

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
September 12, 2014

Dates to Remember:

September 15, 2014	Commission meeting
September 22, 2014	Final Budget Hearing

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- The quarterly meeting of the Emergency Services Council was held at John Boy Auditorium on September 3. There was discussion regarding the need for a new ambulance – many have high mileage ranging from 300,000 to 400,000 miles. Donna Akin will be consulted prior to purchase. The next meeting will be held on December 3rd in LaBelle.
- The Fire Department attended the 9/11 memorial service held by the Criminal Justice program at the high school at 9:30 a.m.
- An electrical fire at Palm Terrace Nursing Home was contained to one room. Two employees complained of smoke inhalation and were checked by EMS personnel.

Golf Course Operations Director Ford reports:

- Tees and fairways were aerified then mowed this week.
- Irrigation leaks were repaired this week on holes number 9, 10, 15, and 16. It's very rare to have that many leaks in one week.
- The Navy Chiefs held another small event this week to welcome new Chiefs to the ranks. The new Chief put on the event and then has to caddie for the older Chiefs.
- The Widow's Son Scramble presented by The Masonic Lodge is scheduled for this weekend. At present time, they are hoping to get 60 or more players to close course. If interested you can call the pro shop to sign up.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- Your Library has been successful again in procuring grant funds for community impact from the SW Florida Community Foundation. For an amount close to \$40,000, we will be able to focus on supporting the need to build the literacy skills of our young residents in Hendry County. In fact, this will enable us to not only continue to provide the quality tutoring we offered last school year, but also to help foster early literacy skills in children from daycare to middle school.
- Please remember to tell your Montura friends about library service in their area every Wednesday at the Montura Club House from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

- As the new fiscal year approaches, the Library is already looking at how to enhance services to this community. This past year we accomplished quite a bit on behalf of the community – a brand new website; new databases on that website; e-books for children; brand new computers throughout the Library system; and opportunities to access your Library catalog from home to carry out various transactions, such as check on or place items on hold, renew your items, and check the status of your account. Of course, this is also the year when we added a brand new computer lab. This upcoming year we would like to add e-books for adults. The intent is to enable our residents to have ready access to a free source of current e-books in a hassle free manner. A total of \$8,000 is needed to provide a collection of over 30,000 items, so that we would be paying an average of \$3.75 per item. Any donation towards this endeavor will be highly appreciated.
- Please come out and see the newest art exhibits in your Library. We currently have art by Josh, a high school senior and a Holly Hobby collection which was owned by Beverly Beardsley.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Officers responded to a request to assist EMS with a patient undergoing CPR at an apartment on South San Pedro. The 40 year old H/M, Ismael Silva, was transported to Hendry Regional Medical Center where he was later pronounced dead. The investigation into his death is ongoing.
- Patrol and Don responded to West Del Rio and West Caribbean about 7:00 a.m. Monday morning for the great bovine escape. With the assistance of the owner of the animals, we were able to eventually herd the 10-15 animals back into their pen.
- A number of traffic stops during the week have resulted in arrests for narcotic possession. The troops are exercising good judgment and observational skills.
- Lt. Rowan put on training for First Bank employees at their annual meeting Tuesday night.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week’s activity:
 - 1006** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 622** Complaints Investigated
 - 22** Arrests Made
 - 21** Traffic Citations issued
 - 31** Red Light Camera Violations
 - 11** City Ordinance Violations
 - 60** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 9** Alarms Responded To
 - 6** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Public Works Director Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: Next scheduled spray: Ground Truck ULV, September 12. Next aerial application, September 17.
- Street Maintenance: (1) All of the palms on Bond Street have been mulched. (2) Staff spent Tuesday and Wednesday mowing grass. (3) Asphalt repairs on Thursday.
- Facility Maintenance: (1) The Senior Citizens Building project is projected to be finished this week.

- Paving project: A recommendation will be presented to the Commission at the September 15th meeting.
- City contracts: Our two mowing contracts and the mosquito control contract expire on December 31, 2014. Contract specs are being reviewed and should be out by the end of the month.
- NOTICE: There is still a lot of tree trimming going on in town. Please remember, if you have a contractor trim a tree on your property, the contractor is to haul the debris. If the property owner trims a tree on their property and the debris offered for collection is outside the scope of “customary”, a special pick up charge will be required. Tree trimming is dangerous, let a professional do it and be sure they are licensed and insured. **Protect yourself and your property.** Call (863) 983-1471 if you have any questions.
- NOTICE: The Public Works Director will meet with your group or club and talk about what the City is doing in areas of recycling, mosquito control, drainage/clean water requirements and other topics to educate the public on subjects that matter to us all. Call (863) 983-1471 for more information.

Recreation Director Ramer reports:

- The remodeling of the Sr. Citizen Center is nearing completion. HUGE thank you goes out to Lee Marvin for all the work he has done there! It looks AWESOME! A “Grand Opening” is in the works! New signage is being worked on for approval of the NEWLY renovated John B. Boy Senior Citizen Community Center.
- All City Parks have been sprayed for weeds and ants and mulch has been added to Sikes Park. All other City Parks will have mulch added to them in the upcoming weeks.
- Picnic pavilions at the Levee Park on the Lake side will get a coat of paint beginning next week
- Weeding, trimming and edging have begun at Sugarland Sports Complex on the quads.
- Sugarland Sports Complex staff is prepping, squaring, setting goals and marking fields for the upcoming AYSO season and CHS Soccer seasons. A total of seven (7) soccer game fields will be utilized this season. Additional areas for soccer practice are being prepped as well.
- Plans are being made for the “Kid’s Fall Festival” tentatively scheduled for Oct. 25th in the Sugar Festival Field.
- Go to www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- A very hot and humid August, teamed with increased water usage, has caused an increase in utility bills for some of our residents. Remember that even though you have not changed your routine, the outside weather conditions affect your air conditioner. If you have any concerns about your bill, please contact our office at 863-983-1454. We will be happy to assist you in investigating your concerns. We also encourage our residents to read your meter(s) when you receive your bill and compare your readings. Most electric meters are now digital and are easy to read. Your reading should be higher than what is on your bill. Remember to change the air conditioner filter on a monthly basis and turn off ceiling fans when you are not in the room. Setting your thermostat to 80 during the

day when you are not home and setting the water heater on the energy saving setting will also help.

- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.
- **DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR METER BASED SURGE PROTECTION!** Visit our office today.
- The Water/Sewer crew flushed hydrants and exercised water valves on the north side of town this week.
- The Electric crew repaired the town clock on Central Avenue last week as well as street light repairs.
- Our Online Utility Website is up and running. Register your account by visiting our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov and click on the link at the bottom of the page or by going to <https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl>. Payments can be made by debit or credit card.