



**Waste Pro**


January 4<sup>th</sup> – Garbage, Recycle,  
 January 11<sup>th</sup> – Garbage, Recycle  
 Yard Trash  
 January 18<sup>th</sup> – Garbage, Recycle,  
 January 25<sup>th</sup> – Garbage, Recycle  
 Yard Trash

Please call Waste Pro if you have any questions at 328-5445.

**Public Meetings**

January 12<sup>th</sup>, Tues – Zoning Board at 5:30 p.m.; Code Board at 5:45 p.m.; Town Council at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. For more information call Town Hall at 386-467-9800.  
 January 14<sup>th</sup>, Thurs – Fire Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Fire Station.

**January Meter Readings**



January meter readings will begin: Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**PLEASE HELP CONSERVE WATER!**



**Remember:** Water bill payments can be made anytime of the day or night, even on weekends, by using the "Utility Payment" drop box at the top of the stairs at Town Hall.



**Clip This**

The Town of Welaka Utility Department is available for water and sewer problems 24 hours a day at 467-8677.  
 TDD 800/955-8771

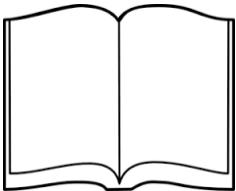
**Special Dates**  
 Friday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> -  
 New Year's Day  
 (Town Hall will be closed  
 Friday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> in observance  
 of New Year's Day)



Monday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> –  
 Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
 (Town Hall will be closed on  
 Monday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> in  
 observance of Martin Luther  
 King Jr. Day)



"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."  
 – **Edith Lovejoy Pierce**



**FROM THE MAYOR**



Here we go with January's newsletter. Finally, we are out of 2020. Still not everything totally resolved, but let's just pray and hope that 2021 is better.

**Food Distribution**

Currently, the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month will be Food Distribution here at Town Hall. Make sure you stay in touch with us and watch Harriet's Facebook page. She advises it appears that we may have many more items available at times other than just on the 7<sup>th</sup>. It's amazing what sometimes we receive. We can be very happy with some of the results that we have had. We hope that if you are in need that you make sure that you are at these distributions. The Lions are trying to have their meetings on January 5<sup>th</sup> and January 19<sup>th</sup>, at noon, at Shrimps R Us. We are attempting to make sure that we progress doing this first part of 2021. It isn't always easy, especially with today's conditions, but we do want to get organized and provide good works here. The organization just wants to be with us, doing good. Thank you. Some children around Town certainly feel blessed that they had rocking horses and Christmas presents.

## Fishing Rodeo for Student Anglers



You will notice that there is a flyer attached to the newsletter. These young people are really very good at fishing. It is that some could compete with some of our adults. Last couple of years, we have had some wonderful turnouts. Young people that are really finding an activity that brings joy for the rest of their life. You just can't beat fishing. I'm going out to watch the weigh-in, and you will be amazed.

Have a little heart, folks. You have got to get this dog noise thing under control a little bit. I mean many dogs are left either closed up during the day, or running in the yard. Otherwise in the evening just bark, bark, bark. We do have a noise ordinance. We have an animal ordinance, but have consideration for your neighbor. Some people do work nights and sleep days. It makes it hard, but treat your dog with care and respect. Treat the dogs in a manner that is conducive for good training. Sometimes we joke about seniors going overboard with their pets, but that is the way today. A dog barks running down a fence line barking all day long because he was turned loose.

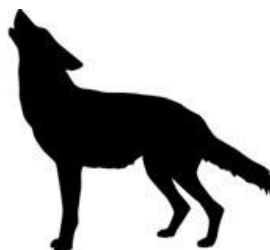


## Coyotes

When I grew up in Western Nebraska the coyote problem was ever present. Especially if you raise sheep you always had these problems. Hunting coyotes became

a real sport. Transfer an old man down here in Florida surrounded by 8000 acres of pine trees to bring back memories. On the north side of us is the St. Johns trading properties. On the south you have a Fish Hatchery and Forestry is a logical point for easy pickings for coyotes here in Town. The Chief and I have gained quite a little knowledge from the Fish and Wildlife as to what to expect. Rabies in the last year there were over 1800, situations in Northeast Florida with rabid raccoons. Only 2 with coyotes so that gives you some strange percentages. Some of you don't notice it, but we do have coyotes wandering around Town even downtown at night. They can be ruthless. We have had our cat situation for 3 years and we have made real inroads. All of a sudden, around Town in some areas there is a decline in the cat population basically due to the coyote problem. Couple of our younger people that have a few chickens in the outskirts here, they are losing them. You need to be careful. Keep an eye out. They have no respect for anyone. They have minds of their own, and can be extremely dangerous. Plus the fact that they seem to reside where the easy pickings are. The Chief is working on a possible solution on some of this problem.

Every day with no hunting on any of the property surrounding us, and really a no firearm discharge in Welaka, coyotes really feel at home here. We say, be very careful especially cat feeding. Make sure that you do not leave excess amounts in the feeders. We'll just have to watch it. Notify us if you have situations as we watch the progress.



## Who Found Friends?

How did you find Welaka? Oh. We have two extremes, either you're 4th or 5th generation, or most of us are newcomers. As I told you, master your panic, call somebody. Pictures of old records who you haven't heard from for a while, find out if they're still with us. People do pass on other than COVID. What are you doing these days? I was guilty in the beginning first day. I discovered Welaka. I saw that house I wanted to buy instantly if the price was right. Thankfully, my wife took about six months looking for potable water. We've been here since all joy the first-time romance and wake up mesmerized in the whole life. The name Dr. Clive Trimble came up on the telephone number. I called him and he was still alive at 80 years old in Cherry County, Nebraska. Clive in the 70's passed through Town, and shortly thereafter owned Bass Haven. He was a surgeon without parallel. He and an associate contracted the North Florida Regional Emergency Room Service. He used to say he could make more money in the morning over there than he could in a year with Bass Haven. Time passes. Current resident Jerry Hooten happened to play golf with him in Norfolk, Nebraska. Lo and behold, he ended up flying down looking at Bass Haven and a home. Another case the first-time romance, with Welaka. Your untold stories in Town that people are saying even yet today. Clive has retired as a surgeon, but he tells me he now sits on the Board for the State of Nebraska reviewing of Doctor's mistakes, etc. Since he got out of

daily surgery, he has developed 2 golf courses in Nebraska. And that is how he now spends his time. As an aside, he has been Tom Osborn's Physician for years. Several times we have forwarded player profiles.

Clive made sure that they pass through to Nebraska. Reading it's nice to start a new life at what used to be a good football college. Also got a very good view of the medical situation in our Country. He was always a student when it came to these matters. Made it simple enough for you to understand without having to be in the medical field, and also gave you confidence. Answer my question again, how long did it take you to get hooked on Welaka if you're among us new or just in transit? Forty years go by very fast I keep saying, especially as we enter this year. I hope you will find some old phone calls you haven't made. See what they're doing. Let's not be Hermits. Just about the time you're going to climb a wall, maybe two of you can calm each other down. Show me the recipe of the price of talking. What we've been through this last year, let's just try and help each other. Resolve ourselves here in 2021 for better, we will get through it. Hope gives you something to live for. And we just hope that we are here ready to receive it.

### Homegrown Talent

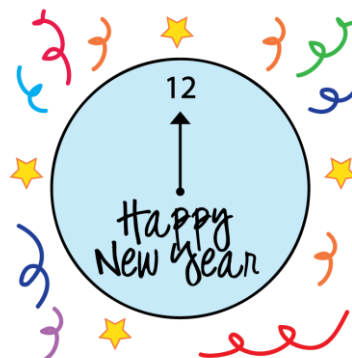
We just hated the inability to have the best parade in the County. No flyover. No golf carts. Thanks to Helping Hands, Friends of Welaka, and others we were able to do a children's gift-giving on December 12<sup>th</sup>. It was very enjoyable. We do not lose sight of the need of some of our children.

Year after year, we had our parade and gift-giving. Kim Hilton and his father used to open for Loretta Lynn. They were the opening act for the Coal Miner's Daughter. Almost made it to the big time and yet they

still have talent. Kim gave me a call and they were going to open at 2 instead of noon if we really wanted them. They were prepared to be here. Lo and behold he and his wife test positive for COVID the day before on the 11th. True and everything so COVID gets closer and closer. COVID seems to destroy a lot of our enjoyment. Sure miss having him with us. Keep your eyes open time will come around and we can get a little joy.

We trusted you had an enjoyable Christmas. Did you try a little Skype with your grandchildren? Works out pretty well, next best thing to being with them. Let's just see if we get through this year. There's so much behind us we really do need to be able to again and say what a Town. Enjoy each other. Make sure you watch the Children's Fishing Rodeo before it's all over. Let's just see you again. Find some real happiness.

We noticed that we do have some movement in the real estate area in town. That's a good sign. A lot of it seems to be promising. We do move forward. If you don't believe it, just ask somebody that's been around for a while. I hope you are as proud to be in Welaka, as I am. Tell each other the good things that you like. We will overcome. We are going to attempt to enjoy this coming year. Until February, have a good time.



**TOWN OF WELAKA  
ZONING BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020  
@ 5:30 P.M.  
WELAKA TOWN HALL  
CONFERENCE CALL/ZOOM**

1. The meeting was called to order by Kevin Finch at 5:30 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Kevin Finch – present, Allen Rusek – absent, Swartz – present, Harriet Vanslyke – present, Les Thomas – present, Attorney Patrick Kennedy – present.
3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of November 10, 2020. Finch asked if any deletions, corrections, or additions – Vanslyke motioned to approve Minutes of Meeting of November 10, 2020, second by Swartz. Motion carried 4-0.
4. Request to Speak – 703 Front Street: Parcel 41-12-26-9200-0020-0030: There were questions on whether this property was zoned Commercial or Residential and/or what would the 4 lots be zoned. Sands stated that the westside of Front Street is zoned Commercial. Sands stated that the 4 lots in between Front Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue are Single Family Residential. Finch stated that no one is here to represent this discussion, and no decisions would be made at this time. Finch stated they will address this when all the questions can be answered.
5. Audience Participation – None
6. Swartz motioned to adjourn at 5:45 p.m., second by Thomas. Motion carried 4-0.

**TOWN OF WELAKA  
CODE ENFORCEMENT MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020  
@ 5:45 P.M.  
WELAKA TOWN HALL  
CONFERENCE CALL/ZOOM**

1. The meeting was called to order by Kevin Finch at 5:45 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Kevin Finch – present, Allen Rusek – absent, Swartz – present, Harriet Vanslyke – present, Les Thomas – present, Attorney Patrick Kennedy – present.

3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of November 10, 2020. Finch asked if any deletions, corrections, or additions - Vanslyke motioned to approve Minutes of Meeting of November 10, 2020, second by Thomas. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Old Business: none

5. New Business: CV20-0026 – 646 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue: Property in compliance. No action needed. CV2020-0028 – 809 Palmetto Street: Property in compliance. No action needed. CV2020-0029 – 516 Mill Street: Property in compliance. No action needed. CV20-0030 – 601 Old Welaka Road: Property in compliance. No action needed.

Update on 633 Oak Street: Property is in the process of compliance. No action needed.

6. Request to Speak – None

7. Audience Participation – None

8. Thomas motioned to adjourn at 5:54 p.m., second by Swartz. Motion carried 4-0.

**TOWN OF WELAKA  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020  
@ 6:30 P.M.  
WELAKA TOWN HALL  
CONFERENCE CALL/ZOOM  
MEETING**

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sands at 6:30 p.m.

2. Invocation was given by Finch.

3. Pledge of Allegiance led by Milledge.

4. Roll Call: Mayor Gordon Sands - present, Councilman Willie Washington - absent, Councilman Jamie Watts - absent, Councilwoman Jessica Finch - present, Councilwoman Marianne Milledge - present, and Attorney, Patrick Kennedy - present.

5. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of November 10, 2020. Sands asked if any deletions, corrections, or additions - there were none. Milledge motioned to approve Minutes of Meeting of November 10, 2020, second by Finch. Motion carried 3-0.

6. Ordinance 2020-06: An Ordinance Providing for the Municipal Election in Welaka, Florida, Tuesday, March 2, 2021, Prescribing the Method and Manner of Holding Said Election. (second reading). Be it ordained by the Town Council of Welaka Florida. Section 1. Municipal Election for the Town of Welaka Florida will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 400 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Welaka Florida. Polls open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on said date, Section 2: the following offices will be filled at said Election: Mayor and Councilperson for two-year term, Councilperson for a two-year term, and Councilperson for a two-year term. Section 3. Candidates desiring to have their names on the ballot for said Election must file a petition with the Town Clerk signed by 10 or more qualified Electors of the Town of Welaka Florida between Tuesday noon January 5th, 2021 and Tuesday, noon, January 19th, 2021. Section 4. In accordance with the Florida statute 97-055 Voter Registration will be accepted until 5:00 P.M. Monday, February 1st, 2021 at Town Hall located at 400 4th Avenue, Welaka, Florida. The Public Logic and Accuracy Testing on the voting equipment will be held at 1:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 9th, 2021 at the Supervisor of Elections Office located at 2509 Crill Avenue, Suite 900 Palatka, Florida. Milledge made a motion to accept ORD 2020-06 on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020 on second reading, second by Finch. Motion carried 3-0.

7. Request to Speak: None

8. Code and Zoning Recommendations: None

9. Utility Matters: None

10. Audience Participation: None

11. Town Matters:

Mayor Sands Report: Sands stated that we are “shovel ready” with engineering on the two grant applications pending for the Hardening of the Sewer and Water

projects. Sands stated that this will be an asset to the Town. Sands stated that he spoke with Kim Hilton, and even though we had to cancel the Christmas Parade, Hilton will be playing at the Town Hall for a few hours starting at 2 p.m. on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December.

Councilwoman Milledge Report: No Report

Councilwoman Finch Report: Finch stated transported several cats yesterday for spay/neutering.

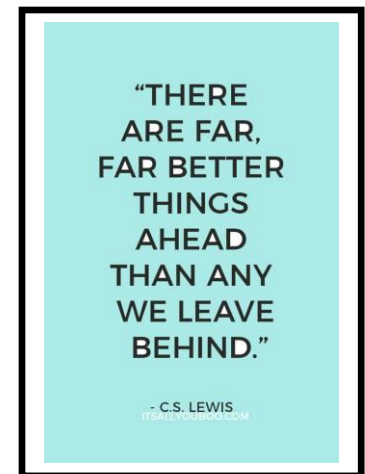
Councilman Washington Report: Not Present.

Councilman Watts Report: No Present

12. Police Matters: No Report.

13. Attorney Matters: No Report. Sands stated that there is interest with a few residents to annex in the Town, and asked Kennedy to provide the Town with a standard annexation form.

14. Finch made a motion to adjourn at 6:42 p.m., second by Milledge. Motion carried 3-0.



GFWC Woman's Club of WELAKA  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament  
The Oaks Golf Club  
Saturday, March 6, 2021



We need your help to make this the biggest success ever.  
Questions Call: Dee 386-546-2754



**FACT SHEET – Florida State Championship**  
 Welaka, FL. – St. John's River  
 Saturday, January 30, 2021  
 On-Site Tournament Director Hotline: 580-716-4261  
 TBF Senior Tournament Director Randy Sullivan



<p align="center"><b>Registration/Rules Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Location:</b>          Welaka Public Boat Ramp          Elm Street          Welaka, FL 32112</p> <p><b>Date:</b>          Friday, January 29, 2021</p> <p><b>Registration Times:</b>          5:00 p.m. – Registration Opens          6:30 p.m. – Registration Closes.          6:30 p.m. – <i>Mandatory rules briefing begins.</i></p> <p>No teams are allowed to be on the water after the start of registration, until the tournament begins.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Launch/Weigh-In</b></p> <p><b>Launch Location:</b>          Welaka Ramp          Elm Street          Welaka, FL 32112</p> <p>Take-off will begin at 7:00 a.m. or first safe light thereafter.</p> <p>Weigh-in begins: 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Required Items and Safety Equipment</b></p> <p>It is the responsibility of each participant to have ALL required state and federal safety equipment on board as well as, ALL permits licenses, passes or stamps, Etc. required.</p> <p>At time of inspection each morning, be prepared to properly display 1 life jacket for each angler; 1 throwable PFD; and, demonstrate functioning kill switch.</p> <p>Inspection will be held during lineup for takeoff. Live wells must be empty.</p> <p>Anglers are required to have a valid Florida fishing license/ permit, if applicable by law.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Fish Limits</b></p> <p>Large, smallmouth, and spotted Bass 12" inches and over.</p> <p>Anglers are allowed to weigh a limit of five (5) fish per team unless otherwise required by law or tournament officials.</p> <p>Fish presented which fails to measure the official length limits shall accrue penalties at the rate of one (1) pound for each non-legal fish plus loss of the fish. An 8-ounce deduction will be made for each fish presented that is determined to be non-releasable.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Tournament Directors</b></p> <p>Randy Sullivan          580-716-4261  <a href="mailto:randy@federationangler.com">randy@federationangler.com</a></p>	<p align="center"><b>Boundaries</b></p> <p>Any waters within these boundaries posted "off limits" or "no fishing" by state or federal agencies will be off limits. Any live release areas established by the Tournament Director will be off limits. That as well as any additional off limits will be announced at the pre-tournament briefing. Only that water open to all public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any waters closed to public fishing will be closed to this tournament's contestants. All local, state and federal regulations apply.</p>
<p align="center"><b>CLEAN DRAIN &amp; DRY          YOUR BOATS BEFORE LEAVING          HOME &amp; AFTER EACH EVENT!          HELP STOP AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Sign up for the FREE e-          newsletter at:  <a href="http://HighSchoolFishing.org">HighSchoolFishing.org</a></b></p>	<p align="center">Each team must bring a completed &amp; signed liability waiver to the pre-tournament registration meeting.</p> <p align="center"><b><u>Liability Release Form</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b>Rules</b></p>	<p align="center">Please read the Official 2020-2021 school year HSF State, Open &amp; Challenges Rules carefully!</p>

Student Angler Federation – A Federation Of The Bass Federation (TBF), 5998 N. Pleasant View Rd.,  
 Ponca City, OK. 74601, Phone: (580)765-9031; Fax: (580)765-2890; Email: [info@HighSchoolFishing.org](mailto:info@HighSchoolFishing.org)  
[www.HighSchoolFishing.org](http://www.HighSchoolFishing.org)



**CHILLY???**



## **HOW ABOUT CHILI???**

Drive-Through Chili Dinner  
Saturday, January 16, 2021  
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Woman's Club of Welaka  
644 CR 309  
\$8 donation per dinner



Dinner includes chili, cornbread and salad

**\*\*A portion of all proceeds will be donated to charities supported by our club\*\***

For tickets, call 904.347.7758