

Update From City Hall

Last month the update was about the Wastewater Treatment plant and this month I would like to bring you up to speed on the rehabilitation and upgrade projects needed to support the operation of the new plant and the work being done by your city staff members to keep us functioning and in compliance with FDEP in the interim. Lloyd Beaty, the Utilities Director has worked tirelessly to keep our existing plant functioning during construction and kept FDEP up to speed on all of the measures we have taken when the plant was not performing up to standards. Finance Director Tammie Pernas has become very proficient at writing grant applications which is best demonstrated by the successful approval of the following 100% grants from FDEP. Rehabilitation of the Carnestown/Copeland Pump Station \$ 1 million, Gravity System improvements Project \$2 million, and Rehabilitation of City Pump Projects \$1.5 million. Each of these grants are necessary to make the new plant function at optimum performance and all are fully funded. Additionally, with the strong support of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart we are receiving \$2 million for the Chokoloskee Master Pump Station through the Department of Housing and Urban Development to continue the process of bringing all of Chokoloskee off Septic. These projects as well as the new plant bring us closer to solving some long standing issues with our infrastructure.

I'm sure some of you have driven by the water tower and seen the artwork which Wes Narin and Councilman Tony Pernas have painted on its sides, very nice, thank you gentlemen!