

January 8, 2021

New Year's Update from the Mayor

Happy New Year's, 2020 is finally in the books! As we begin the New Year, with the COVID pandemic still a major part of our lives, we pause to remember and offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to the families that have lost a love one, we continue to offer the support of our community to those who have been affected by it, and we thank all the family members and caregivers who have offered their love and care to those who have been through it.

The early part of 2021 remains a challenge but there is a light at the end of the tunnel with respect to COVID and a return to what normal will be. We ask everyone do their part to control the continue spread of this deadly virus.

As we begin the year, I wanted to provide an update and a look forward to some initiatives the City of Clearwater is working on. This past year saw some significant challenges but also some achievements for our community. To highlight a few.

City News & staff changes;

- In November, the City celebrated and acknowledged the dedicated career of Yvonne Coon, for her long time service starting as an office staff clerk, becoming the first female City Administrator in 1981; as the first female President of the Kansas Association for City/County Management in 1993; for her service as Councilmember, and being a wonderful ambassador to the City of Clearwater. We are grateful for her love and devotion to our community. With Yvonne being unable to complete her term on council, the City is in the process of appointing a replacement for the final year of her term.
- Beginning in January City Hall hours of operation will be 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday.
- We are asking everyone to consider signing up for electronic statements! Electronic statements will add convenience to you and will save time and money for the City.
- The City would like to thank and acknowledge Ernie Misak and Kevin Bush for their many dedicated years of service to the City as they both retired this year.
- Cole Hollis was promoted to the Director, Public Works, Chadd Posch assumed the role as Parks & Facilities Superintendent, and we welcomed Kirk Ives as Chief of Police and Amber Ives, as Senior Center Coordinator (not related).

New Businesses coming to Clearwater;

- **Clearwater Farm & Garden** opened in September 2019, they offer dog food, hay, yard treatments, bird feeders and other garden items.
- **Clearwater Pharmacy** re-opened September 2019 providing full pharmacy services to Clearwater and the local area.
- **Walt's** grille and restaurant was re-opened!
- **South Central Adjusting (SCA)**, offering commercial and residential renovations.
- With the closing of **Sub Way, The Gathering Place**, a location for local gatherings to be held opened in that space.

At the Clearwater Business Park, joining our long time business, *Safety Tec* were;

- ***Lauer Auto.*** Lauer Auto has moved into their new facility and are now operational offering used car sales and service.
- ***Plains Cotton Cooperative Association.*** PCCA purchased a significant portion of the Clearwater Industrial Park and have begun construction their first cotton storage warehouse. What you can see being built today is roughly one third of the completed building! There will also be an office and maintenance building started soon. It is the plan to begin their operation in the spring of 2021. Sedgwick County will begin road improvements to pave 95th Street from 135th east to beyond their entrance in 2021.
- ***Anderson & Forrester.*** Anderson & Forrester has moved their manufacturing business from Denver and have occupied their new building and are fully operational. Anderson & Forrester, founded in 1928 is a leader in orifice and conversion fitting needs for natural gas and propane products, such as; orifices, gauging drills, valves, and more.

Continued Residential Growth;

Clearwater has enjoyed significant growth in residential housing, with the expansion and continued success of Park Glen Estates (Shaun Weaver, Developer), having completed 7 new homes with 2 spec homes and 2 lots available in phase 1, and now expanding into phase 2 of development including building patio homes! Streets, water, and sewer are being put into place. 27 new homes were added in Chisholm Ridge with the final phase open and lots available, and 8 new homes have been constructed within the City limits in 2020.

With the current home buyer's incentives expired as of the end of the year, the governing body will make recommendations for the 2021 incentives at its upcoming meeting. The updated incentives will be posted on the city website. Clearwater is a safe and wonderful place to live and raise a family. We are blessed with an outstanding school district, great amenities, and opportunity for growth.

City Street & Roads

With the expansion of Park Glen Estates, the City has begun construction on Yvonne Drive (named in honor of Yvonne Coon). Yvonne Drive should be completed sometime in the spring providing for a second entrance and exit from Park Glen and Park Glen Estates. The opening of the new street will include some new traffic controls through Park Glen as determined by the Park Glen HOA and the City to ensure a safe thoroughfare.

The 2020 Street Inventory and Improvement project has been completed. This work, conducted by Certified Engineering Design, P.A. is a complete assessment of all street within the City limits of Clearwater and will assist the City in planning street renovation and repairs. Once presented to the Governing Body, the full plan will be available for review at City Hall.

School District

The City would like to acknowledge and thank the USD 264 Board of Education, the new Superintendent (Chris Cooper), all Administrators, Staff, and Faculty for their dedication, determination, and love for our

children by keeping our schools open for in person classes and in those cases when at home learning was required, planning and executing it in the most professional manner possible!!!

Recent changes

The governing body has updated the city ordinances on the operation of Special Purpose Vehicles (golf carts and work site utility vehicles) within the city limits. If you have or plan to purchase one of these vehicles, please refer to Ordinance 1061 for the new requirements of inspection and operation.

With the increased "Food Truck" business within the City, Ordinance 1065 was created to ensure that all vendors meet minimum standards for proper food handling and safety.

You may read these and all city ordinances on the city website www.clearwaterks.org.

Opportunities to serve

Currently there are open positions to serve on the Planning Commission (1 position), and Park Advisory Board (1 position).

We wish for everyone to have a very safe and prosperous year! Please don't hesitate to provide your thoughts and feedback to the City.

Thank you,

Burt Ussery, Mayor