

Neighborhood Notes

February 2007

Neighborhood Notes

2007 Neighborhood Leadership Academy

Have you ever wondered how it would feel to extinguish a blazing fire? Would you like to go on a behind the scenes tour of the Airport? Are you curious to know how a Police K-9 subdues a perpetrator? If you are interested in any of the above, the Neighborhood Academy is for you! The Neighborhood

Academy is a nine-week program where participants visit various locations and receive presentations from sixteen City Departments. There will be a catered dinner at each event and a Graduation Ceremony on the last day of the Academy. Designed not only to educate, the Academy's goals are to empower citizens, provide better access

to City services and create ambassadors for the City. The 2007 Neighborhood Academy will be held every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. starting Tuesday, March 27, 2007 and ending on Tuesday, May 22, 2007. If you or your Neighborhood Association Members are interested, please contact Ashley Matteson at 436-5653 to register.

2007 Neighborhood Resource Guide

The 2007 Neighborhood Resource Guide is going to press this month and is coming to your neighborhood soon! Please contact Ashley Matteson to receive your very own copy! The Resource Guide is filled with helpful information on Pensacola, Neighborhood Associations, Council Districts and more!

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News and Information for neighborhoods...

The building blocks of a successful City of Pensacola



This newsletter is a service of the City of Pensacola. Please share this information with your neighbors!



Florida Yards and Neighborhoods

Beth Bolles

Nutrient-poor soils are a part of gardening in north Florida. Gardeners soon learn that our soils do not always provide what plants need to grow optimally, especially during those first few establishment years.

Local nurseries offer all types of fertilizer products...bags of dry material, bottles of water-soluble liquids, coated pellets, and even fertilizers in spikes. We can also find types of fertilizers for the many specialty plants in our landscapes such as annuals, azaleas, palms, and even citrus. But once we are home with our fertilizer, knowing how much fertilizer to use still remains a mystery to many gardeners. We can't always rely on the rates given on the fertilizer container, either. Sometimes these fertilizer label rates are higher than what the plant really needs. Fertilizer rates need not be a mystery, though. There is continual research by universities to determine optimal rates of fertilizer to use. Optimal rates supply what the plants need without dumping excess fertilizer into our environment. Fertilizer nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous are water pollutants. So that is a good enough reason not to apply more fertilizer than the plant can use. But over-fertilizing can cause other problems for us, too...problems such as frequent mowing, frequent pruning, or increased susceptibility of the plants to some pests. Use the following information as guidelines for fertilizing the many plants in your landscape. Most fertilizer rates are calculated on the basis of the amount of nitrogen applied.

Most turfgrasses will benefit from the application of fertilizer during the year. According to University of Florida Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Laurie Trenholm, most low- to medium-maintenance turfgrass lawns, such as Centipede and St.

Augustine, will only need one to two pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet during the growing season. This fertilizer is typically split into two applications, one in April and one in August. This amount of nitrogen will help you maintain a good quality turf but will not supply an excess amount of nitrogen which can make the grass more susceptible to insect and disease problems.

To calculate the amount of fertilizer you will need to use to supply a one pound rate of nitrogen, divide the percentage of nitrogen (the first number in the fertilizer analysis) into 100. For example, if you use a 15-0-15 fertilizer, divide fifteen into one hundred. You find that you need about six and one-half pounds of the 15-0-15 fertilizer per one thousand square feet of lawn area. If you put on more than that, you had better sharpen the mower blades. You will be mowing twice a week.

When fertilizer is added to the turf, many mature trees and shrubs located in the lawn will benefit as well from the applications. The amount of fertilizer the trees and shrubs obtain from lawn fertilizations and from decomposing leaves is normally sufficient for the plants to carry

on their functions. Always remember that trees and shrubs can take up turf fertilizers in lawn areas, so use products without weed killers in these areas to prevent damage to woody plants. If you do use turf fertilizers with weed killers in them, you must never exceed the rates on the label. If you do, you will apply too much of the herbicide or weed-killer.

If you do fertilize shrubs and trees in bed areas, you can use the same one pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet rate as you used for turf. If you're fertilizing individual small trees, you would need no more than about four tablespoons of a fertilizer such as 15-0-15. Spread the fertilizer on the soil surface extending out slightly beyond the branch tips of the tree. Never heap the fertilizer close to the trunk. As said earlier, you will rarely need to fertilize older trees. But, if you do, figure on about one cup of fertilizer per inch of trunk diameter as measured four feet above the ground.

If you fertilize individual shrubs, figure on about two teaspoons of a fertilizer such as 15-0-15 per foot of plant height. Shrubs less than a foot tall should receive no more than a level teaspoon of fertilizer.

You may think that some of these rates sound low. If so, you may have been over-fertilizing in the past.

Beth R. Bolles, Horticulture Agent
Escambia County Extension
850-475-5230

<http://escambia.ifas.ufl.edu/hort.htm>



City Adds Wireless Hotspots to Community Center Services

Pat McMichael, MIS

The City's Management Information Systems and Parks & Recreation Departments have teamed up to provide Wireless Hotspots at several Community centers. The hotspots augment the existing PCs available for use at some of the centers. Patrons can bring

their own laptop computers and connect to the Internet as long as their laptops have wireless capability. Hotspots are located at Bayview Senior Center, Cobb Center, Fricker Center, Gull Point Center, Roger Scott Center, and the Vickrey Center. To access the hotspot

at each center, look for a wireless network with the same name as the center you are at. Connect to it and you'll be able to access it. In addition, the City provides wireless hotspots at all City libraries, the Pensacola Regional Airport, and City Hall.

Winter Fire-Safety Tips

Bob Lane, Fire Department

Although Spring will soon be here, there are still a few more days of cooler weather ahead. Winter is the time when most residential fires and fatalities occur, mainly because of more indoor activities and increased use of lighting, heating and appliances. Here are some simple winter fire safety tips that could save your life! Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year. Consider installing a 10-year lithium

battery-powered smoke alarm, which is sealed so it cannot be tampered with or opened. Make sure your space heaters have an emergency shut off in case they tip over. Kerosene heaters are not permitted in many areas. Only use the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Never refill a space heater while it is operating or still hot. Refuel outside, away from the house. Have your furnace and chimney professionally inspected annually and cleaned if necessary. Chimney tar build-up is a com-

mon cause of chimney fires. Use a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks igniting nearby carpets or furniture. Never thaw frozen pipes with a blow torch or other open flame. Use hot water or a UL listed device such as a handheld dryer. Dispose of hot ashes in metal containers place away from the house. Never use the range or oven to heat your house. If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of shrubbery and other obstructions. For more life saving info, contact the Pensacola Fire Dept. 436-5200.

BlazeSports

Stacy Dennison

The *therapeutic recreation* program is now expanding beyond BlazeSports to offer activities like art and *horticulture therapy* for seniors and those with physical disabilities. *Art therapy* is held at the Bayview Senior Center once a week (Tuesday's 6pm-8pm). Right now the medium for the class is water color but that could change according to the demand from those involved. The city is also partnering with a non-profit (The Learning Plant) in

Milton to offer educational gardening workshops and *horticulture therapy*. They will come periodically to the Senior Centers and we in turn will bring groups to the nursery on outings once a month. These outings will take place on Tuesdays. We will leave from the Bayview Senior Center around 8:30 and return around 11:30 pm. Anyone who is a senior or physically challenged is welcome to attend and gain the therapeutic benefits of working with plants.

We are also hosting the *1st BlazeSports Pensacola Golf Classic March 24th* at our own *Osceola Municipal Golf Course*. The tournament will have a Noon Shotgun start and individual registration fees are \$75.00. All proceeds will go towards developing the BlazeSports program and hopefully purchasing some adaptive golf equipment to allow those who have physical impairments to participate in golf.

Income Tax Basics 2007
United Way of Escambia County

United Way of Escambia County is offering Personal Income Tax Preparation classes free to the public.

The classes offered are:

February 1st - April 15th, Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pensacola Junior College main campus, Building 96 (at the ECAT bus stop across from the LRC)

February 7th - April 15th, Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

February 3rd - March 10th, Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Catholic Charities, 1865 N. 6th Ave.

(Appointment suggested: call First Call for Help 595-5905 for information)

After January 25th, the United Way of Escambia County web site: www.unitedwayescambia.org will have a secure link for those making less than \$50,000 annually to submit tax returns on line from any computer with internet access—for FREE!

If you work and have children you could get up to thousands of dollars for you and your family!

You must file a tax return. Depending on your filing status and number of dependents, whether you owe income taxes or not you could qualify for:

- Up to \$2,100 with Federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
 - Up to \$4,536 with Federal Earned Income Credit
 - Up to \$1,000 per child with federal Child Tax Credit

Anyone with a long distance phone service - land line or cell- can receive a one time \$30 to \$60 refund with a simple one page IRS form.

For the most current information on credit repair, basic financial management services and tax preparation updates call First Call for Help: 595-5905





Frequently Used Numbers

Other City Departments

Housing (HUD)	453-7500	Airport	436-5000	ESP Natural Gas	474-5300
Inspections	436-5600	City Attorney's Office	435-1615	Bill Payment– Gas/Sanitation	435-1800
Treasury	435-1800	City Clerk's Office	435-1606	Library–West Florida Regional	436-5060
		City Manager's Office	435-1626	Parks and Recreation	
		Civil Service	435-1660	Trees, blocked streets	436-5511
		Code Enforcement	436-5500	Park services, sports programs and community centers	436-5670
		Community Development	436-5655	Pensacola Police Department	435-1900
		Community Redevelopment	435-1695	Dispatch	435-1845
		Emergencies	911	Port of Pensacola	436-5070
		Employee Services	435-1720	Public Works	435-1755
		Engineering	435-1645	Sanitation	435-1890

How to Contact Your City Council

John Fogg, Mayor	479-9962	Marty Donovan, District 4	434-2100	Ronald Townsend, District 7	433-0174
jfogg@ci.pensacola.fl.us		marty@donovanrealty.com		rtownsend@ci.pensacola.fl.us	
P.C. Wu, District 1	477-5279	John Jerrals, District 5	433-1749	Jack Nobles, At Large	434-0174
pcwu@ci.pensacola.fl.us		jjerrals@ci.pensacola.fl.us		jnobles@ci.pensacola.fl.us	
Sam Hall, District 2	444-4784	Jewel Cannada-Wynn, District 6	434-0819	Mike Wiggins, At Large	477-9303
pensacola.d2@gmail.com		jcannada-wynn@ci.pensacola.fl.us		mwiggins@ci.pensacola.fl.us	
Mike DeSorbo, District 3	433-1120				
mdesorbo@ci.pensacola.fl.us					

Calendar of Events

City Council- Committees will meet Monday, February 5th & 19th, 2007 at 3:15 p.m. in the Hagler/Mason Room, 2nd floor of City Hall. City Council will meet Thursday, February 8th & 22nd, 2007 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 1st floor of City Hall.

Architectural Review Board– Meets Thursday, February 15th, 2007 at 2 p.m. in the Hagler/Mason Conference Room, 2nd floor of City Hall.

Gateway Review Board– Meets Tuesday, February 13th, 2007 at 10 a.m. in the Hagler/Mason Conference Room, 2nd floor of City Hall.

Planning Board– Meets Tuesday, February 13th, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. in the Hagler/Mason Conference Room, 2nd floor of City Hall.

Zoning Board of Adjustment– Meets Wednesday, February 21st, 2007 at 3 p.m. in the Hagler/Mason Conference Room, 2nd floor of City Hall.



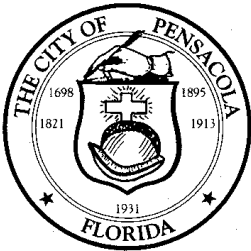
**City of
Pensacola**

If you have any questions or
comments about this
newsletter please contact
Ashley Matteson.

Phone: 850-436-5653
Fax: 850-595-1143
Email:
amatteson@ci.pensacola.fl.us

▶ **Community Development
Department**

We're on the Web!
www.ci.pensacola.fl.us



City of Pensacola
Community Development Department
Neighborhood & Economic
Development Division
P.O. Box 12910
Pensacola, FL
32521

Is your Neighborhood Association registered and up-to-date with the City of Pensacola? Your up-to-date contact information will make sure that your Association is kept informed of all upcoming activities and issues affecting your neighborhood. Call Ashley Matteson (436-5653) to register or provide an update. It's a quick and easy way to keep your neighborhood connected.

