

Mayors monthly letter for April 2019

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Well, April came and went in the blink of an eye, or so it seems.

The city work continued, weeds are growing, well, like weeds. Public works is working feverishly to keep up with them.

Our sewer lift station on North Ave continues to plague us. We have had several call outs for repairs and cleanups this month. We think we have figured out a solution. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

Public Works is also in the process of installing an automated sprinkler system in Henry Miller Park. They are doing this "inhouse" saving the city over \$40,000.00. Currently all the watering is done manually, and is very time and labor intensive, and has to be done during work hours which is not the best time to water. Thank you Dan Arnold and staff.

Westside Christian Center completed the sidewalk project at their location. What a great upgrade to that part of 5th St. The City approved the use of pavers for the project and they look great. They paid for the entire project, there was no cost to the City. Thank you Westside Christian Center.

I had the privilege of being asked to MC the Merced County Firefighter of the Year awards dinner. It was held at the American Legion Hall in Merced. I am very proud to tell you that Eldred Pires is this year's Fire Fighter of the Year. Thank you Eldred for all you do for the citizens of Gustine.

We had a re-organization of sorts at City Hall. We hired a new Finance Director, Lakhwinder Deol. She has a BA in accounting and a Master Degree in Business Administration. She comes with a lot of public finance experience. Please make her feel welcome to Gustine.

We also named Jamie Westervelt as our new Economic Development Manager. This is a new position for us, and will be a real challenge for her. This is long overdo, I believe that Jamie is a perfect fit for this position. Her skill set, attention to detail and overall knowledge will help bring economic improvements to Gustine. Congratulations to her.

We also hired another Police officer. Samuel Joseph comes to the city with 21 years of law enforcement experience. His credentials are very impressive. If you see him on the street, please welcome him to Gustine. This addition brings our Police Department to full staff for the first time in several years.

The Water Tower.... It is almost completed, FINALLY! We are in the process of chlorinating and rinsing the tank, so you will probably see water again flowing down the alley. This is necessary to make sure the water is 100% safe for public consumption.

I attended the regional Measure V Committee meeting on April 11th in Dos Palos. We discussed this years regional project list, set asides, and leveraging opportunities, for the Westside Measure V funding. We will meet again on May 14th.

I attended the L.A.F.C.O. meeting on the 18th in Merced.

I attended the League of Cities "Legislative Action Day" in Sacramento on the 24th. I met with Assemblyman Adam Gray, and Senator Anna Cabellero. I was there to inform them of Gustine's needs and views on upcoming legislation. They were both very welcoming and supportive of our issues.

On the 29th, Supervisor Pareira hosted a "Town Hall Meeting" at the Al Goman Center. He brought folks from every county department. From the D.A. to the County Clerk. The meeting went very well. Many great questions were asked by the attendees. It was a great opportunity to learn about what the county has to offer it's citizens. I hope they have more of these in the future.

Mayor-Pro-Tem Oliveira and I traveled to Washington DC with the Merced County "One Voice" Delegation. We sat through two days of meetings with a host of government agencies and elected officials. We met with FEMA, Dept. of Justice, C.O.P.S., Dept of Transportation, Veterans Administration, H.U.D., Dept of the Interior, and many others. We even had a meeting in the White House with a senior advisor to the President. The meetings were positive and we came away with much information that our County and Cities can use to improve our quality of life.

Well, May is here and we have a lot more work to do this month. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Patrick Nagy

Patrick "Pat" Nagy
Mayor
Gustine City, California