City News In Brief

From the Mayor

This has already been an extraordinary year, and it is only July. As you know, Hurricane Season runs from June 1st through the end of November. This year, I implore you to make very deliberate plans detailing what you will do before and during a hurricane, should a storm threaten our City of Palmetto.

Public shelters should be your last resort in 2020. In normal conditions, Emergency Shelters can be noisy, crowded and uncomfortable. This year, shelters will follow the CDC Social Distancing restrictions, so consequently, they may fill up more quickly than in previous years, plus there is no guarantee against the spread of germs or disease. Shelter locations and suggested supplies are listed in Manatee County’s updated Disaster Planning Guide on website www.mymanatee.org, and printed copies of the Guide are also available at City Hall in Palmetto.

In the event of a storm, emergency information will be posted on the County website. Please take note of the wind speeds or water levels that would put your home at risk. Determine where you will go in the event of a storm, or let your family know if you plan to stay in place. Make a list of the supplies you will need to bring, and take steps now to have those items on hand. Make arrangements early if you have special medical needs, if you have pets, or if you will need assistance to evacuate from your home. If you are planning to evacuate, go tens of miles—not hundreds—to find a safer location to ride out the storm.

Palmetto has been blessed in previous hurricane seasons, but please do not grow complacent during these next five months. Pick up the updated Disaster Planning Guide, make any necessary preparations, and let others know where you plan to be. Your actions now will help ensure your safety, as well as the safety of our first responders, in case a hurricane heads our way.

Thank you for your continued cooperation as we all follow the Governor’s Executive Orders to carefully reopen our community businesses and activities.

Please remember to support our local businesses.

Shirley Groover Bryant
Mayor

From City Hall

July 4th fireworks re-scheduled

Due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19), the annual July 4th fireworks show on the Manatee River has been canceled. At this time, the fireworks display has been rescheduled to Labor Day on Monday, September 7, 2020. We will continue to monitor the guidelines for Covid-19 and provide further updates in the future.

From the Police Department

The men and women of the Palmetto Police Department want to thank the community for their continued support.

Chief Scott Tyler

City Hall

July 20th
August 3rd & 24th
September 14th & 28th

The public is encouraged to attend.

Commissioners

Jonathan Davis—At Large
Tamara Cornwell—At Large
Harold Smith—Ward I
Tambara Varnadore—Ward II
Brian Williams—Ward III
City of Palmetto
Movie in the Park

The movies have temporarily been CANCELED but as soon as we can, the City of Palmetto plans to show a movie, free of charge, on the first Friday of every month.

Movie in the Park - where more than 3,000 current and classic movies are at our disposal.

There is no better place to be this season than Sutton Park. Grab a picnic basket and a blanket and enjoy the show. You bring the snacks, we'll bring the stars, thanks to our sponsors.

From the Public Works Department

Now is the time to trim and remove dead wood from your trees in preparation for Hurricane Season. Remove unwanted items from your property so they do not become projectiles in high winds. Remember, to avoid additional garbage charges, prepare your limbs and yard trash by bundling in lengths of 4 feet or less and no more than fifty pounds. Please bag or place small trimmings and leaves in containers.

In addition, it is a good time to remind our residents that garbage containers should also weigh no more than 50 pounds. Containers weighing more cause problems while being emptied by the truck and sometimes cannot be collected.

We would like to take this chance to remind our residents that water conservation is always a good idea. The City has made considerable efforts to reduce rainwater intrusion and groundwater infiltration into the sewer system as well as adding holding capacity at the wastewater treatment facility.

The City is in the final stages of construction of the Equalization Basin. This project has taken many years to plan and fund. With the construction projected to finalize near the end of July, the City hopes to alleviate some of the strain on the sewer collection system.

With still more work to be done, we ask that you be mindful of water use during heavy rains. When the roads are flooding, there is a good chance that the sewer system is also working hard to keep up with the influx of water. Minimizing unnecessary water use during the heavy rain can help to decrease the load on the system.

Another way residents can help reduce the amount of rainwater entering the sewer system is by checking the sewer cleanout located on your property connected to your sewer line. This cover needs to be properly connected and secured. When it is open, rainwater enters directly into the sewer and causes costly and unsanitary backups and overflows. Stay informed of City announcements, visit www.palmettofl.org/codered and sign up for community alerts.

Moe Rayan
Deputy Director

From the Code Enforcement Department

Our City Code Enforcement Officers work hard daily providing prompt and courteous service to the public, attempting to work with residents to enforce building, safety, zoning and other codes for the betterment of our community.

Most of the time, however, the efforts and dedication of our Code Enforcement Officers go unnoticed and are under-appreciated. Recently, however, Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Williams became a local everyday hero when he rescued a brood of ducklings from a storm sewer. While driving through his area, Officer Williams was flagged down by residents who had witnessed the ducklings falling down the storm drain. Officer Williams immediately stopped, got out and, without hesitation, reached into the storm drain and pulled the ducklings out one by one.

The next time you see one of our code enforcement officers, take time to give them a word of thanks or a friendly wave. They do their best to assist residents and keep our community safe and clean.

Karla Owens
Development Services Director