

Week Ending: February 22, 2019

## Witte Thoughts for the Commission

Another great week in Lake Helen. We had Vice Mayor Burton and Joe Hammett (Chairman of the PLDRC and Committee to Save Lake Helen Lakes) in Gainesville representing the City of Lake Helen. House Bill 2189 was approved to move forward. The storm drain on Main Street was cleaned out. Commissioner Basso met with our City Engineer to discuss the Ohio Culvert. Staff is staying on top of the Tyler Financial Software implementation and the Audit is going well.

*"True courage is being afraid, and going ahead and doing your job anyhow, that's what courage is."  
~Nancy Schwarzkopf~*

### Upcoming Meetings & Events

#### Meetings

~~CANCELLED: Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>  
City Commission Workshop~~

Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 8am  
Historic Preservation Board

**No PLDRC in February**

Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 8:30am  
Ethics Continuing Education Training on  
Monday, March 4, 2019 Workshop 8:30  
am - 12:30 pm.

Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm  
Joint Workshop with the Blake Park  
Playground Committee

Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
Public Input Meeting for FY 19/20 CDBG  
(Community Development Block Grant)

Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
City Commission Meeting

#### Events

Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Rick Mullen's Birthday! Happy birthday  
Rick!!

Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm  
Zerbini Family Circus at the EQ Center

#### Historic Preservation Board Vacancy:

Historic Preservation Board is looking for a new member. Please contact Katie at 386-228-2531 or [kholmes@lakehelen.com](mailto:kholmes@lakehelen.com) for more information by Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

#### House Bill 2189: Lake Helen Sediment Removal & Restoration Project

Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Agenda was reviewed on 2/20/19, 4:00 pm. Favorable by Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ... approved to move forward. It will be reviewed in April.

#### Bridge Program Update

The County Council on February 19<sup>th</sup> granted the remainder of the construction funding to make the Bridge a reality. Michael Pleus informed us on Tuesday that he has given the contractor the go ahead to proceed and within about 30 days they will break ground. We will receive an invitation as soon as a day is selected. He thanks everyone for the support and the strength of the coalition we have created here in West Volusia.

#### Long time resident Nancy Sign passed away

Long-time resident and recent retiree from Volusia County Government, Nancy Sign passed away this week. To honor her love of Lake Helen her friends from Volusia County may donate a tree to place at City Hall in her honor.

#### Community Development Block Grant Public Input Meeting:

**March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.** This is a requirement for the CDBG application for FY 19/20. We will be requesting input on the FY 19/20 CDBG project list.

**Ethics Training on March 4th:** The Volusia League of Cities in partnership with the Florida League of Cities and UCF Florida Institute of Government presents **Ethics Continuing Education Training on Monday, March 4, 2019 Workshop 8:30 am - 12:30 pm.**

**There is no charge to attend if you are an elected official of an FLC-member municipality.**

**To Register:**

<https://www.iog.ucf.edu/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?&course=019-0304&Publish=ANYWAY>

*Or let me know and I will sign you up!*

## FWC

Joe Hammett and Vice Mayor Vernon Burton are at FWC in Gainesville.

Mr. Hammett reports that “all indications are that we will be able to spray in March. Final decision won’t be made until after Monday and Tuesday meetings in Astor and Eustis.”

A Big Thanks to Vice Mayor, Mr. Hammett, the entire Committee to Save Lake Helen Lakes, and the City Commission.



## Stormwater Drains cleaned out.

Thank you to the county who cleaned out the stormwater drains this week. David from the Committee to Save Lake Helen Lakes was able to meet with the crew and provide some guidance. I followed up with the county and they will be discussing his input and getting back to us.



## E. Ohio Striping

Thanks to Rick for having E. Ohio from Prevatt to the County line stiped this weekend! It looks wonderful. We have received so many calls of appreciation.



## 10 Year Resource Management Plan

Mayor Raisler asked that I share the below Florida Department of Environmental Protection 10 Year Management Plan from October 2010. This will be updated in October 2020.

Page 19 discusses a neighboring area – University Highlands that is north east of the City limits.

The plan can be found at

<https://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/4928/31341/TBSF%20FINAL%202010%20PLAN.pdf>

I’ll be sure to mark my calendar to follow up on the 10-year update.

## LET THERE BE LIGHT!!!

After nearly 4 years of appropriation, design, construction and installation this Thursday the lighting over the I-4 overpass and the highway exits on either side (Main Street & Orange Camp Rd.) was lit. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Vice Mayor Burton!



**½ Cent Sales Tax Presentation**  
**Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Sanborn Center**  
**Hosted by the DeLand Area Chamber of Commerce &  
Orange City Alliance**

I just received word that the DeLand Area Chamber of Commerce & Orange City Alliance will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the ½ Cent Sales Tax on Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Sanborn Center.

*Email from Tammy Mauldin, Executive Director of the DeLand Area Chamber of Commerce & Orange City Alliance:*

*“Pat Rice with the Daytona Beach News Journal will be moderating the Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, March 19 at the Sanborn Center to discuss the ½ cent sales tax. Doors will open at 5:30 with a panel of speakers starting at 6:30pm- 8pm.*

*The goal of the program is to allow citizens to inquire about use of the tax and find out specific details to the region. The Chamber invites you, your city and staff to join us!*

*We understand there may a project board and/or list of items that you may wish to display specific to your area.*

*Please consider setting up a table with visuals that outline your mission regarding this issue.”*

I have confirmed that the City of Lake Helen will be in attendance.  
We will have some promotional material next week to distribute.