

November, 2009

Dear Residents:

In last month's Gazette one of our Councilmen wrote an article with incorrect information concerning the city's purchasing limit without Council approval. In most cities the Administration can purchase equipment, authorize repairs, etc. for much more than our \$12,500 limit. Any city must be able to purchase equipment without going out for bid in order to meet emergencies or to repair or replace equipment immediately. This must be done quickly to preserve the health and welfare of the residents.

For example, we needed to purchase two large commercial lawn mowers this year to cut the grass in the city. The cost was about \$6,000 each. If we had to prepare bids specifications, advertise for bids in the newspaper and then actually give 2-3 weeks for bids to come in, the summer would be over.

This councilman indicated that we are somehow trying to bypass procedures by buying needed equipment or making repairs above the \$12,500 limit. This administration has always and will continue to always be above-board in our actions. His statements were purely done for political reasons and should be read by residents as such.

The renovation of South Lakeshore Boulevard is going well and the completed road looks great. We have also secured an agreement with the property owner to make and preserve a pathway for residents to walk from Green Road to East Overlook Drive. This administration as well as several council members worked hard to get this done to help the children and residents in that area.

The traffic signal upgrades are just about complete. Residents will see the new LED lights that use 90% less electricity and also last 5 years before needing to be replaced. We also have replaced the traffic controllers which will now be serviced by trained city workers as opposed to an outside contractor. This will help our budget for many years to come and was paid for mostly by a grant from NOACA for \$456,500. This is a good example of how we are able to obtain grants to modernize our city and provide future cost savings.

Snow plows have been serviced and are ready to go. Our leaf machines as you read this article are already out and picking up leaves. Please remember that we do go back and pick up leaves a second time and that all leaves will be picked up. The yard waste will be picked up through the first week of December. Please help us if you can by bagging the leaves and putting them out for the yard waste pickup.

Tuesday, November 3, is Election Day. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.