

Dear Citizens,

As we approach the end of my term as your mayor, I will continue to provide updates as we prepare for a leadership handoff in about seven weeks.

We will continue the work on the strategic pillars that were set out almost two years ago. Our focus is on making as much progress as possible, so the next round of leaders can build on this work. Together, we have done a lot, but there is more for us to do over the next several weeks and beyond.

Community Engagement and Communication:

Upcoming Election: Many of the county, state and federal elections have occurred, but our city leadership election day is on May 4th. All of us have seen examples of political candidates taking the low road, and I am very hopeful that we will not see that in our small, good-neighbor community. There is plenty of work to be done, and plenty of talent to contribute to it. By collaborating, we get the best possible outcome. As has been said many times – we need independent thinkers that are also team players. I am hopeful that culture of our community remains neighborly and that individual egos do not detract from one of the most prized aspects of our community – its neighborliness and quality people.

For this election, you can cast your votes during early voting from April 22- April 30. On Election Day, May 4th, you can vote at our Civic Center from 7 AM to 7 PM.

We have two candidates for the mayor position, both are current Councilmembers: Rob Hardy and John Schwin.

We have three candidates for the two open Council Member positions: Dan Gower, currently the mayor pro tem, Frank Donnell, and Jeff Cook.

Our local Mayor and Councilmember candidate meet and greet is this evening at 6:00 PM at the Civic Center at 124 Sunrise Drive. Please come on out and ask your candidates some questions about how they will build on what has

been done, going forward. Their individual bios have also been published on the CCAA Facebook page.

The Great American Total Solar Eclipse: Have you heard? There is an eclipse happening next month! I say that tongue in cheek, because I do not know of anyone in our town that has not contributed to the preparation or is not supporting the experience via the CCAA's Star Party on Sunday, April 7th. Please see the city website or the CCAA Facebook page for more details.

Our city, the CCAA, the VFD, the county and our municipal neighbors have all worked together to do our best to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Please note that Council's latest action is for us to be in a Stage 4 water restriction from the Wednesday before the Eclipse to the Tuesday following to help ensure all our water resources are going toward the increased consumption we are anticipating.

We will all continue to hone the plans in place, with a collaborative focus on emergency management.

Improved Website: Many people have worked to enhance communication and transparency within our community. Our new city website has more traffic than ever, and offers a user-friendly interface, streamlined access to important information, and enhanced interactive features. This improved platform will continue to serve as a valuable resource for residents, businesses, and visitors alike, fostering greater engagement and connectivity within our community.

I will post specific stats on my FB page under a separate cover, for those interested in the details.

Infrastructure Improvements:

Water Department upgrades:

Councilmember Mike Byrd continues to work with the Sean Schreiber, Water Department Superintendent, and the water department on the engineering

initiative that he has tied to the ARPA grant we were awarded. He provides updates at every monthly council meeting, so please either come in and check it out, or read the meeting minutes that are posted on the website. Or ask Mike or Sean!

Environmental Stewardship:

The spring bulky pick up was this past Saturday, and the next one is scheduled for Saturday, September 14th at 7 AM.

The recycling program continues to be a favorite of citizens and is used very regularly. The City and Waste Connections are both happy with our partnership.

I should note that the Councilmembers put in equal initiative and effort into our city having this service for citizens. Although I initiated the pursuit of this service, all of them became involved as soon as the bids were announced publicly. They attended the working sessions equally and all of them were engaged in the conversations, the contract negotiation, the ordinance writing, the communication with citizens, and the follow up. This was a true equal collaboration at Council level.

Since my last update, our city has become FireWise certified! If you missed the communication, please reach out to City Hall or the VFD.

Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness:

Please see information under the Eclipse above for those related to the Eclipse.

At the last Council meeting, we had Steve Murrow, the new Director at CTEC (but always our area manager), describe the actions they are taking to ensure we all maintain power despite the increased population during the eclipse. CTEC is our city's electricity co-op. Steve presented to us that CTEC is not concerned about having any "grid" issues. They are primarily focused on how to address mechanical outages as they occur. They are having trucks staged at several different sites during the eclipse, accounting for anticipated traffic

issues. Their teams will be equipped with food, water and extra gasoline to allow them to stay in the field as much as possible, anticipating and addressing issues as they arise.

Our VFD and our PD have similar plans and preparedness in place. For example, we will have two police officers per car, and multiple cars on duty during this timeframe.

Building Development:

We have promoted our very own Trent Yarter into the Permit Manager/Assistant Code Enforcement position, reporting to Danyelle Morgan, Chief Maintenance Officer. Trent brings with him a lot of experience and credibility into his new role, including from our water department. He will continue to pursue his credentials in ground water management so that he can contribute cross-functionally.

As I prepare to pass the torch to the next administration, I want to express my sincere gratitude to every one of you for your kindness, support, dedication, and collaboration in the past two years. Together, we've accomplished great things, and am confident the future holds even greater promise for our city.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your mayor.

Warm regards,

Mayor Chellie