

Hendry County Constitutional Offices – COVID-19 Update - March, 24, 2020

Hendry County Property Appraiser's Office

In response to the concerns of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), effective Monday, March 23, 2020 at 5pm, the Hendry County Property Appraiser's (PA) Office will be closed to the public but will remain open for calls in LaBelle at (863) 675-5270 and in Clewiston at (863) 983-3178. The PA's Field staff will only be doing vacant parcel inspections and will suspend occupied improved property inspections until further notice. Those in need to file late Exemption Applications for 2020 tax roll, please call our office for instructions. Those interested in filing homestead applications for the 2021 tax roll may do so once the office re-opens to the public. For Tangible Personal Property, please continue to mail or email your returns as custom, for filing instructions and other pertinent information, please visit our website at www.hendryprop.com. We will continue to post any updates on our FB page at <https://www.facebook.com/Hendry-County-Property-Appraiser-107877083965513/>.

Hendry County Supervisor of Elections

Beginning Monday, March 23, 2020, out of an abundance of caution, the Hendry County Supervisor of Elections Office will allow only limited public access to its office. We encourage citizens and candidates to use the Supervisor of Elections website, Hendryelections.org, as the majority of tasks, such as registering to vote, confirming or updating your registration status, requesting a Vote by Mail Ballot, updating a signature, and more, can be completed online. Staff is also available by phone or email during regular business hours.

Candidates can submit monthly financial reports online at www.HendryElections.org. Prospective candidates, please call to make arrangements.

Citizens wanting to do business in person with the Elections Office, or candidates wishing to submit Candidate Petitions for verification, should contact our office to make an appointment. Appointments should be made the day prior, but a minimum of 3 hours in advance is needed, to ensure staff availability.

All public canvassing board activities for the Presidential Preference Primary currently scheduled will continue as noticed.

The safety of our staff and the public comes above all else. The Elections Office will continue to monitor and adapt to the situation and communicate any changes, as soon as possible. The public is encouraged to stay informed and aware by visiting the Florida Department of Health's new COVID-19 Case Dashboard which will be updated twice daily or our local site hendryfla.net.

If you have questions, or need more information, visit HendryElections.org or call our office at (863) 675-5230 or (863) 902-3392.

<https://www.facebook.com/Hendry-County-Supervisor-of-Elections-258668940979314>

Hendry County Tax Collector

EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

The safety of the Hendry County Tax Collector's staff and the Hendry County residents are top priority, therefore the Tax Collector's will be closing to the public our LaBelle and Clewiston offices until further notice. The Tax Collector will have staff in both offices handling the phone, online service and the mail.

All customers can continue to complete transactions online at www.hendrycountytaxcollector.com or by phone at 863-675-5280 in LaBelle or 863-983-1460 in Clewiston.

www.facebook.com/hendrycountytaxcollector

Hendry County Sheriff's Office

Per the Chief Judge's order, the Hendry County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) is not allowing unnecessary persons into the courtrooms. The Chief Judge has requested HCSO give Notices to Appear for minor crimes, which is already done. The Chief Judge directed that first appearances be conducted with Polycom whenever possible.

HCSO is following the guidelines from the Department of Corrections, Florida Sheriff's Association and the Chief Judge. As such HCSO is trying to keep the jail sterile. There will be no visitation from attorneys, professionals, clergy, etc. until this has passed. All visitations must be by remote internet connections. HCSO has closed the video visitation center and posted that visitation must be done remotely.

HCSO encourages the public to call 863-674-5600 for non-emergencies before coming to the office and dial 911 for any emergencies.

Hendry County Clerk of Court's

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization, extra safety precautions are being taken. Effective March 24, 2020 and until further notice, the Hendry County Clerk of Court's Office will be closed to the public. Staff will be available to answer any questions by telephone or to assist with the essential or critical court proceedings, as required.

The Clerk's Office will continue to provide the following essential or critical court proceedings as ordered in Administrative Order No. 2.39:

- First appearance hearings;
- Criminal arraignments, as necessary;
- Hearings on motions to set or modify monetary bail for individuals who are in custody;

- Juvenile dependency shelter and arraignment hearings, including shelter reviews;
- Juvenile delinquency detention and arraignment hearings;
- Hearings on petitions for temporary injunctions relating to safety of an individual;
- Hearings on petitions for risk protection orders:
- Hearings on petitions for the appointment of an emergency temporary guardian;
- Hearings to determine whether an individual should be involuntarily committed under the Baker Act or Marchman Act;
- Hearings on petitions for extraordinary writs as necessary to protect constitutional rights;
- Hearings on petitions for judicial waiver of notice pursuant to section 390.01114(4), Florida Statutes; and
- Hearings related to the state of emergency or the public health emergency, including but not limited to proceedings related to violation of quarantine or isolation, violation of orders to limit travel, violation of orders to close public or private buildings, and enforcement of curfew orders.

The Clerk's Office will not be processing passport applications or marriage licenses at this time. Official Records will continue to be processed if they are received by mail or by drop box.

A drop box is located in the parking lot of the Hendry County Courthouse. You must include your name and telephone number in the event there is an issue with the documents and we need to reach you. A check or money order for the proper recording fee must be attached to your Recording Documents and a return envelope with postage. Cash cannot be accepted.

All Court and Traffic payments can be made over the telephone by credit card or mailed to the Clerk of Court, PO Box 1760, LaBelle, FL 33975 by cashier's check or money order (No Personal Check). You may also make payments by going to the Clerk's website at www.hendryclerk.org

We strongly encourage individuals with traffic tickets or other outstanding court-ordered financial obligations, who are facing a hardship, to contact our office at the following numbers: (863) 675-5209 or (863) 675-5217

Port LaBelle Utility Payments may be placed in the drop box located in the parking lot of the Hendry County Courthouse. Please include your account number with street address and name. Payments will only be accepted by personal check, cashier check or money order - NO CASH. If you would like to make payment by credit card please call (863)-612-4732.