I think I lost most of a week this week. Yep, did not get last week's paper, and here it is ready for another. On Wednesday last, I got up with....no let me correct that.....I could not get up. Something kept me not able to get beyond an attempt to sit up. We won't go into the details, but that Vertigo is some scary stuff. I hear others in the community have dealt with it, and I admire their ability to deal with it and hope to use them as examples. Plain and simple.... Vertigo is Dizziness. Not so plain and simple. At some point it just takes away the ability to control the muscles one needs to rise and stand. I am not “over it”, but I am moving, albeit slowly, and with a cane to have something to steady me.

I must give a big Thank You to all those who lent and are still lending a helping hand. Yvette, Wil, Amy, Josie, Irma, Katie,Ramsey, and the first on the scene, my very caring friend and neighbor, Vonda, and the communicator, watchman, run in with a meal person, Kaleena. I always know you will all be there for me. God bless you all for your kindnesses and love.

So let's catch everyone up a bit on the sewer plant project. I visited with Ryan, the project engineer, last week. He assures me that the original design was for more use than we currently have and will accommodate the entire Northside Acres area if we should want to extend the lines that way. Since we have pretty much agreed that there is no viable land to put a lagoon, and the cost of any lagoon would raise our costs considerably, we are ready to complete the design with the original idea and decision to rehab the plant that we have. The engineers will design, help get the bids from construction companies, and help guide the funding process.

The funding is my next big project. We have some proposed loans with the loan being paid with a set sewer rate passed on to the users of the city services. It looks like we are in line for one large grant but I want to make sure before I believe it. I am interested in using municipal bonds to fund the front part of the project. I am not sure I know all there is to know....no I am sure I do not know all there is to know on this process. What I do think I know, is that municipal bonds are income tax free for the holder. The rates may be better than an investor can get at a bank or other institution. It would be a way for people with a little extra cash to invest in their own community, make better interest than the savings account, and pay no income tax on it. Interest would be paid yearly I believe, with various maturity dates for full cashing in on the bonds. Charging a set fee to sewer users allows us to recoup money from those who use it. This may include people who do not live within the city but do have businesses here. This seems to be a popular means of financing. I sure would like to see people who can invest get a way to do so, make some money, and help the city. This is not a donation, it is an investment. Then there is the traditional bonds as well which is how the Sharon Street project is funded. In effect I am thinking the charge to users is like the assessments. Both are determined by the use. However, what I have seen so far is just a set fee. It does not depend upon how much water is used or where the user is located.

So, folks, you know what I am researching and making contacts about. I am hoping the actual “shovel in the ground” is not far away. In the meantime, we are looking at the water problems all over town and trying to find a way to get the water out of town via natural waterways.

We are starting an all-out campaign also to beautify the parks, alleys, and the curbside appeal of the buildings. Again, if you have branches hanging in the alleys, or buildings setting in an easement that prevents the utility companies from doing their job, you will want to come visit with me and we will find a way to get it everyone accommodated. Please allow a helping hand from

The Mayor's Desk Sharol