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NEWS FOR THE CITIZENS OF WARR ACRES

December, 2006

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

A blast of winter welcomed the carolers around the Christmas Tree on Saturday, December 2nd for the Lighting Ceremony at the City Building on N.W. 42nd. The stew and chili was abundant and the cookies and hot chocolate just hit the spot. Our thanks to The Citizens for a Better Warr Acres who did a great job putting up the lights and providing the treats. They want our community to enjoy the lights throughout the Christmas season!

Have You Checked Your Utility Bill Lately?

Every year the city council evaluates the budget. They look at a broad range of options to keep fees and charges to citizens low while keeping the services provided in a state of excellence. This year is not any different. Rates have increased in a number of different areas to keep up with the standard of living of surrounding communities as surveyed on a regional basis. In the January 2007 utility billing, you will notice a change in fees for Warr Acres residents and businesses. These fee changes are reviewed by the council each year and have not been raised since 2000 while other surrounding cities' fees are increased automatically year by year. This year the Council feels an update in fees is warranted to help in maintaining the current services for the health, safety and welfare of citizens in Warr Acres. A list of fee changes are as follows:

1. A new fee is a storm water and drainage fee of \$1.50. This goes to update and enhance our City's storm water management system mandated by the Federal Government.
2. Another fee you may notice is a \$1.00 charge for EMSA. EMSA charges Warr Acres between \$67,000 and \$73,000 per year to operate within our city limits. As a direct result a fee is charged. Although a fee is in place it does not cover the entire cost that EMSA requires therefore the city supplements the rest.
3. The garbage fee has increased by \$1.00. This will help pay for the cost of keeping our garbage trucks up and running. Our twice a week pick up service will remain the same.
4. There will also be an adjustment in the sewer fee of \$1.50 for residential, and commercial will depend on the size of each meter.

This adds up to a \$5 increase to each resident. Other fees have also been adjusted such as building permits, electrical and plumbing licenses, etc. These have been brought more in line with surrounding cities. For more information or questions please call your respective Council members. They will be happy to assist you.

Helpful Phone Numbers

City Hall	789-2892
Fax	787-5432
Police Department	789-3329
Fire Department	789-5912
Animal Control	789-9025
Municipal Court	495-3032
Inspections & Permits	789-2892
Sanitation Department	491-6474
Streets & Parks	787-1404
Sewer Department	491-6478
Community Center	789-9892
Putnam City Schools	495-5200

City Council Members

Mayor

Marietta Tardibono

Ward 1

Stan Street
Jeff Martinez

Ward 3

Jimmy Alexander
Walter Johnson

Ward 2

Nancy Olson
Stewart Shapiro

Ward 4

Michael Gossman
Rodney Nelson

Storm Shelters

Storm shelters are available at the following locations for citizens who are away from home when severe weather threatens the City of Warr Acres.

Cherokee Hills Park

NW 67th & Cherokee

Grandma's Park

NW 40th West of MacArthur

City Hall

5930 NW 49th

A bit of the history of the City of Warr Acres

The City of Warr Acres and the Putnam City School District share a long history. The 160 acres of land, upon which the first Putnam City school was eventually built, was homesteaded in 1894. This plot of land changed hands several times until it came into the hands of the "Putnam Company" in the first decade of the 1900s. Mr. Israel Mercer (I.M.) Putnam purchased 2,000 acres on which the original 160 acres were contained. He intended it to be a "suburban settlement" bearing his name, and the site of the state capitol. He came very close to realizing those goals; but though he meant it to be, Putnam City was never a "real" city. It was and is, however, a school district with portions in Bethany, Oklahoma City, Warr Acres, and the remainder in the unincorporated Oklahoma County. And, for six months in 1910, it was the temporary location of the state capitol.

Putnam had arrived in Oklahoma as a young inexperienced lawyer in 1901, but realizing the rate at which the still unborn state would be expanding, he turned to real estate development. By 1909 he had already built a 46-room gray brick building on the corner of N.W. 39th and State Street and was promoting the area through posters, flyers, and newspaper ads which said, "Putnam City, the highest point in the county! A city with every modern convenience! All hardships of pioneering are absolutely eliminated! Oklahoma's brightest new town! Located on the El Reno Interurban! A happy combination of city business and suburban peacefulness!" etc., etc.

He also began to delve into politics. His prominence as a civic leader started to grow. He married, was elected to the first and second Oklahoma Legislatures and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Interstate Real Estate Exchange. This real estate group saw great opportunities for development of surrounding lands if the state capitol were moved to their area in Oklahoma City; therefore, Legislator Putnam introduced the original bill for moving the capitol from Guthrie to Oklahoma City. The bill failed, but he did not give up.

By 1910 a referendum petition forced Governor Charles Haskell to call a statewide election on June 11 to determine the location of the capitol. Official offers had been made from Oklahoma City, Shawnee, and Guthrie. Much to the dismay of Guthrie, Oklahoma City won, and the Governor formed a "State Capitol Commission" to find a site for the new capitol complex. It was to this commission that Putnam and his colleague, John W. Shartel, general manager of the Oklahoma Railway Company (street cars and interurbans), made their proposal.

They would give the state 1,600 acres of land. In addition, they guaranteed the state could net \$1,700,000 from the sale of the lots donated. In return, the state would have to pay a mere dollar. Putnam realized he could more than make back the money from the sale of his own surrounding lands if the area were to become the capitol. His site was chosen. A tall flag pole was erected showing the exact place where the permanent state Capitol building would be located. The office building he had already built could serve as the temporary state capitol.

Guthrie citizens did not remain idle, however. They brought a suit to invalidate the capitol election. They were successful. The governor called a special session of the Legislature to ratify the election and the will of the people of the state. In December 1910 the Legislature, instead of accepting Putnam's proposal as expected, accepted a proposition made by others and moved the capitol site to its present location in the northeastern part of Oklahoma City.

But, even though Putnam's state capitol dream was ended, he continued working on other plans for the area's future growth, prosperity and welfare. He later moved to San Antonio, Texas, where he again developed large areas and helped turn that town into a thriving city.

In the early 1940s, Putnam returned to the Oklahoma City area and announced plans to use the office building he had originally built for the state capitol to house a Pan-American permanent exposition, the Oil Bowl club and the Oil Bowl institute. This new plan was to provide an institution of learning "where students of all ages and from all countries will be provided opportunities to learn how to produce, manufacture, distribute and use wealth of all commodities and services of the most needed kind by actually producing, manufacturing, distributing and using such wealth." Adjoining the building would be the Oil Bowl stadium, intended to be the largest in the world, while the exposition would be open year round.

Even though these plans did not bear fruit, I.M. Putnam was ever a man of vision, resourceful, hard working, and generous. If his plans for the Putnam City site to be the state capitol had succeeded, there might not have been a Putnam City Schools or a Warr Acres. However, when those plans fell through, the land and building became available for another productive venture, the development of a school system and eventually the founding of the City of Warr Acres in February 1948.