



2006-2007: Catching up with...

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

Fred Baxter, Foreman II

Traffic Operations is composed of four sections: Signals, Advanced Traffic Management Systems (ATMS), Signs, and Street Painting. The mission of the Division is to provide the citizens and visitors of Plant City a safe and efficient travel way through our City that enhances and preserves the quality of our environment and community.

The Traffic Signal Section has several goals that are on-going each year. Projected goals include installing five solar panel school flashers each year, upgrading the City with Light Emitting Diodes Lighting (LED) and battery back-up systems, and rebuilding and upgrading two existing signalized intersections per year. LED lights are installed in traffic signal heads in replacement of the incandescent bulb and are used to cut down on energy cost and power consumption. This enables us to install a battery back up at that intersection, and receive the run time needed in the event of a power outage. This year, Traffic will have two new projects - installing Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Illuminated Street name signs at signalized intersections, and upgrading pedestrian crossing signals with countdown crossings (see photo). The countdown pedestrian signals will be safer for those crossing our streets, since the new signals will show them exactly how much time they have to cross before the light changes. This will hopefully prevent pedestrians from being stuck in the middle of moving traffic in the event of a light change. Last year, the Signal Section completed the year with installing five solar school flashers, eight LED light upgrades, six battery back-up systems, two reconstructed signals, and twenty-seven road counts. Road counts are volume, speed, and classification studies that are conducted by lane separation and direction which enable us to count number of vehicles in each lane/direction, tell how fast each vehicle was going, and gives a classification of what type of vehicle.



The ATMS (Advanced Traffic Management System) is a new program that will upgrade the traffic signal system and bring the City's signals to a level of the highest technology available today. The Traffic Division has recently been awarded a federally funded grant of 2.4 million dollars that will enable the City to acquire a highly updated and technical system that will improve key signal features such as timings and sequencing. It will enable the Traffic Division to utilize Ethernet communication through fiber optics, and will assist with I-4 corridor incident management. An example of what I-4 corridor incident management does is, if there was an accident on I-4 at which traffic is stopped or detoured through Plant City, Traffic Ops ATMS coordinator will have the system programmed within the TMC (Traffic Management Center) to identify the increase in volume and automatically add timings on the main streets for a more efficient flow through the detoured area. The TMC will house management and operations staff as well as systems, hardware, software, communications equipment, video wall and work stations. Traffic is currently in the process of building a new facility that will house the TMC for the ATMS. The ATMS is in the 60% design phase for 2006-2007 and will start construction in 2007-2008.



The Traffic Sign Section is composed of a sign field installer and a sign fabricator. There is currently a project underway to replace all street name signs from six inch sign blanks with four inch letters to nine inch sign blanks with six inch letters, as mandated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), to be completed by the year 2012. With this project, the Sign Section is implementing a sign inventory and work order data base using GPS (Global Positioning System) and GIS (Geographic Information System) technology, which includes mapping signs within the City's limits. The Sign Section has also been upgrading school zone signs, speed limit signs and crosswalk signs. Traffic has received a grant for a radar trailer that has implemented a Community Awareness Program. The radar trailer is on schedule to be set out 3 times a week at different locations. With this, Traffic is able to perform speed calming in areas where speeding has been a problem. This also enables production of traffic counts for future or secondary count use with the computerized counting system set up inside the radar trailer. By showing the motorist their speed, the Division hopes to enhance their speed awareness in urban areas.

The Street Painting Section is a three man crew that is responsible for keeping City roads striped in accordance with Florida Department of Transportation state design standards. Street painting uses Thermoplastic, a hydrocarbon powder, which is heated to 500 degrees, melted down to a liquid, and applied to the road surface insure a longer life and better visibility. RPM (Raised Pavement Markers) are now being installed with Thermoplastic to increase visibility at night, to improve safety, and to mark fire hydrants for the City's Fire Department. Rumble strips are also being installed before stop signs in residential areas pending road study justification. Last year, Street Painting put down seventy thousand feet of thermoplastic, and has proposed seventy-eight thousand feet for 2006-2007.

Plant City: What's in the Water?

Patrick Murphy, Chief Plant Operator

The City of Plant City's water treatment uses state and federal laws and standards as goals and guideposts to ensure the uniform delivery of safe and aesthetically pleasing drinking water to the public. Data is reported to various regulatory agencies to maintain compliance with drinking water regulations.

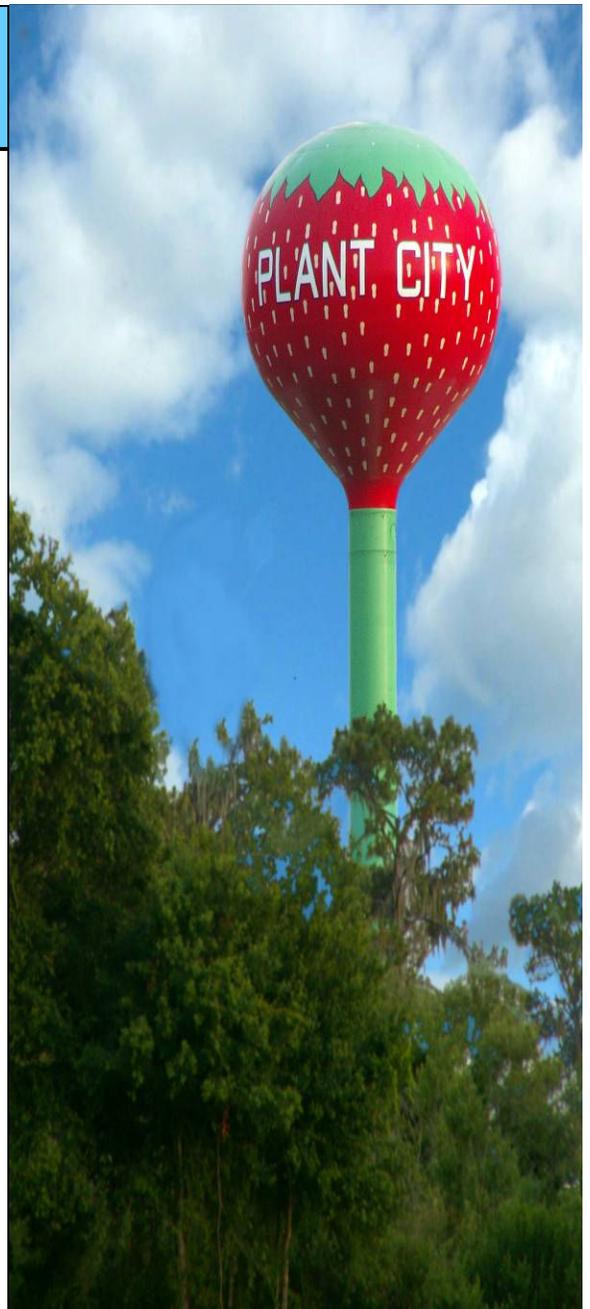
The City has four wells that vary in size, capacity, and depth. Each well pumps water from the Upper Floridan aquifer. The current processing plants at the wells are designed to treat 13.5 million gallons per day (MGD). The current permit limit as issued by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) is 9.852 MGD Annual Average with a peak month average of 11.823 MGD.

Three of the wells have elevated storage tanks, where water is pumped from the well into the storage tank: the Cherry Street tank is shaped like a strawberry, the Alexander Street tank is decoratively painted with the Raiders symbol, and the third tank is located off of National Guard Drive. Water is gravity fed from these tanks into the distribution system. The elevation of these tanks supplies the pressure to the water distribution system. The fourth well, located in the industrial district off of Commerce Road near ALCOA, has a ground storage tank. Water is pumped from the well into the ground storage tank and the water is fed into the distribution system by a high service pump station. Sodium Hypochlorite (liquid chlorine for disinfection) and a poly-phosphate (for pipe corrosion control) are added to the water. These two chemicals together also help control iron and manganese as the water is distributed through approximately 200 miles of water mains.

The City's water system is also inter-connected with the City of Lakeland's water supply, which is also pumped from the Floridan aquifer. This connection is used as a back-up water system for both of the Cities: in the event of a major fire or other emergency, the City can open a valve from the Operations center that will take water from the City of Lakeland and ensure our residents have safe, quality water available.

The City provides residents with an annual water quality report. The report can be picked up at Utilities Billing in City Hall, or accessed online at http://www.plantcitygov.com/dept/resource/2005%20CCR%20CITY%20HALL_.pdf. The 2006 report will be available in the spring of 2007.

For questions concerning water quality, the Utilities Operations center has highly trained staff that can be reached at 757-9191. For questions concerning the water quality report, or for water conservation information, you can contact Mark Woodward of the Water Resource Management section of the Utilities Operations Division at 757-9289 x 2237.



Well 6 is located on Cherry Street.
It overlooks scenic Sansone Park.

From the Kitchen of Ms. Garrison:

My grandmother from England showed me these and they are my favorite pastry.

Pastry Tarts:

Take a roll of pie crust dough (or the dough that you cut off around the edges after making a pie)

Roll into a circle (more or less)

In the middle of the dough place, a little bit of strawberry jam (any flavor)

Or cinnamon and sugar.

Fold the dough over the mixture. ..(bring together and make a seam or pinch)

Sprinkle sugar over dough.

Place on cookie sheet.

Bake in oven about 40 minutes or until done.

Remove from oven, let sit a few

minutes until it cools

(or not so hot)...Cut into 4 squares.

Eat. .. They are so delicious!

2007: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Education for Youth, Civic Groups and All Ages

All classes, presentations, information and services listed are available to groups (5 + people) for **FREE**. Call **813-757-9289 x 2249** to schedule a training date, for more information or to request a specific environmental topic.

WORMS EAT YOUR GARBAGE – (*on-site*) A class that emphasizes recycling, water quality issues, and WORMS! Based on the curriculum by Mary Applehof, author of *Worms Eat My Garbage*. The instructor will provide materials to make a worm bin that the group will get to keep and maintain OR participants can make "Worm Dirt Cake" instead. Ages 4-12. 1- 1 ½ hours.

OFFICER SNOOK – (*on-site*) Children learn about the monsters of the waterways and pollution through an interactive skit starring one very *shiny* fish. Includes supplemental materials and workbooks. Ages 2-10. 1 hour.

CHERRY STREET POND – (*field trip*) Groups visit a working stormwater detention pond and learn about how stormwater structures clean water before it is transferred to a lake, river or ocean. Ages 6-adult. 1-2 hours.

STORMDRAIN MARKING – (*field trip*) Groups are provided an opportunity to mark storm drains in residential neighborhoods to discourage illegal dumping. Participants will learn about the storm drain system and the consequences of illicit discharges. Ages 8-adult. 1-4 hours.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT TOUR – (*on-site*) Participants learn about the wastewater collection system and the plant that returns residential and industrial waste to useful water. Ages 8-adult. 1-2 hours.

HOMELESS TOAD PREVENTION – (*on-site*) Students make toad houses and learn about integrated pest management techniques in order to reduce pesticide use. Instructor provides clay, tools and firing. This class takes approximately one month to complete, from art creation to firing time. Ages 5-adult.