

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
March 20, 2015

Dates to Remember:

March 23, 2015 – City Commission Workshop

Spring Cleaning – March 28 – “No Butts About It”

Sugar Festival – April 10 and 11 – Visit www.clewistonsugarfestival.net for more information

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- The City Commission, at the regular meeting held on Monday, March 16th, approved two (2) variance requests by the Area Housing Commission of LaBelle, Clewiston and Hendry County. One variance is for a reduction of required parking from two (2) spaces to 1½ spaces per housing unit. An additional variance was granted for a reduction of side setbacks from the required twenty (20) feet to fifteen (15) feet. The front will remain at twenty-five (25) feet in line with the Goodwill Housing next door. This project is for a fifty (50) unit complex for elderly occupancy located on West Ventura Avenue.
- Mayor Phillip Roland, was appointed to the vacancy on the Building Board of Commissioners, which meets as needed to address dangerous and unsafe conditions on properties in the City of Clewiston.
- The tenant buildout at 301 East Sugarland Hwy. is nearing completion. A Cricket phone store will be occupying the renovated space.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- Look for the library’s column in the Clewiston News 3/19/15. The title is “*On Your Shelf at the Clewiston Public Library*”.
- IT Academy Microsoft Excel classes begin next Monday 3/23/15. There is special pricing for this session. For only \$100.00 you will be able to get registered, get instructions, sit for the certifying exam (a \$70.00 savings), and have one free “re-sit” of the certifying exam. Contact your library at 983-1493.
- E-books are coming sponsored by the SW Florida Library Network to the tune of \$10,000.00. Keep looking for it!

Did You Know?



Why are Florida's 555 public libraries so important?

Public libraries:

- Support business, education and recreation.
- Promote lifelong learning.
- Excel in early childhood development.
- Provide public services and technology instruction.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Officers spent Tuesday rotating back and forth to the Hendry County Gun Range for firearms qualification. All sworn officers were successful.
- Monday evening, patrol responded to the boat basin regarding a boater in distress. Upon arrival, they discovered an elderly gentleman from Fort Myers who had suffered severe cardiac symptoms while fishing with a friend. EMS pronounced the man dead after unsuccessful attempts to revive him.
- A vehicle driving through Git-n-Split hit a Coca Cola cooler shattering the front glass of the cooler, no one was injured in the incident.
- Officers responded to a fight at Katy's Restaurant. Hiberto Garcia-Hernandez was arrested for aggravated battery. The suspect and his victim were both treated for injury.
- Six officers volunteered their time to come in to work Wednesday afternoon to escort the members of the Leadership Hendry-Glades Class. The class members split up and spent a couple of hours on "patrol" with various CPD Officers.
- A vehicle struck a scooter on East Ventura this week. The scooter operator was transported to HRMC for his injuries. The driver of the vehicle was uninjured, but charged with the accident.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1118 Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 620 Complaints investigated
 - 19 Arrests Made
 - 40 Traffic Citations Issued
 - 42 Red Light Camera Violations
 - 69 Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 19 Alarms Responded To
 - 2 Code/Ordinance Violations
 - 4 Traffic Accidents Investigated

Public Works Director Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: Activity is picking up. We are monitoring populations and will start implementing treatment when the threshold has been met.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff painted curbs yellow on Ponce de Leon at "No Parking" areas and wheel stops in the Chamber parking lot. (2) Staff is placing a fresh layer of red mulch in Civic Park, festival grounds, Youth Center, and Library.
- Building Maintenance: (1) Fire House light repairs. (2) Utility Building & Public Works equipment building have been power washed. (3) The trim on the Library is being prepped for paint.

- Spring Cleaning: Contest starts on Monday, March 23rd. As of March 16th, I have received 20 registrations for the contest. To be sure you get a free “No Butts About It” tee shirt and be eligible to win the \$100 cash prize, you must pre-register by March 23rd. Actual Spring Cleaning day is March 28 beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- Surplus Equipment Sale: We received a check from Weeks Auction Co. this week in the amount of \$14,030.

Recreation Director Ramer reports:

- The Clewiston Recreation Department has partnered with TKA – Clewiston and ACFC to pressure wash, mulch and “Spring Clean” all the parks in town on March 24th and 25th. 53 kid volunteers will be participating this year.
- The Clewiston Recreation Department and Everglades Lodge #548 will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt & a Movie Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 4th at the Sugarland Sports Complex. The Easter Egg Hunt will start at 10:00 a.m. for ages 10 & younger. The movie that we will be showing is “BIG HERO 6” at the John Boy Auditorium starting at 1:00 p.m. Come out and bring your towels and/or blankets!
- Our crew has been helping public works spread mulch around the Sugar Festival field & the Civic Park.
- Sports Complex crew has been getting the small and big quad fields ready for our Baseball & Softball teams. Games begin at 5:30 p.m. Come out & cheer on your favorite ball player.
- Plans are being made regarding staffing patterns, curriculum, daily time goals, staff/CIT training days (babysitting, CPR and 1st Aid, City orientation, physicals and drug screens), lifeguard certification classes (Basic and WSI) and field trip activities for Summer Camp 2015 in both the City of Clewiston and the Harlem Communities. We will begin accepting applications for Counselors, Lifeguards, CIT’s and LIT’s the first of April.
- Plans are being made for cleaning the James Mason Pool and the C.S. Mott Pool and getting ready for DOH inspection tentatively scheduled for April 30th. Our time-goal to open both pools is Memorial Day weekend, May 23rd.
- Plans are being made and dates are being set for Fish Camp 2015 for Beginner, Advanced and new this year, Family Weekend Fishing Seminars.
- Plans are being made to host a Softball Boot Camp and Showcase at Sugarland Sports Complex the end of May.
- Negotiations have begun with Challenge Sports to host a 2-3 day national qualifying 3V3 soccer tournament in Clewiston at Sugarland Sports Complex during the summer.
- If you are interested in participating in an adult men’s and co-ed softball league this spring, an adult co-ed volleyball league in the early summer or youth flag football and AAU Track and Field during the late summer, please contact Andre at 983-1492.
- ZUMBA at the Youth Center on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings beginning at 7:30 p.m. Contact Tanya (our Certified Instructor) directly at (914) 338-6577.
- Go to www.clewistonrecreation.com for information regarding all your recreational needs.

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- The Water/Sewer crew made a tap for Westside Elem. new service for sewer.
- The Meter Readers continue to paint hydrants throughout the City.
- The Water/Sewer crew repaired a 4 inch water main break Friday night on Diaz Place and replaced a section of sewer main on 500 block of East Obispo Ave.
- The Electric crew continues to trim trees throughout the city. They are also straightening poles and tightening down guides. The Electric crew tied in service for new business at 301 E. Sugarland Hwy.
- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom or the City's website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
- 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.
- **ONLINE UTILITY PAYMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE!** Our Online Utility Website is up and running. Payments can be made by credit or debit card. You can also review your account activity, consumption history and request certain work orders. You can register your account by visiting our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov.