

Talk to the Town

City of Rincon Newsletter to our Citizens and Visitors



March 2010

Mayor Ken Lee, Council Members Ann Daniel, Frank Owens, Reese Browher, Scott Morgan, Levi Scott, Paul Wendelken



Welcome to the City of Rincon's Newsletter

We are now in our sixth month of producing the newsletter. We are going to quit counting this month. We think we have successfully made the point that it is working. We hope you are still finding items of interest. We will place the Newsletters in the City Hall lobby, on the City's website, and also share it with interested persons and businesses via e-mail. Please contact us if you want to be added to the E-mail address list, or if you have some information to share that our readers might be interested in.

March's Featured Business

Lost Plantation Golf Course

Just a short distance from Savannah and I-95 is the Lost Plantation Golf Course (formerly Willowpeg), which is evolving into one of the most challenging and well-maintained courses in Georgia, especially for a recently purchased municipal and public course. This par 72 course starts off both front and back nines aggressively with par-5s, backed up with two tough holes. The secret throughout this course is to hit a good tee shot, set up for the approach, and pay attention to the score-card which reveals all of the defenses. The course allows for generous landing areas and tight, true Bermuda greens. This, coupled with a well-balanced defense of bunkers on every hole, makes Lost Plantation Golf Course a "must" for golfers of all abilities.

Lost Plantation Golf Course is a great 18 hole challenging course located in Lost Plantation Subdivision off Fort Howard Road in Rincon, designed by Joseph L. Lee and opened in 1989. As you can see below, some of our local Churches and Charities enjoy playing the course, and have several tournaments scheduled for 2010. These tournaments are open to the public, and you can sign up in our Pro Shop prior to the dates listed.

Upcoming Tournaments:

February 20	Rincon Church of God/Youth & Children Ministries	10:00am
February 27	Lost Plantation Glow Ball Tournament	5:00pm
March 6	Effingham Titans Youth Baseball	9:00am
March 13	Lost Plantation 6 th Annual triple Six Tournament	9:00am
April 3	Young Guns Baseball	9:00am
April 10	Effingham Baptist Church	9:00am
April 24	Oak Grove Church	9:00am
May 1	South Effingham Cheerleaders	9:00am
May 7	Effingham Rotary	12:00pm
May 15	Effingham High School Booster Club	9:00am
June 5	FORCE	12:00pm

Along with the great golf, you can also stop by our Grille and enjoy something off our appetizing menu. Open at 7:00am every day. You can enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner, for afternoon get-togethers on the way home. We have daily specials – like our hand-made Tuna or Chicken Salad Plate, or our famous Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich. Breakfast is Southern Style. Anything you order, you will enjoy. Great food: hot dogs, chili dogs, BLT, shrimp basket, Chef Salad, good, good food. New items are being evaluated to add to the menu. Check out the new Angus Hamburger, thicker and better flavor.

Come out, meet some new people, and have some great fun. Upgrades and improvements in the course, Pro Shop, and Grille are in progress; and you should consider how the Grille with a great view of the golf course might work into your plans for unique business meetings with customers, group meetings, community clubs, wedding receptions or family reunions.



Directions: From I-95 in Georgia, take Exit 109 (first exit in GA if you are traveling southbound from SC). At the end of the exit ramp, turn onto GA 21 northbound. Travel 7 miles to Rincon. Turn right at the first traffic light after Wal-Mart. This will be Fort Howard Road. Travel approximately ¾ mile to the 2nd entrance to Lost Plantation (past the “Chimney”). Turn right onto St. Andrews. Go to the 3-way stop sign. Take a right onto Willowpeg Way. The Clubhouse will be a short distance on the left.

Contact Information: Lost Plantation Golf Club, 1 Clubhouse Drive, Rincon, GA 31326
Phone: (912) 826-2092 (Call for current fees)
E-mail: RinconCityMgr@cityofrincon.com

Featured businesses will be chosen for some unique happening in the immediate future or recent past, or at random from the community if there are no special events planned that we are aware of. If you wish to have your business acknowledged, please provide us with some information about the business and perhaps a photo (staff, business front, etc.)

City Going’s On

This section is about your City government and things that should be of particular interest to you.

The Recreation Department is working on the Lions Club Building on Lexington Avenue to make it more attractive and more available to the public for wedding receptions, conferences, meetings, etc. It has a very large open room. Improvements are being made to the interior of the building. Interested parties are encouraged to contact City Hall or the Rincon Recreation Department at 826-0238 for a walk-through to see if it meets your needs for group meetings, family gatherings, art shows, etc.

Efforts are also being made to upgrade the Hinely Center. Keep an eye on it and check it out.

It shall be unlawful for any person to bring any pet, animal, dog or cat, of any age, whether or not such animal is on a leash, into any designated recreational area or park. There shall be excepted from this provision all Seeing Eye dogs or animals. (Rincon Code of Ordinances Chapter 10, Section 10-13)

Also be aware that the Effingham County Sheriff’s Office is handling Animal Control for the County and for the City of Rincon. Keep your animals on a leash, and keep them away from persons who are unfamiliar to them. Your safety is what is important.

Several residents and property owners in the Westwood Heights subdivision have approached the City about annexation into the City limits. There are distinct advantages for the residents and property owners in Westwood Heights, as well as advantages for the City. There is no City Property Tax in Rincon, and the City Council is not planning or proposing any changes in that. The City pays expenses based on user fees and SPLOST and LOST funds. The shifting of SPLOST and LOST from the County to the City will not negatively affect Westwood Heights or any other property owners in any way, and the City should be able improve drainage problems and other things that SPLOST and LOST were intended for. The City will have a higher total population base and will have a State-recognized “Affected City” status which impacts the future planning for Rincon and Effingham County. User fees for water and sewer are currently being paid to a private company, and the City will not interfere with that arrangement. Westwood Heights residents and property owners will have local government representation close at hand in the Rincon City Council. Police protection will be closer with more frequent patrols and faster response times. Fire protection is already handled by a quality volunteer Fire Department maintained by the City of Rincon, and a south side fire station location is already under consideration. Recreation fees will be lower because of in-city addresses. Many parks and services are already available and used by Westwood Heights residents and others. Rincon Public Works Department has a knowledgeable staff who know how to find problems and how to fix them, whether roads, drainage, water, or sewer. Annexation for the Westwood Heights community is a win-win situation; and annexation for other properties near the City limits, on any side, would likely be to their advantage as well. These are the pro’s; what are the con’s? Honestly, we can’t find any.

What is the Service Delivery Strategy (House Bill 489), and what are we doing about it? The original Bill is aimed at keeping City and County governments from duplicating services to the community at a duplicated cost to the customer. It promotes using the government that is best equipped, and most capable, to provide the service to residents and citizens. In some cases, that is the county; and in others, it is better managed and operated by cities who are closer to the specific requests and needs of a particular community: residents, commercial business, industry, etc., and who have the ability to provide those services most efficiently, and most conveniently. The key is to continue to provide services which are already in place, in operation, and working well. The City of Rincon has been providing quality Fire protection service to Rincon and a large portion of the county for many, many years, through a group of local volunteer firefighters who are trained, qualified, and ready to respond. This is a great cost savings to the community, and most communities would be envious of our response times and the number of volunteers participating. The City also built and operates water, sewer, and re-use water facilities and services in the community, and continues to expand its capability to provide those services in a cost-efficient manner. The recent re-use water development plan and sprayfield purchase will make Rincon a “model” with Georgia Environmental Protection Division for other communities to follow in coming years. Rincon is growing; and our ability to provide these very necessary services to the community is growing. We are already doing a great job for you. That is what the Service Delivery Strategy is about.

February 24th Groundbreaking Ceremony at Patriot Park on Patriot Drive, north of the City of Rincon, near the YMCA and Manna House. This is Phase 1 - tennis courts, public parking and basic utilities infrastructure.



Friendly Reminder: If you are intending to leave a payment for water/sewer at Rincon City Hall, there is a payment drop box at the back of the building. We encourage you to drop your payment into that secure box rather than slide it through the front door.

Community Groups and What You Should Know

Do You Have A Library Card ? The Live Oak Public Library in Rincon is located at Georgia Highway 21 and 17th Street, behind the Jaycees Park. It is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00am to 8:00pm; and on Friday and Saturday from 10:00am to 6:00pm (Closed Sunday). Not only does the Library have Fiction and Non-fiction books and Reference materials, but they also have books and music on tape and on CD which are great for listening while traveling. They have a magazine swap at the front door where you can bring in and drop off magazines that you have read and are willing to share with others, and you can pick up magazines that you would like to look into and read. Slightly used books are for sale at the front door. Movies are available on VHS tapes and DVDs. Computer workstations are set up and ready for you to use. Library staff are ready to help you. Current and recent magazines and newspapers are shelved for your convenience. Children's books are ready to go out with the young ones. Books available in other libraries can be moved to the Rincon location for you, to save you time and effort. Special in-house programs for children and computer training for adults are available during the week. If you need special help, call them at 754-3003. The Library has a website at www.liveoakpl.org.

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Georgia 2010 Census. Complete and mail back your 2010 Census forms when they come in. Mail them back as soon as possible. They should arrive in March of 2010. Census workers will visit households that do not return forms to take a count in person. Information shared with the Census is completely confidential, and, by law, cannot be shared with others. Each year the federal government distributes more than \$400 Billion to state, local, and tribal governments, based on census data. Local leaders use this data to guide planning decisions on where to build new roads, hospitals, child-care, senior centers, schools, and much more. Developers use the data to determine if special new businesses will be located in cities and locations nearby. The data also will determine the number of seats each state will have in the U. S. House of Representatives, and for Georgia, this year could be significant.

Good Food & Recipes for Reading

This is actually a recipe off the box, but it is really good, so you should be sure to try it.

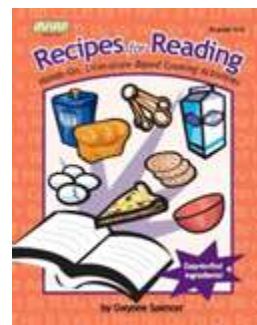
Peanut Butter Rice Krispie Treats

Ingredients:

- 1 package (12 oz, 2 cups) of butterscotch morsels
- 1 cup of peanut butter, creamy or crunchy
- 6 cups of Kellogg's Rice Krispies cereal.

1. Combine butterscotch morsels and peanut butter in large saucepan. Stir over low heat until smooth. Remove from heat. Add Rice Krispies cereal. Stir until well coated.
2. Press mixture evenly in to buttered 13 x 9 x 2 inch pan. Chill until firm. Cut into 2-inch squares.
3. Yields 24 squares, 2 x 2 inches.

Do you have a simple recipe to share ? Send it to us.



The Jacan Brown – Coca Cola 33rd Spring Run is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, from 405 North Ash Street in Springfield. It is a 1 Mile Run/Walk, starting at 8:00am, and a 5K Run, starting at 8:30am. The proceeds go to benefit the Jacan Brown Scholarship Fund. More details are available from the Rincon City Clerk at 826-5745.

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Did You Know?

The new GPS (Global Positioning System) automobile systems (Garmin, Tom Tom, Magellan, Pharos, Cobra, etc.) are quite good. They can take you to Grandma’s or to the mountains; and you can see (and hear) as the roads move on and off the screen, to be sure where you are, and that you are in the right place. You know men hate to ask for directions when they know they are lost; but the GPS systems will lead you right to the front door.

Do you know what “Wikipedia” is on the internet? It is an encyclopedia location to look up subjects (people, places, things). You should check it out (Billy Currington, Dusty Zeigler, Rincon, Ebenezer, Georgia, GPS, GIS). Not only is it fun; but it is good information on almost any subject, plus links to go deeper and get more information.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Monday, March 8 – 7:00pm - Rincon City Council Meeting, Chambers (17th Street)

Sunday, March 14 – Daylight Saving Time begins (Spring Forward, Fall Back) Move clocks one hour ahead after 2:00am Sunday morning

Wednesday, March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day, “green activities in Savannah during the week

Saturday, March 20 – Spring begins

Monday, March 22 – 7:00pm – Rincon City Council Meeting, Chambers (17th Street)

Friday, April 2 – Good Friday, City of Rincon Holiday, City Hall Closed

Sunday, April 4 – Easter

Wednesday, April 14 – Planned Georgia Power Outage for up to 8 hours for City Hall, City Hall will likely be closed that day

Friday, April 16, 7:00pm to 10:00pm – Saturday, April 17, 10:00am to 5:00pm – Olde Effingham Days, around the old Courthouse in Springfield

Old South Charm

Do you have a story to tell about Rincon? Perhaps some history that others might not know. Tell us about it.

New Comers to Rincon

The Public Works Department Office is at the corner of West 4th Street and North Carolina Avenue (Access it via West 5th Street). Public Works usually has a pile of firewood and mulch that is available to residents of Rincon, free of charge (The winter season may have reduced it temporarily). Trees are removed from other locations where they are in the way, then cut up and placed at the Public Works office for you to use around your home. Call City Hall 826-5745, if you need special help.

Waste Management collects household trash for the City of Rincon on a contract basis. Some things to remember: Securely bag household garbage only (To keep it from blowing back into your yard). Collection times will vary based on your location within the Rincon City limits (And daily delays in pickup). Place your roll cart at the curbside within 3 feet from the road side, away from your mailbox or other permanent objects the night before collection (Dumping the roll cart is handled by an operational arm on the truck). Multiple carts at one address should be at least 3 feet apart for proper collection. If your carts do not have at least 3 feet between them, only one will be collected (The driver does not personally dump carts). Yard Debris, Furniture, Dead Animals, and Paints are not acceptable material to place inside your roll cart (Please call City Hall for pickup of special items). If you need to add a roll cart, contact City Hall at 826-5745. Please recycle where you can.

Frequently Requested Phone Numbers:

Windstream	1-800-501-1754
Georgia Power	1-800-437-3890
Comcast	354-7531
Library (Rincon, 17 th Street)	826-2222
Chamber of Commerce	754-3301
Board of Education	754-6491
Georgia Drivers Licenses	754-2142
Registrar's Office	754-2115
Landfill	754-4668 or 754-8187
Call Before You Dig	1-800-282-7411
Burn Permits	754-6932
Effingham County Tag Office	754-2121
Rincon Recreation	826-0238
Rincon Building & Zoning	826-5996

Please check out our website www.cityofrincon.com which will probably have answers for many of your questions. We encourage you to e-mail the Rincon City Manager with ideas for improving the newsletter, information, questions, comments, and upcoming events, etc. at RinconCityMgr@cityofrincon.com The City Manager will answer and include items wherever appropriate and newsworthy to the community. Please share this Newsletter with your friends and neighbors. Photos for the Newsletter are welcome, and may be used as needed and as appropriate. If you wish to sign-on to our e-mail list to receive the Talk to the Town Newsletter, just send us an e-mail.

This Month's Friendship Theme:

“Good Friends are like stars – You don't always see them, but you know they are always there.”

City Hall: (912) 826-5437
Website: www.cityofrincon.com