



MARY ESTHER CITY REVIEW

www.cityofmaryesther.com

March 2006

Comments or questions? Call 243-3566.

CITY ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

OMI Water Department

In November 2005 the City received a new permit from the Northwest Florida Water Management District allowing withdrawals of drinking water from the Floridian Aquifer. This permit contains many conditions that have to be met in order for the City to be able to continue use this important resource.

Water conservation is the key to a safe and sustainable drinking water source.

Conservation can take many forms some which may seem insignificant but if all citizens work at conserving water the results can be dramatic. Repair dripping faucets: If your faucet is dripping you can expect to waste 2700 gallons of water per year. Check toilets for leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If your toilet is leaking, color will appear in the tank within 30 minutes. Flush your toilet as soon as you're done with the test as the food coloring may stain your tank. If you have a swimming pool you may want to consider a new water saving pool filter. A single back flushing with a traditional pool filter uses from 180 to 250 gallons or more.

Our local communities are continuing to grow and this growth will only continue to put pressure on our natural resources.

Each citizen can make a difference in conserving and protecting our precious water resources.

We invite you to come by City Hall during normal business hours and pickup circulars from the Northwest Florida Water Management District on water conservation or visit their website at www.nwfwmd.state.fl.us.

MAINTENANCE

We have been quite busy this quarter cleaning and sweeping City streets and curbs and gutters. We should be

done by the end of March. The South Bryn Mawr Park grant project is progressing nicely. We installed a flag pole, two benches and a gazebo in the triangle at the south end of Bryn Mawr Blvd.

We are also putting a sidewalk, swing set, pavilion and picnic tables and BBQ unit in the park there. Vandals continue to spray paint graffiti throughout the City and on a couple of occasions have broken into City facilities: i.e. concession stand, ball field sheds and park equipment.

Please help us protect your property by calling the Sheriff's Office and reporting suspicious activities.

Remember this is your property as citizens of Mary Esther.

Mr. Russell Reade has come on board and is a welcome addition for our workforce.

Lastly, we are placing benches and trash cans throughout Oak Tree Nature Park.

Community Development Department/Code Compliance/Planning and Zoning Division

Storm Sewers

Where does the Storm Sewer Go?

The water that enters storm drains typically carries pollutants such as fertilizers, oil, and leaves. Where does it all go? . . . It goes into your nearby lake, stream or wetland.

If you look in the street outside of your home or office and search the parking lots around town, you will probably find storm sewer inlets. Did you ever wonder where they go? A common misconception about storm sewers is that they go to a wastewater treatment plant. This is not the case. Storm sewers transport stormwater (rain and melting snow) to the nearest river, lake, stream or wetland. Stormwater often contains materials found on streets and parking lots such as oil, antifreeze, gasoline, soil, litter, pet wastes,

fertilizers, pesticides, leaves and grass

clippings. When these materials enter lakes and streams, they become pollutants that pollute the water, kill fish and close beaches.

According to federal regulations, many cities and industries must reduce water pollution from storm sewers. We can help by taking steps around the home to increase the amount of water that soaks into the ground. This reduces the amount of water flowing into the street. Here's what you can do:

For more information about stormwater pollution and what you can do to reduce it, contact the Department of Natural Resources or your county UW-Extension or Land Conservation office.

CONTROLLING STORMWATER POLLUTION – WE CAN ALL HELP
Plant trees, shrubs or ground covers. Maintain a healthy lawn.

Redirect down spouts from paved areas to vegetated areas.

Install gravel trenches along driveways or patios.

Use porous materials such as wooden planks or bricks for walkways and patios.

If building a new home, have the driveway and walkways graded so water flows onto lawn areas.

Use a rain barrel to catch and store water for gardens.

Wash your car on the lawn, not the driveway, or take your car to a commercial car wash.

LIBRARY NEWS

With the Groundbreaking Ceremony on February 28th, the Mary Esther Public Library is finally beginning the expansion project for which we have been anxiously waiting! The completion of this library addition will begin an exciting new chapter in our community.

The Friends of the Library are always

looking for new members. If you are interested in participating, please call us. Landscaping the library will be a great enhancement to the area, so think of us when you're purchasing your shrubs and flowers this spring. Why not buy an extra plant and donate it to the Friends of the Library?

If you'd like to meet new people and make new friends, call the library and see what programs are available. Check out our new collection of bestsellers, magazines, newspapers, audios, videos, cds and dvds. Book groups, children's programs, free internet access, special events and workshops...there is something for everyone at the Mary Esther Public Library! For information, call 243-5731 or take a look at our online calendar of events -- http://my.calendars.net/ocplc_me .

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Spring cleaning vital for fire safety

Spring cleaning is an annual ritual for many people. Just as the first crocus of spring ushers in a new beginning for nature, our spring cleaning habits signify a fresh start for us after the long winter months.

Spring cleaning can take on another meaning. It's the ideal time to check our homes and yards for dangerous materials and unsafe conditions and to spend the time to protect our families and our properties.

Start by taking a few minutes to plan your safety clean up day. You will want to check each room in your house, including the attic. Also, don't forget the garage, yard and storage shed. Plan to do several different things:

*First, **Remove All Hazards.** Check and correct things like:*

Frayed or damaged appliance cords, wiring, fuses or breakers.

Piles of rubbish, trash and yard debris.

Remove stacks of paper and magazines; take them to recycling centers.

Check for water leaks, especially near electrical appliances.

Check for good clearance between heating appliances and combustibles. ***Second, Properly Store Flammable Liquids and Home Chemicals.***

Make sure that:

Gasoline and cleaning fluids are well marked and are out of the reach of children and pets. Store in a cool, dry place outside the house.

Clean up work areas. Put dangerous tools, adhesives, matches or other work items away and out of any child's reach.

Inventory all home and yard chemicals, paints and poisons. Store them according to their label. Properly dispose of any that are expired or leaking or that look bad but don't throw them in the trash or down the drain.

Make sure that all your chemicals are kept under lock and key and out of reach of children and pets.

Third, Check Fire Protection and Safety Equipment. This is important!

Check your smoke detector. Do It Now while you're thinking about it. If you need one and can't afford to buy one, call us. We may be able to help you. If you need help checking or replacing a battery, call us. But most importantly, make sure your smoke detectors work.

Check fire extinguishers for proper type and placement.

Make sure all doors and windows open easily for fast escapes.

Make sure your street numbers are posted properly and are visible.

Check and make sure you have a working flashlight and battery-powered radio for the approaching storm season.

And last, ***Plan Your Escape Now...***

Sit down with your family and make sure that everyone knows what to do in the event of a fire.

Make sure you have two ways out of every room and that you have a meeting place outside the house for the whole family.

Practice the plan. Even the best plan is no good if you don't practice it!

You can do a lot to protect yourself, your family and your property. In fact, you are the key to your safety. A little time spent on simple common sense prevention will do a lot to make your

house a safer place. We are here to help you! Please call us and we will show you more ways that you can protect yourself all year long.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Parks & Recreation Committee is looking for individuals interested in serving on the committee. The committee works with City Hall with the beautification of our little city. The committee meets the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30. Interested parties may contact Lee Iferd, Maintenance Supervisor at 243-3566 ext 23.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Transportation Committee continues to extend their invitation to serve on the Committee. The Committee addresses issues involving the City of Mary Esther roadways, speeding, speed bumps, roadway signage, etc. The Committee meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00. Cnabr. Lee Griffin chairs the Committee. Interested parties may contact the City Clerk at 243-3566 ext. 19.

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>