

Week Ending: July 19, 2019

Witte Thoughts for the Commission

This week has been filled with working on the Lake Helen Lake Restoration project – from HB 2189 and preparing for our Volusia League of Cities Dinner next week.

“We can choose to throw stones, to stumble on them, to climb over them, or to build with them.”

William Arthur Ward

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Monday, July 22, 2019 at 5:00pm
Fall Fest Planning Meeting

Monday, July 22, 2019 at 7:00pm
PLDRC Regular Meeting

Tuesday July 23, 2019 at 8:00am
Historic Preservation Board Meeting

Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 6:00pm
League of Cities Meeting

Friday, July 26, 2019 at 9:00am
Blake Park Playground Committee Mtg

Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 7:00pm
Regular City Commission Meeting

Volusia League of Cities Meeting/Dinner

125 RSVP's have been received for the Lake Helen Volusia League Meeting/Dinner on July 25th.

Looking forward to a wonderful event!

Census 2020

Census 2020 is hiring. \$16.00 per hour in Volusia County. Must be 18 years old. Visit 2020census.gov/jobs

Tentative Budget and Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Paperwork Submitted.

I submitted the Tentative Budget and Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Resolutions on Monday. Our first Budget Hearing is set for Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 7:00pm and Final Budget Hearing on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 7:00pm.

The City of Lake Helen has an employment opportunity for General Maintenance Worker.

Semi-skilled and manual labor involving minor construction, repair, and maintenance of public facilities including roadways, drainage systems, water lines (maintenance and installation), parks, and public grounds as well as vehicle maintenance and small engine repair.

Minimum Qualifications include: High School Diploma/GED and a minimum of two (2) years' experience in construction, landscaping, field maintenance and equipment operation and maintenance, or closely related field.

Please visit www.lakehelen.com for more information or contact the Deputy City Clerk at 386-228-2121.

Job closes on July 25, 2019.

Playground Progress: This week Big Dog (Alan Cooke) and his team removed the old equipment and leveled the playground. Rick Mullen has asked for a few modifications to the layout and will be meeting with the committee next week. As in Rick style, he has secured even more donations and assistance. Again, thanks to Jason Hood, Rick Mullen, Sefe Mendoza and especially Austin Casura (who is leading the project)!

The Public Works team will be spending a lot of time and energy on the park in the upcoming months (saving a lot of money)!

Tower Lease

I spoke to Rita at FCT (Florida Communities Trust) regarding the use of the Equestrian Center. Rita said that the rules and regulations of the grant do not allow the lease to a private company for a Cell Tower. The uses must be for recreation and preservation.

We are still awaiting a proposed lease (meeting the satisfaction of our attorney), location and complete proposal for the Commission to consider.

Meeting with FWC

On Tuesday I sent you an email about the meeting with FWC. Let me know if you have any questions or need anything. I am working on discussing the Permitting Process with SJRWMD and USACE this week.

Today I am working on the Draft RFP for the Sediment Removal and Restoration of Lake Helen Lake Project.

I hope to have another update for you next week!

CDBG Audit

On Wednesday we had an audit from CDBG. We have complied with requirements and were able to provide all documents requested.

West Volusia Associates meeting Invite

Let me know if you can attend the August 21st West Volusia Associates meeting at John Knox Village Auditorium.

Discussions of the Halifax Health/UF Health Medical Center of Deltona will occur at this meeting.

Super Regional League Breakfast at the FLC Conference

Saturday, August 17, 2019 at 7:30 A.M.

at the Orlando World Center Marriott - Orlando, FL

Advanced Reservations Required

There is no charge for attending this breakfast, but due to catering costs "no shows" and late cancellations will be invoiced \$50 each.

Duke Energy Smart Meter Installation Program Smart Meter Installation project will be coming to Lake Helen approximately August 12th.

Duke Energy requires contractors to notify all customers of their meter exchange with a direct mail postcard (developed by Duke Energy Florida) approximately two weeks prior to starting installations in a neighborhood. Residents are expected to receive the postcards on July 29th.

The postcard features contact information (contractor's phone number and Duke Energy's website) should a customer have questions or want to schedule an appointment. The Florida Smart Meter Help Line is:

Scope Call Center BLUE – 1-888-254-4381

Customers can verify the date the postcard was sent and can connect customers to their contractor, if they need to set up an appointment. You can also include this number on your website if it is helpful.

If they have general customer service questions, they can call 800-700-8744.

Customers have the option to opt of the AMI program, but there is a cost. The Public Service commission has approved an "opt-out" cost. Customers will be billed a one-time opt out fee \$96.34 and a recurring monthly charge of \$15.60.

Installations occur Monday through Friday during normal business hours, however, there may be cases when evening or weekend installations are necessary

Customers do not have to be home to have the meter exchanged. Once the meter has been converted, customers will receive a door hanger. If the customer would like to be home, they can call the number included on the postcard to make an appointment.

There may be a brief interruption of service during the exchange so customers may have to reset clocks.

Community Service

Chief and I have terminated the recent Community Service Program. If you would like more information or if you have questions, please let me know.