

**East Lake Woodlands/City of Oldsmar**

**Benefits of Annexation**

**June 12, 2008**

Local Representation: As City residents, East Lake Woodlands will be eligible to vote in City elections for Mayor and Councilmembers. Requests for local government services can be handled in Oldsmar, instead of Clearwater. These services would include: planning and zoning; stormwater maintenance; building permits and inspections; and code enforcement.

Police Protection: The City contracts with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department for additional law enforcement services. Our contract with the Sheriff's Department provides deputies within the City 24 hours/day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. These additional services include: regular patrol of neighborhood streets; reduced response time, two deputies specializing in community policing and two deputies assigned to traffic enforcement.

Leisure Services: Residents enjoy the use of the City's several active parks and recreational facilities, such as the following: R.E. Olds Park; Cypress Forest Park and Recreation Center with Sprayground; Canal Park Sports Complex; and Sheffield Park. In addition, the City offers passive parks, such as the following: Harbor Palms Nature Park; Veteran's Memorial Park; and Mobbly Bayou Wilderness Preserve. Additionally, the Recreation Department sponsors senior activities, as well as children's and youth programs at reduced in-city rates. The current annual fee for a non-resident individual recreation card is \$110 or \$240 for a family. The fee for residents is \$5 for an individual or \$15 for a family. Leisure Services also promotes art and cultural activities. City Hall serves as a gallery for local and regional artists' work.

Council/Manager Form of Government: The City of Oldsmar employs a professional staff to administer the policies established by the City Council. The City Manager, the City Clerk, and the City Attorney are appointed by the City Council. Working under the direction of the City Manager the City employs a Fire Chief, Assistant City Manager, Public Works Director, Library Director, Planning and Redevelopment Director, and Leisure Services Director. In addition, City residents enjoy a higher level of service from their elected officials and staff, primarily because of our size and responsiveness to citizens' concerns.

Stormwater/Drainage: The City operates a stormwater utility that provides enhanced drainage, stormwater, flood control, and aquatic weed control program.

Reclaimed Water: As this service is expanded City residents are given preference. A current project is underway to increase supply by Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR).

This project is partially funded by Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).

Flood Insurance Rating: The City participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Community Rating System (CRS) enhanced flood insurance program. Currently, all purchasers of flood insurance receive a 10%-20% discount on the premium (depending on location of residence in flood zones) through this participation. The current savings to policyholders is \$385,000 annually. The City continues to work towards achieving a higher CRS rating, which will result in additional savings. East Lake Woodlands receives a 5%-10% discount on the premium.

Code Enforcement: Code enforcement officers promote neighborhood appearance by reducing nuisances such as high weeds, inoperable vehicles, and illegal signs. This program ensures the City maintains a favorable appearance, while at the same time, contributing to increasing property values.

Solid Waste Collection/Recycling: The City contracts with a franchisee for the solid waste function which provides collection, removal and disposal of all residential, commercial and municipal garbage and trash. The City provides once a week curbside recycling for our single-family residential customers and collects newspaper, steel and aluminum cans, mixed paper and plastic containers.