I sincerely hope everyone enjoyed their Labor Day holiday with rest and quality family time. Labor Day has always been a time to recognize the contributions of millions of working men and women throughout our great nation, and we must always remember that employers and workers all have the same interest, to see that everyone in this nation has a life worth living. And, as public servants, we all have an effect on the quality of life of our residents and businesses.

Observed on the first Monday in September, Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a Federal holiday in 1894. Labor Day also symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans, and is celebrated with parties, parades and athletic events.

Talking about celebrations, later this month we will be celebrating all your hard work and dedication at the 31st Annual City Employees’ BBQ and Pool Party at the Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center and Paul Nelson Aquatic Center. This year’s BBQ will be on Saturday, September 16th.

New to this year’s BBQ will be:

- A Western themed event;
- A “Ghost Town” with old western buildings;
- A variety of music, including country western;
- Root beer floats;
- Maker space activities; and even
- Horse races and steer roping!

The picnic will feature delicious Santa Maria Style beef barbecue with all the trimmings: salsa, beans, salad, and bread. This year, we have added to the menu the option for some BBQ chicken.

At the BBQ, you and your immediate family will have access to the Youth Center, the Paul Nelson Pool, carnival games, a photo op area, Bingo, hourly raffle prizes, corn hole games, face painting, sports inflatables, and more.

I encourage you all to join me, City Councilmembers, Commissioners, and Department Heads at this year’s mid-day lunch hour for an afternoon of fun, good food and laughter. This event is another way that the City, including my office staff, the City Council and the Department Heads, can demonstrate that we value all of your contributions, hard work, and labor.

September is National Preparedness Month: Have a plan for emergencies