



CITY OF CLERMONT

Official Newsletter of the City of Clermont, Florida

Spring 2014



Pig on the Pond: Bigger, Better than Ever



The 16th Annual Pig on the Pond -- For the Kids, presented by the City of Clermont, is adding an extra day's events to the popular, annual barbecue festival, which will be held at Waterfront Park, March 7-9.

The festival is the City's largest signature event and features a barbecue competition, chili challenge, carnival, boat show and live entertainment.

Pig on the Pond draws about 30,000 people. And while many come to enjoy the great food and fun, the purpose of the event is to raise money for education.

This year's event will include a 5k Rib Run for Education and musical entertainment by Abbey Road, a Beatles' tribute show.

Admission is \$3 for adults and children.

2014 Set to be Milestone Year for Clermont



Historians will likely look back at 2014 as a major milestone for the City. Coming off the 2013 visioning sessions, the City is poised to launch exciting, bold initiatives, including branding the city, celebrating the grand opening of the new Celebration Center and the opening of Lake Hiawatha Reserve in addition to opening a new rowing boathouse and splash pad on the shore of Lake Minneola.

The City Manager also has a task force that is focused on improving the downtown and waterfront areas. See page 2 for more details.

EVENTS

MARCH

- 1 – Downtown Clermont Vintage Market
- 2 – Farmer's Market
- 7 – Food Truck Friday
- 7-9 PIG ON THE POND**
- 9 – Daylight Savings Time
- 11 – Hoops Life basketball
- 14 – Moonlight Players present: *South Pacific*
- 16 – Farmer's Market
- 21 – Wine Walk Downtown
- 22 – WATERFRONT RENTALS GRAND OPENING**
- 23 – Farmer's Market
- 29 – Park Run Free 5k
- 30 – Farmer's Market

APRIL

- 4 – Food Truck Friday
- 5 – Real Life 5K
- 6 – Farmer's Market
- 12 – Sidewalk Chalk Art
- 13 – Farmer's Market
- 19 – Park Run Free 5K
- 20 – Easter Sunday
- 26 – CLERMONT SPORTS FESTIVAL @ Waterfront Park**
- 26 – 5K & Half Marathon
- 27 – Farmer's Market

MAY

- 2 – Food Truck Friday
- 3 – DRAGON BOAT RACES**
- 4 – Farmer's Market
- 11 – Farmer's Market
- 16 – Wine Walk Downtown
- 17 – WATER SAFETY DAY @ CELEBRATION CENTER**
- 18 – Farmer's Market
- 25 – Farmer's Market
- 26 – MEMORIAL DAY @ WATERFRONT PAVILION**

Click "Events" for details @ www.CityofClermontFL.org

Holiday Closing



Mark your calendars now. The City offices will be closed on **Monday, May 26**, in honor of Memorial Day. Join us at Waterfront Pavilion for our special Memorial Day event.

Daylight Savings Time Sunday, March 9



Other Daylight Savings Times reminders:

- ▶ Change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- ▶ Restrict landscape irrigation to once every two days. Don't water between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Odd # addresses: Wed. & Sat.

Even # addresses: Thu. & Sun.

Non-residential: Tue. & Fri.

Exceptions –

Summit Greens, Southern Fields and Regency Hills

Odd # addresses: Mon. & Thu.

Even # addresses: Tue. & Fri.

Questions?

Call 352-241-0178.

Spring Gardening Tips

Help keep Clermont green and pollution free with these tips:

- Keep grass clippings out of storm water drains.
- Avoid overuse of fertilizers.
- Report clogged culverts to the City: 352-241-0178.

From Vision to Reality

Life in Clermont is great and getting better!

More than 1,000 Clermont residents turned out last year for a series of visioning sessions in which they shared their dreams and helped shape Clermont's future. You spoke; we listened! Here is an update on some of the initiatives that came out of those sessions:

- **Celebration Center** – The City acquired the former Celebration of Praise Church property in December. The Center includes adult and children's swimming pools, a basketball court and the largest auditorium in Lake County. Look for an official grand opening in the coming months. Meanwhile, the City is offering a 12-week Hoops Life basketball and life-skills program for youth at the Center. Plans are underway to build a new police station at the Center. Call 352-385-0131 to register.
- **Lake Hiawatha Preserve** – This 220-acre, passive park on the shores of Lake Hiawatha and Lake Minneola will have many amenities, including fitness and nature trails, pavilions, dog park, fishing pier and boat dock. Look for the park to open later this year.
- **Rowing Boathouse** – Last year, Clermont won a grant to build a rowing boathouse. The City is currently taking bids for building the 5,000 square-foot boathouse near the boat ramp on Lake Minneola close to Kaboom Park. Completion is estimated this fall. The boathouse will accommodate "shells," rowboats used by crew team competition. Two families have already moved to Clermont because of rowing being added to our recreational activities!
- **Splash Pad** – One of the most exciting projects in the works is a splash pad that is currently planned for Waterfront Park near the Pavilion. The City hopes to open the Splash Pad this summer.



Splash pad photo illustration. Actual plans have not yet been completed.

City Manager Forms Task Force to Focus on Downtown Clermont and Waterfront Area

City Manager Darren Gray selected a hand-picked team to assess the needs of Downtown Clermont and the Waterfront Park area. The task force will look at ways to improve and beautify the area.

"Our historic downtown will always play a significant role in our future," Gray said.

The city manager's action plan calls for two patrol officers to be assigned to the area seven days a week. The task force will make recommendations for improvements and also look for entertainment and recreational opportunities to boost Downtown Clermont as a destination.

If you have ideas for improving our downtown and waterfront area, email them to downtown-waterfronttaskforce@clermontfl.org or call Economic Development Director Jim Hitt at 352-241-7305.

City Earns Award Marking 25 Years of Excellence

Pictured from left to right are: Regina Frazier, assistant finance director; Joe Van Zile, finance director and Lacy Smith-Castillo, accountant.



The City of Clermont's Finance Division recently was awarded the

prestigious Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellent in Financial Reporting . Clermont has received the award every year since 1988. The award is recognizes state and local governments that go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles and demonstrate the spirit of transparency and full disclosure.

Dragon Boats Coming in May



Lake Minneola will be the site of Clermont's first Dragon Boat races. The friendly competition raises money for New Beginnings, a South Lake charity that helps homeless people. City Manager Darren Gray will be the honorary chair of the May 3 event, and the City will be fielding two teams.

For more information, go to www.southlakecountdragonboat.com or call 352-404-6946 or email info@newbeginningslake.org.



HOOPS Life

The City's first offering at the new Celebration Center, 3700 S. Highway 27, is Hoops Life, a 12-week basketball and life-skills course for youth, ages 7 to 13 years old. Pat Burke, former NBA star with the Orlando Magic and Phoenix Suns, is leading the course beginning March 11. "We have an approach that teaches proper techniques and allows our players to understand and apply the workouts outside our facility," Burke said. For more details, go to HoopsPatBurke.com.



Red-Light Camera Update

Clermont's City Council, City Manager Darren Gray and Police Chief Charles Broadway are working together to improve awareness about the city's new red-light camera safety program.

Some of the improvements include: more signage, one officer dedicated to viewing the videos to ensure consistency and a kiosk set up at the police station so that drivers can view their video and ask questions if necessary while they are at the station.

Thank you for your patience.



Please support our police force during these upcoming events:

- MARCH 1 – Bench Press Competition for Special Olympics**
- MARCH 7 – Dunk-a-Cop @ Pig on the Pond**
- APRIL 21 – Special Olympics Torch Walk/Run**

Call 352-394-5588 for details.

Waterfront Bikes & Boards Grand Opening March 22





Clermont Fire Marshal Bill Harrison – Florida Cadet Adviser of the Year



Clermont Fire Marshal Bill Harrison recently received the Fire Rescue Cadet Adviser of the Year Award. Harrison has been the Clermont Fire Explorer Post adviser for eight years.

Pictured from left to right: Cadet Section Chair Rodney Robertson, Florida Fire Chiefs Association President Ron Parrish, Fire Marshall Bill Harrison and Clermont Assistant Chief Joe Silvestris.

City Officials

City Manager –Darren Gray
Assistant City Manager –Scott Blankenship

Fire Chief Carle Bishop

Finance Director Joe Van Zile

City Clerk Tracy Ackroyd

Environmental Services Director James Kinzler

Police Chief Charles Broadway

Planning & Zoning Director Barbara Hollerand

Economic Development Director Jim Hitt

Recreation & Events Director Dave Teske

Information Technology Director Don Dennis

Public Works Director Stoney Brunson

Human Resources Director Susan Irby

City Engineer Terry Dykehouse

Public Information Officer Doris Bloodsworth

If you would like to receive email updates with news about the City of Clermont, send your email address to dbloodsworth@clermontfl.org.

Clermont City Council

Mayor Harold Turville

Seat III

Council Member Timothy Bates

Seat I

Council Member

Ray Goodgame

Seat II

Council Member Keith Mullins

Seat IV

Council Member

Rick VanWagner

Seat V

Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 685 W. Montrose St. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7 PM.

You can now access the entire agenda and packets online.

Go to www.cityofclermontfl.com and click on "Agendas and Minutes" on the left bar.

Planning & Zoning Commission meets on the 1st Tuesday at 7 PM.

Code Enforcement meets on the 3rd Tuesday

Historic Downtown Clermont

Shopping • Dining • Entertainment

No Pig On The Pond Shuttle to/from Downtown this year



Come Discover Historic Downtown!

**1st FRIDAY FAMILY
FOOD TRUCKS**
March 7th
5:30-9pm

**FARMERS MARKET
& MERCHANT FAIRE**
Every Sunday
9am-2pm



www.clermontdowntownpartnership.com