

**FRIDAY LETTER**  
**May 7, 2010**

**Honorable Mayor and City Council Members:**

Good Friday to the dedicated Council and staff at the City of Oviedo. Gail Bigelow has been working with myself and Lonnie Groot and Barbara Barbour on a Town Hall meeting. The Town Hall meeting is proposed to remain as a general Town Hall meeting in its scope with an open agenda to listen and discuss any measure of issues, questions, concerns, or comments from the residents and business owners of the City. The format will be proposed as open and informal with ample opportunity for Council and staff to address the public. The date proposed for the Town Hall meeting will be August 11, 2010, which is a Wednesday night. It is planned to be held in City Council Chambers in the City Hall.

Budget workshops begin next week. So for the next two weeks, my schedule is completely full. I will be working with all Departments to find various ways to craft our budget around the projected \$1,447,000 general fund shortfall. Mr. Bentkofsky and myself have challenged each Director to consider various budget reduction scenarios, including the out sourcing of services. We look forward to your ideas and suggestions. The Budget deficit is not going away so the projections are not looking any brighter. We have appreciated those budget suggestions that were posted in the budget suggestion area. I have read each one and some were pretty good. In addition, Mr. Bentkofsky and I have some ground breaking proposals that will be addressed during our workshops.

Finally, Mr. Kornreich met with the IAFF negotiating team this week. We are reviewing the language of the latest proposal. We are looking forward to scheduling an Executive Session with Council to discuss the proposal on May 17, at 5:30 p.m.

Some of my activities this week included:

- Staff Meeting
- Council Meeting
- Meeting with Tracy Crowe (LDI)
- Meeting with Commander Beaulieu
- Admin Budget Meeting
- Meeting with David Kornreich

**Please see the informational items for the week as reported by City Departments:**

**POLICE:**

As an assignment to produce an interactive Web page for a multimedia journalism class, two UCF journalist students asked to focus on female officers of the Oviedo Police Department. The students shadowed three female officers and took pictures, video, and interviewed them. The link to the finished product is <http://thecristobal.net.au.net/badge/BehindtheBadge.html>

Chief Chudnow and Commander Coleman met with Susan Squires, a volunteer to assist with crime analyst projects. The Chief and Commander Coleman also attended the monthly Central Florida Criminal Justice Association meeting and the monthly City/County Investigative Bureau meeting.

Chief Chudnow and Corporal Sacco attended the multi-agency after action meeting for the Nadia Bloom Missing Child Case. Additionally, the Chief met with representatives from Verizon

regarding mobile phone service, attended the *Relay For Life* wrap up meeting at Lawton Chiles Middle School and the bi-weekly ION meeting.

Commanders Beaulieu, Coleman and Jacobs, with other Oviedo personnel and the Chief, attended the Seminole County Youth Crime Summit at the Seminole County Public School Support Center in Lake Mary.

Domestic Violence Investigation & Intervention training classes were held two days this week. The instructor, Mark Wynn, is a prominent national trainer to police, prosecutors, judges, legislators, social service providers, healthcare professionals and victim advocates. As a child survivor of domestic violence who became a key creator and manager of the largest police domestic violence investigative unit in the United States, he effectively and passionately reaches law enforcement officers about the importance of intervening and breaking the cycle of domestic violence. Thirty-five members of the police department attended the training in person; Oviedo's remaining officers will view video of the day's training which resulted in highly positive feedback about the course content and instructor. The program was paid for using grant training funds made available to Oviedo, which is one of only a few central Florida law enforcement agencies that participates in the **Intimate Violence Enhanced Services Team (InVest)**, a unique program designed to provide intensive service management and assistance to individuals identified to be in potentially lethal domestic violence situations.

A detective is attending a two week long computer forensic examination course.

Members of CRT culminated an investigation and executed a drug search warrant in the 2600 block of Running Springs Loop. The search warrant resulted in 3 arrests for charges including possession of Marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance. An additional arrest is pending.

The Community Relations Corporal contacted SCSO Elder Services to arrange for a professional elder guardian to assist an Oviedo resident—a female in her 90s—who was identified as not being able to care for herself. Guardians assess a client's needs and offer long-term care recommendations. In this case, the problem initially was identified by Community On Patrol volunteers and Oviedo officers who are trained to regularly check persons on the Oviedo Police list of elder and special needs residents. This elderly woman was identified as being in need of help by our community involvement officers and volunteers, but an investigation determined that the woman had no family to provide support or care. Social services were arranged, leading to the woman being placed in an appropriate assisted care facility. COP volunteer Lori Heinis continued her commitment by visiting the woman in the assisted care facility and ensuring that her cat receives care. It is hoped that the woman's condition will continue to improve and that she may return to her residence.

Lieutenant Lynch attended the Oviedo HOA Presidents' Association meeting and passed out a flyer on Auto Burglary Prevention for association members to share with each group's residents.

**The Regional Optimist Club Oratorical Contest scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 2010 at Oviedo City Hall WILL NOT BE HELD.** That competition is not necessary due to the number of 2010 participants; all winners to this point now advance to the District contest in Jacksonville on Saturday May 15th to compete for the opportunity to win a scholarship worth \$2500. Local Optimist Clubs look forward to hosting regional contests in our area in future years.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Substantial completion for the North Lockwood Boulevard project is anticipated by the end of next week. Sodding and clean-up are currently underway.

City Staff met with the Seminole County Community Development Department yesterday to discuss possible funding for street lighting and traffic calming for the Johnson Hills area. Staff is optimistic about receiving funds for these improvements and will provide further data as we progress.

The City's annual resurfacing got underway today. OPC crews started along east Forest Trail in the Whispering Woods subdivision and will be moving to the west Forest Trail (Windmeadows Farm) area next.

The County's resurfacing of CR419 continues. Crews are currently working to widen the shoulders in the area of the Bowling Alley. Work has also been done to widen the shoulders near the intersection with Academy in anticipation of a right hand turn lane (onto Academy) to be constructed. The approximate work limits extend from the Bowling Alley to Waverlee Woods.



The Utility Water System improvement project work effort was concentrated at the Mitchell Hammock Plant site for the first week of May. Specifically, the contractor, Blue Ox, installed a 12 inch tee and valve with piping to create a redundant water main connection on the east side of the water plant. This second water main will make the system more reliable should there be any disruptions with the principal water main leaving the plant.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES:**

This week, Crystal Hanson, HR Assistant, conducted 10 conditional offers of employment to seasonal Lifeguards and Youth Counselors. Crystal also conducted final offers of employment to Lifeguards Ali Sokolowski and Madeline Gonzalez and Rec Aide Brittani Cole.

On Tuesday, the Human Resources Department coordinated the delivery of “Compliance: How to Get it More Easily and Professionally.” The training, presented by Mari Rains of UCF’s Institute of Government, was given to 31 employees. All employees who attended felt they learned valuable information that could applied on the job.

All employees are encouraged to attend the annual Wellness Fair, Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. coordinated by the Human Resources Department. The Wellness Fair will be held in Council Chambers. Highlights this year include:

- Free massages from Maxlife Health and Wellness.
- Free healthy snacks and water provided by Wal-Mart.
- Free blood pressure, BMI checks, tips on relaxation and smoking cessation provided by the Care Here staff.
- Free samples of healthy chocolate from Xocai Healthy Chocolate.
- Door Prizes which include a Nintendo Wii, courtesy of The Crowne Group; a 30 minute massage gift certificate from Maxlife Health and Wellness; and gift cards from Humana and Horizon.

In addition to the freebies listed above, representatives from the following vendors will be present to answer employee questions: Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Humana (dental), Horizon (EAP), The

Crowne Group, ICMA, EBS (Flex-spending), Lasik Vision Institute, and the City's Recreation & Parks Department.

In addition to the Wellness Fair vendor booths that employees can visit, the Human Resources Department has coordinated free 30 Minute seminars on the following topics:

- Diet/Nutrition @ 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 a.m.
- Exercise @ 10:30 a.m.

### **RECREATION AND PARKS:**



Friendship Park Phase II renovations are well underway. At Friendship Park, mulch and sod were added around the new playground equipment. The Recreation and Parks Director has received a tentative delivery date for the shade system to be delivered within the next two weeks. Once the shade system has been installed, the site work contractor will return to perform additional site work and City staff will install additional landscaping.



Due to construction delays with the resurfacing project, the Splash Zone is set to re-open for the season tomorrow, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Training Cuda Swim Team has just started the last month of their season on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, with a total of 87 swimmers. The Training Cudas will start back up again in the fall.



Registration for Club Riverside Summer Camp is now open for City of Oviedo residents, non-residents and employees. Club Riverside has over 20 years of camping excellence that offers a variety of activities for ages 6-13. On a daily basis, activities will vary between inside play (board games, dancing, dodge ball, arts and crafts, reading) and outdoor play (kickball, flag football, volleyball, tennis, capture the flag, swimming). During the week, camp attendees will participate in two field trips. Camp hours are from 7:30 a.m. (early drop-off) until 6:00 p.m.



Skateboard Camp registration is also open. Skateboard Camp is a specialty camp catering towards skateboarding and rip boarding for children ages 10-13. On a daily basis, camp participants will be at the skate park learning new ways to hone their skateboarding skills. Similar to Club Riverside, skateboard campers will also attend at least two field trips a week – one trip of which will be to another skate park in the Central Florida area. Campers will go swimming on a daily basis and will get indoor time during the day to cool off from the summer heat. Camp hours are from 8:00 a.m. (early drop-off) until 6:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, the Special Needs Activity Program (SNAP) met to make special crafts for Mother's Day. All participants had a wonderful time.



**American  
Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*

Tomorrow, May 8<sup>th</sup>, the American Red Cross will be presenting their Babysitter's Course that is designed to teach leadership, accident

prevention, basic care, basic CPR and First Aid to participants 11 to 15 years of age. Each participant will receive a certificate of completion for the course. Because this is the last course offered before summer begins, 10 extra participants were allowed to register in the already filled course.



Youth Flag Football continues to play at Long Lake Park on Saturday mornings. There are four teams in our 5/6 year old division, six teams in our 7/8 year old division, eight teams in our 9-11 year old division, and four teams in our 12-14 year olds. They continue to be cheered on by our youth cheerleaders.

Adult Flag Football begins the summer season at Long Lake Park on Sunday morning with 10 teams competing for the league championship.

Adult Softball will close registration today, May 7<sup>th</sup>, and games will begin the week of May 17<sup>th</sup>.



Babe Ruth and Little League baseball are wrapping up their regular seasons and will begin post-season tournaments on Saturday. Central Florida United Soccer has a few weeks remaining in their spring season.



Parks staff installed freshly painted basketball backboards at Boston Hill Park and other parks as needed. A new pump system will be installed at the Oviedo Sports Complex. Routine maintenance continues.

### **FIRE/RESCUE SERVICES:**



The Oviedo Helping Haiti Disaster Relief Campaign concluded this week with the loading of the disaster supplies from the Feed the Children Host Organization. The disaster supplies will soon be in transit to Haiti which included 11 pallets of tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, flashlights & batteries, and medical supplies equaling over 3,000 pounds of disaster supply materials. Also included was a last minute donation from an Orlando Physician's Office of three patient exam tables. What an amazing item that will benefit perhaps a clinic or hospital in Haiti. We remain grateful to our partners, including First Baptist Oviedo, University of Central Florida, and many other area organizations and faith based groups. We hope to provide special recognition during a City Council meeting for our lead partner, FBC Oviedo.



Fire Rescue members continued with the annual fire hose testing for all department fire hose. This important project assures all fire hose is in proper working condition and affords an opportunity to remove, repair, and replace any hose that is identified as having a potential failure.

This is part of the ISO grading component as well but more importantly improves Firefighter safety by correcting a hand line hose that could fail during firefighting operations.



This week included the scheduled Preventative Maintenance and Safety Inspection of all Fire Engine Apparatus. The semi-annual inspection includes the usual fluid replacement and lubrication as well as inspection and testing of many other critical components. Battalion Chief Scott Forrest oversees the Fire Rescue Department Fleet Program.



Chief White provided technical information to an Engineer from ISC Engineering assigned the task of evaluating the NASA Siren Warning System. We respond to similar requests every several months from all across the U.S.



The Fire Rescue Department provided assistance to the Recreation/Parks Department in refilling the Splash Zone Pool following the completion of the renovation of the pool surface. Ample fire hose was utilized from a nearby fire hydrant to expedite the filling process.

## **Safety Inspections**

Division Chief Koepsell assisted the City Safety Committee with inspections of selected City buildings and facilities.



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have announced the following recalls:

- Nestle' Carnation Famous Fudge Kits (Missing allergen information)
- Freshway Foods and Sysco are recalling bags of Romaine Lettuce sold in supermarkets and to restaurants including Florida. The product may contain dangerous E.Coli bacteria.



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has announced the following recalls:

- Klean Kanteen Inc., Stainless Steel Water Bottle. Plastic spout may break & cause choking hazard. Sold at camping, grocery and on line retailers.
- Sorelle or Golden Baby Cribs. 24 models included in recall due to Drop-Side failure presenting a suffocation hazard.



Chief White attended the following:

- City Council Meeting
- City Manager Staff Meeting
- Historical Society Steering Committee Meeting
- After Action Briefing on the Nadia Bloom Incident

**Please note the following meetings and work sessions.**

<b>Upcoming Meetings</b>		
<b>Monday, May 17, 2010</b>	<b>Executive Session</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Monday, May 17, 2010</b>	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Monday, June 7, 2010</b>	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Gestrich, City Manager".

Richard Gestrich  
City Manager