

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
October 2, 2015

CONGRATULATIONS to Robbie and Sissy Castellanos who were recognized at the Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner with the **Outstanding Community Service Award for 2015**.

Dates to Remember

October 5, 2015 – Planning & Zoning Board Meeting
October 10, 2015 – Sweetest Town Playground 2nd Anniversary Celebration
October 12, 2015 – City Commission Workshop regarding Recreation
October 15, 2015 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting
October 15, 2015 – City Commission Workshop
October 19, 2015 – City Commission Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- October 4th through the 10th is Fire Prevention Week. Fire Marshal Reese will be visiting each of the elementary schools for an educational presentation.
- We have received plans for a new 1,950 square foot commercial building to be located at 1007 West Ventura Avenue, in the Merchant Square area behind Burger King.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- **The Hendry County Library system is now providing an AMNESTY to users who have overdue items.** Items that are late or have been marked as lost may be returned between now and October 14th and the fines will be eliminated.
- During amnesty time, patrons with lost library cards will be able to receive a replacement without the fee. Important to note - beginning October 15, 2015, computer signup in the libraries is going digital. Customers will be required to have a valid library card and pin number to use the equipment.
- After School Tutoring and Homework Help sessions for children in grades 1 through 5 will start October 12, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. Sessions will run Mondays through Thursdays.
- The Hendry County Libraries pre-school program will begin next Tuesday, October 6, 2015, in Clewiston. It will include curriculum guided learning activities with pre-kindergartners of each school, along with computer literacy and reading skills development classes.
- The name of the English as a Second Language conversational event has been changed from “The English Coffee Shop @ your Library” to “The Sweetest English Café”. New English speakers who want to practice their English language skills can now do so in a

social setting. Contact the library at 863-983-1493 for more information. Snacks will be served.

- Be on the lookout...E-books will soon be automatically available through a search of the Hendry County catalog.
- Remember to visit www.hendrylibraries.org Your library truly has a lot to offer.

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush Reports:

- Stay up to date with all Clewiston Golf Course news. Visit the City website at www.clewiston-fl.gov, follow the golf link and sign up on Constant Contact. You will automatically be added to the golf course e-mail blast.
- Golf lessons available - contact Robbie Rush at 863-983-1448.
- Get your grips re-done – contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Clewiston Golf Course is now Junior/Kids friendly. We have set up a new short course for the kids. The new tee color is green and measures 1854 yards in distance. Front nine only.
- Clewiston Golf Course will be hosting the District High School Boy's and Girl's Golf Tournament on Tuesday, October 13, 2015. The tournament starts at 10 a.m.
- 2015 Men's Club Championship will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 17th and 18th 2015. Sign-up in the golf shop or call 863-983-1448. There is a low net division and low gross division. The golf course will be open for regular play both days.
- Seminoles in Recovery Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2015 with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. The golf course will be open for regular play.
- **Putts Fore Pets Golf Tournament is scheduled for October 31, 2015. Sign-up is in the golf shop. Call 863-983-1448. Proceeds to benefit Clewiston Animal Shelter.**

Recreation Director Lance Ramer Reports:

- **Mark your calendars for October 10, 2015** – 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. *Active Citizens for Children* will spearhead a community celebration for the second anniversary of the building of the *Sweetest Town Playground*; an event that will involve providing minor repairs and maintenance.
- **Please visit www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.**

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Detectives have worked around the clock to solve last weekend's homicide at Sugarland Plaza parking lot. There is an enormous amount of evidence to be sorted and some logistical issues to be worked out, but I expect this case to be resolved in just a few days.
- Backgrounds, physicals and drug screens are complete and acceptable for our two new Police Officer hires. Kyler Hodge and Ryan Larosa are expected to begin working this week.
- Patrol is set to monitor activity around the hotel / motel / marina areas this weekend in support of a fishing tournament.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:

1009	Commercial / Residential Security Checks
636	Complaints Investigated
14	Arrests Made
6	Traffic Citations
62	Merchant Escorts
17	Code Enforcement Cases
9	Rental Inspections
28	Alarms Responded To
4	Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

PLEASE BE AWARE OF UTILITY PAYMENT SCAMS: Scam artists are calling Utility customers, posing as employees of Clewiston Utilities and threatening disconnection of services if payment is not made immediately. Please be aware of the following.

- 1) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER request you to purchase money cards or gift cards to pay your account over the phone.**
- 2) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER contact our customers on the weekend and threaten disconnection of services.**
- 3) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER speak to our customers in a threatening tone.**

If you feel you have been a victim of this scam, please contact Clewiston Utilities to verify the call or the Clewiston Police Department and file a report.

- Water Sewer Activities
 - Made the final service connections on the new water line on Georgia Avenue.
 - Several lift stations were repaired this week.
 - Performed an unusually higher amount of line locate requests.
 - Along with Steve Hayes, continued to assist with the office work orders.
 - Assisting with the annual year-end inventory process.
- Electric Activities
 - Repaired several street lights in Harlem.
 - As a result of the FDOT highway project currently underway, located lines for the red lights on US Highway 27.
 - Repaired a bad underground service in Harlem Gardens.
 - Ran a new underground service to the lift station on Ponce de Leon.
 - Several outages were reported this week due to storms.
 - Year-end inventory process is being completed.
- Effective October 1, 2015 Clewiston Utilities will no longer mail the yellow reminder/late notice.
- 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 these 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 BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE** on our web site at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.

Public Works Director Scheffler reports:

- **Mosquito Control:** Although trap counts were down this week, mosquito activity has been very high. Sometimes conditions disperse the Co2 used as an attractant for female mosquitoes and counts will be low; this can lead to an inaccurate description of activity in the area. Ground truck applications are scheduled for Tuesday and Friday nights.
- **Street Maintenance:**
 - Staff started working on ideas for this year's Homecoming Parade entry.
 - On Wednesday, Sean traveled to Fort Myers and met with representatives from the DEP and SFWM to discuss funding opportunities for a large project on Ventura Avenue, from Deane Duff to Francisco, and a smaller project in the alley between El Paso and Alverde on San Gabriel.
 - This time of year, mowing, street sweeping and litter removal are top priorities and staff has been steady at each task.
 - Trash collection crews have been up to full speed insuring streets are clean again. Due to equipment difficulties, we were several weeks without our grab loader. What a difference it makes when everything is running. **Good job guys!**
 - Staff cleared the sidewalk on East Del Monte of tree branches and plants growing into the walk lane. A survey will be conducted in order to identify additional areas that need this attention.
- **US27 Rebuild: Started on June 15, 2015.** The asphalt crews are laying the last course of asphalt. Signal crews are still working on the underground for "Ped Crossings". Overhead crews will be working on new signals and signage.
- **West Pasadena & Boat Basin Project:** Notice of Award has been sent to LCCI. After both parties sign the contract, a start date will be set.
- **Civic Park Rebuild:** Staff is gingerly working the "flute" molding out of the columns; a slow process, as we do not want to chip or break the edges off of the moldings. Time is needed to let each column thoroughly dry and harden. Material for the arbor has been ordered. Sean met with Industrial Direct this week and discussed one of the new elements slated for the park.