon, Business License Administrator.

WATER DEPARTMENT

In order to help you save water efficiently, City Hall has the following information pamphlets from the NW FL Water Management District available for you:

Retro Fit It

Watering Wisely

An indoor Water Audit

Fifty ways to save Water

Xeriscape

MAINTENANCE

We will be starting our semi-annual street curb and gutter cleaning and sweeping the latter part of October. Any and all help we can get from the residents will be appreciated. This will help complete this project promptly. Have a nice Fall!

Community Development Department

Code Compliance Division

Planning and Zoning Division

Building Permits

Last year the City had quite a bit of construction going on. Many of our residents came in to City Hall to get their plans reviewed, ask questions,

and to get their building permits, many more did not. Okaloosa County continues to issue building permits and conducts building inspections for Mary Esther. There have been some changes on what requires a permit. The City has specific zoning requirements that must be met prior to any construction or permit issued; this includes new construction as well as re-modeling. The following is a short list of construction projects, which requires a permit:

Fencing New and Replacement (The City issues permits for wood and chain-link fencing)

Installation of swimming pools, above and in-ground

Fish and/or water garden ponds

Window/door replacement

Siding installation

Re-roof

Sheds over 200 square feet.

Irrigations systems

Adding a sunroom

Deck construction

These are the most frequent projects a homeowner will do. Any and all projects must be reviewed to insure required zoning, setbacks, and other requirements are met. If a project starts without a planning review, you may be in violation of Mary Esther zoning codes or other City Ordinance requirements. To avoid any potential zoning/ordinance violations, it behooves the homeowner and/or the contractor to call, or better yet, come by City Hall; tell and show us your plan. Let us help and guide you through your next building project. By conferring with us could save you from any potential zoning violations and monetary penalties.

The City needs volunteers to serve as fence ordinance committee members. Our fence ordinance

requires updating and citizen's

inputs are wanted!

Call City Hall to volunteer.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS COMING Mark down on your calendar that National Fire Prevention Week is coming! What is Fire Prevention Week? Glad you asked.

How many of you remember the "Great Chicago Fire" of 1871? Really? No one? Well, that fire burned out of control for three days October 7, 8, and 9 in that year. How serious was that fire? 250 lives were lost over 2,000 acres of urban city scape were burned. During the same period, another fire in Pishtigo, Wisconsin took some 800 lives. These two fires were recorded as the largest loss of lives in the United States.

From these two tragic events came the idea for Fire Prevention Week. President Woodrow Wilson first declared October 9, Fire Prevention Day. Later, in 1922, Fire Prevention Week came into existence with a proclamation by President Warren Harding. Fire Prevention Week was to always be observed during the week in which October 9th falls.

We want you to remember this week. You should remember this week so you will take action on fire prevention for yourself and your household. This years theme is Candle Safety, "When you go out, Blow Out."

Did you know that roughly every 18 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the United States? Fires of one type or another kill some 5,000 people in the U. S. every year. Most of these deaths occur at home, and a vast majority of deaths could have been avoided. So, let's all think fire safety and look at our homes, check our emergency

procedures to include our smoke detectors.

The Mary Esther Fire Department invites all residents to attend our Annual Fire Prevention Week Activity Day at the Santa Rosa Mall Saturday, October 15, 2005 from 12:00 to 3:00 p. m. The Mary Esther Fire Department's Fire Safety Clowns will perform on-stage antics for your enjoyment. Hurlburt Air Force Base and Eglin Air Force Base will join us with lots of handouts and they might bring their robotic fire safety friends too!

SMOKE DETECTORS

Although three out of four American families have one or more smoke detectors in their home, it is believed that one third to one half are not maintained or are disabled to limit nuisance alarms.

Consequently, 80 percent of all fire deaths take place in residences not properly equipped with working smoke detectors.

Installation and maintenance of smoke detectors is an important component of a home fire safety program.

Smoke detectors should be installed on every level of the home, and subsequently cleaned and tested at least once a month. Batteries should be changed twice a year when you change your clocks.

SENSIBLE SPRINKLING

Rain Shut-off Switches for Automatic Sprinkler Systems

Save it on a rainy day. Conserving water makes good sense any time, but on rainy days or during wet weather. Why water your lawn when nature's doing it for you? You'll save money, your community will save water and your landscape will never know the difference.

Even if you've got an automatic sprinkler system programmed to apply precise amounts of water at specific times each day when watering is permitted, you can eliminate unnecessary watering by installing a rain sensor.

The sensor or rain sensing switch tells the system when the rain has provided sufficient water, turning it off during cycles when irrigation is not necessary.

The sensor should:

1. Override an automatic timed sprinkler system in the event of a specified amount of rainfall.

2. Keep the system off during the rainfall and for a drying out period after the rainfall.

3. Reset the sprinkler system to the original schedule when the landscape requires more water.

What a waste, without one.

Without a rain sensor, the irrigation system controller will continue to initiate watering cycles, no matter how drenched the landscape. The switch makes a sprinkler system fully automatic, saving water for a drier day and reducing your water bill.

The State of Florida takes water conservation seriously and it wants you to do the same. That's why on May 1, 1991, it enacted a statute governing automatic sprinkler systems:

Any person who purchases and installs an automatic lawn sprinkler system after the effective date of this act shall install a rain sensor or switch which will override the irrigation cycle of the sprinkler system when adequate rainfall has occurred.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Mary Esther Library building expansion plans are moving along nicely. The Friends of the Library are involved in a number of fundraising projects to help with the expansion.

The Fire Department will host a "grab and go" spaghetti lunch for \$ 5.00.

Boxed lunches will be available from 11:00 a. m. – 1:30 p. m. on Friday, October 28th. Please call the library at 243-5731 and see how you can contribute to the success of this group!

The Library is assisting Gulf Coast evacuees with priority internet use, book donations, free copy services, temporary library cards and gift bags for the children. We are proud to represent the generosity of the Mary Esther community during this difficult time of transition for these families. The Mary Esther Library continues to provide special programs to meet the needs of the community. We are happy to be the new host for the meetings of Latinos Unidos de la Costa Esmeralda (LUCE), an advocacy

group for the Hispanics of the Emerald Coast.

For current information about book discussion groups and other library activities, call the Library or check our website at www.readokaloosa.org.

For children's programming information, ask for Marlene Bosak.

HURRICANE EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Okaloosa County is responsible for the evacuation procedures for the entire County.

Please note: Hurricane evacuation procedures for "Special Needs" *QUOTE FROM THE OKALOOSA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (C.E.M.P.):* "Evacuation of persons with special needs is performed primarily by Okaloosa Coordinated Transportation (OCT), with the Okaloosa School district acting in a back-up role."

Special needs persons must contact OCT as early as possible with each impending disaster approaching our area.

Regular Meetings

Last Mon.	7 p.m.	Workshop
First Mon.	7 p.m.	Legislative
Last Wed.	5:30	OTNPMAC
First Tues.	5:30	Parks & Rec.
Third Mon.	5:30	Code Enforc.
Second Tue.	6 p.m.	Trans. Cmt.

Check online for latest postings at <http://calendar.yahoo.com/cityofmaryesther>