



America's Seaplane CitySM

Newsletter

Newsletter for the City of Tavares Residents

July/August 2012



A Perfect Day on Lake Dora!

America's Seaplane City rolled out the red carpet for seaplane pilots in April, as the Tavares Seaplane Base & Marina celebrated its second year of operation.

Over 44 seaplanes visited Tavares, with pilots taking part in various competitions and demonstrating their flying skills. A large crowd, estimated at 750, was on hand to welcome the pilots and to get up close and personal with a wide variety of aircraft of the sea-going variety.

There is no denying that seaplanes are very welcome in Tavares as pilots, passengers, locals and visitors enjoyed mingling throughout the day, swapping stories, watching the competitions and visiting local restaurants.



Pilots tested their accuracy in the "Bomb Drop" (Florida-style ammo was grapefruit) and spot landings. The event was so successful that Tavares officials plan to hold several fly-ins next year.

City Projects Moving Forward



Residents can now follow City construction projects by visiting www.Tavares.org.

Each project has its own web page that will provide information on contracts, time-lines, floor plans and construction diaries.

Projects currently in progress:

- Tavares Pavilion by the Lake
- Tavares Train Depot
- Wooton Park Expansion
- Utility Upgrades
- Public Safety Complex
- Alfred/Caroline Streets - One Way Pair

Mama Killdeer Faces Off with Helicopter

In April, as part of Planes, Trains & BBQ, the entertainment included a Firehawk helicopter, which was stationed in an open field by the waterfront. After landing, spectators were allowed to approach the aircraft for a closer look and to meet the crew. After several minutes, City employee Chris Thompson and his family noticed a nesting killdeer a very short distance from the activities.



The small bird had managed to hold its ground in the ensuing wind and foot traffic, taking a defensive posture against anyone or anything that threatened her nest, which contained 4 eggs. Concerned for its safety, Chris and his helpers repositioned some nearby barricades to keep the bird from being trampled.

Thompson says, "I revisited the site just before dark expecting the worst but after two additional lift offs and landings by the Firehawk, mom and the eggs were miraculously still there! As I cautiously approached the nesting site, she raised up ready to once again protect her eggs. I suppose my presence must have seemed minimal compared to the helicopter. I was totally inspired by the willingness of this bird to go the distance and lay it all on the line for her family. As they say, "A mother's love has no boundaries."

Tavares Goes Vertical!

In the spring this newsletter reported on the increase in commercial permitting within Tavares city limits. We are happy to report that several projects will be completed by fall.

Highlighted here are: Chet Lemon's "The Big House", a \$6 million indoor regional sports complex that will host thousands of kids in a variety of AAU tournaments; Lakeview Inn in downtown Tavares, which will greatly enhance the entertainment district, allowing for overnight stays on the waterfront, and offering retail shops and restaurants on the first floor; and Osprey Lodge a \$30 million Assisted Living and Memory Care facility which will serve as a prototype for similar facilities around the country.

An important component of the City's economic development plan is to support commercial growth, not only for job creation, but to more evenly spread the tax burden. In 2005 residential properties in Tavares paid 80% of the taxes and commercial properties 20%. Today, the ratio is 69% residential to 31% commercial. Over the next year or two City officials hope to see the percentages move to 60% residential and 40% commercial, which is a healthy balance for a sustainable community.



Big House Sports Facility - Lane Park Cutoff



Lakeview Inn - Downtown Tavares



Osprey Lodge - Assisted Living & Memory Care Facility on Lake Frances

Learn More About Waste Collection



Solid Waste Truck

Chris Thompson, Public Works Director; Charlie Pell, Fleet Manager; Jeff Henderson, Solid Waste Division Manager

Have you ever wondered what happens to your trash once you place it in your garbage can? Or what to do with junk items that are piling up in your garage because you didn't know how to properly dispose of them?

Tavares has a great Solid Waste Educational Program that is a fun way to learn more about trash and behind the scene operations.

Staff members meet with community groups and homeowner's associations, assist in youth programs, and visit classrooms to share information about proper trash disposal.

To learn more about waste collection, recycling and careers in government, call Tavares Solid Waste Division, 352.742.6221.

Reclaimed Water Project Completed

Phase I of the City's reclaimed water project has been completed after nine months of construction. The system's purple pipes have been laid on Woodlea Road, Dead River Road and Slim Haywood. The reclaimed water storage tank, which will hold 5 million gallons of treated water, is also complete.

Housing communities and residential subdivisions that had purple pipes and irrigation meters installed during home construction will be automatically hooked up to the City's reclaimed water system sometime this summer.

If your home is on the new reclaimed water system what does this mean for you?

- **Lower per gallon rates for use of irrigation water**
- **Conservation of potable drinking water**
- **Delivery of extra nutrients to grass & landscaping**

Reclaimed water cannot be used for drinking, bathing or refilling outdoor pools.

Questions on Reclaimed Water?

Need a speaker for your group or organization?

Call Tavares Utility Department - 352.742.6462



Waste Collection ...by the Numbers

In 2011 the Tavares Solid Waste team collected:

- 5,176.57 tons* of household waste*
- 371.71 tons recycled materials*
- 784.12 tons of tree limbs*
- 133.96 tons of bulk items*

** 1 ton = 2,000 pounds = 28 full garbage carts*

Local students learn about fire safety and City operations



Little Free Library at Aesop's Park

Little Free Libraries are one-of-a kind handmade structures, mounted on posts, which generally hold a dozen or so books. They can be found in front of private homes, in neighborhood parks, or in community centers.

How do they work? Just take a book, leave a book. That's it! No library card required, no return due date. You don't even have to return the same book!

This innovative idea to put free books in public places started in the mid-western U.S. and is spreading all over the world.

Tavares' Little Free Library can be found in Aesop's Park near the Reading Tree. Aesop's Park has a beautiful Heritage Oak that is the focal point of the entrance. A handmade wooden bench encircles the tree to provide a cool, relaxing reading spot. The perfect place for the Little Free Library! Share the joy of reading!



Rosa Rosario, Librarian, Marli Lopez, Library, Councilmember Bob Grenier, & John Drury, City Administrator, officially cut the ribbon opening the Little Free Library located in front of the Reading Tree. Grenier, who is also an author, donated two of his own books.



The crazy-cool dance-fitness workout for kids (ages 4-12) set to hip-hop, salsa, reggaeton and more.

ZUMBATIC

Ingraham Center

317 S. Ingraham Avenue - Tavares

Ages 4- 12 years old

5 sessions - \$25

August 29 - September 26

Contact

Tavares Recreation Division

352.742.6477 * saldrich@tavares.org

www.zumbatomic.com

*This newsletter is distributed by
City of Tavares
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City of Tavares Babe Ruth League Register for Fall Ball!

Age Groups

Baseball: 4-6, 8U, 10U, 12U, 13-15

Softball: 8U, 10U, 12U, 16U

Birth Certificates are REQUIRED

\$65 per child

Season is September 17 to November 17

352.742.6477 or 352.742.6181

To Register:

Saturday
August 18
9am - Noon
Tavares City Hall
201 E. Main Street
Tavares

Wednesday
August 22
5pm - 8pm
Play It Again Sports
10530 US Hwy 441
Leesburg

Saturday
August 25
9am - Noon
Tavares City Hall
201 E. Main Street
Tavares