



**LAKE CITY
NEWS LETTER BRIEFING
JUNE 2014**

THINGS OF INTEREST

Joel Lanken has been the City Manager for 2.5 years and happens to be the longest tenured city manager in Clayton County even with that short amount of tenure with the City. Obviously there has been a lot of turnover in the managerial ranks within the 7 cities in Clayton County.

Reporting to Joel is Tonya Tripp, the City Treasurer who has been with the City for 16 years. Eric Beckman serves as the City Clerk and has 20 years with the City. Eddie Robinson is the Director of Community Services and has 23 years tenure.

Police Chief David Colwell has 18 years service and happens to be the second longest serving chief of police in Clayton County, The police chief in Forest Park has a little more tenure than Chief Colwell. The average tenure for police personnel is 11 years.

We have almost zero turnover amongst the 26 employees in Lake City.

Number of homes in the City is 698 and the number of homes that are tenant occupied is 99.

Our commercial property vacancy rate is 37% which is higher than the regional average. However this will change as the result of David Tran's remodeling of the shopping center across from City Hall known as "Lake City Market Place."

He plans to soon relocate his import/export business to the facility which includes his 16 employees. He also has plans to create a sports center gymnasium in addition to accommodating more retail tenants.

In addition, the prospect of providing tax credits for our businesses in a newly created Opportunity Zone should also spur economic development. We are anxiously awaiting the construction of a new Waffle House in October.

The city's only trailer park has been recently purchased and the new owner promises to do away with the eye sore of abandoned trailers in the near future.

Challenges for the future – Changing demographics and employment with the City will challenge us in the future. Since the year 2,000 the City has lost a significant population base of 30 to 44 year olds. Providing services and amenities to both older adults and young adults will be important challenges in the future.

Opportunities for the future – Currently most of the residents of Lake City leave the city for work and most of the employees here come from other places. Increasing jobs within the city will hopefully reverse this trend as a more aggressive and enlightened approach to economic redevelopment takes hold in the future.

The other challenge will be to develop a sense of community by establishing a “sense of place” known as a down town area. This is will be a strategic development for the future

Other developments:

The police department has recently acquired 6 new Dodge Chargers as a compliment to their fleet. More vehicles will be added as provided for by the recent adoption of 2015 SPLOST.

The vehicles are equipped with the state of the art technology such as; the Toshiba laptop, mobile fingerprint scanner, Low Jack, LPR, video and audio cameras.



The police department has completed the following training courses through May of this year which include; Firearms Requalification, Use of Deadly Force, Financial Identity Theft & Fraud, Executive Dignitary Protection, Basic Photography & Digital Imaging, the Intoxilyzer 9000 Breath Alcohol Training and numerous on line classes totaling 308 hours.

The annual audit has been completed which proclaims the city’s \$3.5 million municipal operation in excellent fiscal shape. A new up to date financial reporting software system will go on line this year and will provide real time comprehensive fiscal reporting. This replaces a software package which is over 13 years old.

The codification of the city’s ordinances should be completed this year which is the first time in 15 years.

Community Services Department reports that at the city’s April 12th Community Cleanup day over 7.3 tons of yard waste, household trash and junk was collected. Also collected were 103 cans of old paint and used oils (motor & cooking) and 46 old tires. Great job Citizens! This helps keeps Lake City clean.

50TH Wedding Anniversary Celebration. is being planned to welcome and celebrate all couples who have been married for 50 years and more.

Please call Sandy at City Hall (404. 366. 8080) and advise her of your names, the date of your wedding and how many years you have been married to each other.

The celebration for those having reached their 50th wedding anniversary and beyond will take place at the Community Center on August 15, 2014 at 6:00 PM. Refreshments will be served.