

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
February 5, 2016

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE...with all the information in the media regarding the Zika Virus, we are monitoring the issue closely and will post updates as needed. Please see the following public notice issued this week.

**City of Clewiston
Public Notice**

The Zika virus is a virus that has caught the attention of people all over the country. It is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito; the only mosquito species known to carry the virus. **The Zika virus has not been confirmed in Clewiston.** Lee County has two of the nine confirmed cases in Florida. These cases are referred to as “travel cases” as the people with the virus came into the area from outside the country.

The *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus* is known as a container breeding mosquito. Insuring items such as flower pot trays, toys, bird baths, feeders, boats or rain gutters are cleaned, emptied and/or covered to prevent standing water will aid in eliminating the mosquito habitat. Within the mosquito life cycle, it takes as little as five days for eggs to hatch and feed and requires only a small area of habitat to do so.

If you must go outside, cover up your body; wear light colored long sleeves and long pants. Spray exposed skin with an insect repellent containing deet.

The City of Clewiston’s mosquito program is actively trapping mosquitoes and spraying in areas where trap counts support spray missions. The staff has put out over one hundred “30 day larvicide bricks” in standing water along Okeechobee Blvd. We have been in contact with Lee County Mosquito District (the nation’s largest and leading mosquito program) and follow the same guide lines and operations as they do. The City’s mosquito control contractor, Clarke Environmental, who also treats Hendry County, is working on a strategy to combat this situation should the Health Department release a Public Warning about the Zika virus. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact the Clewiston Public Works Dept. at telephone no. (863) 983-1471, Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information, you may go to our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov and follow the Zika Virus link under Quick Links on the home page.

Dates to Remember

February 9, 2016 – Hendry-Glades Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
February 11, 2016 – City Commission Workshop
February 15, 2016 – City Commission Meeting
February 18, 2016 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- There has been an older mobile home replaced in Aztec Trailer Park, located at 730 South Francisco, lot #62. The replacement is a 2006 FEMA trailer;
- On Tuesday, February 2nd at approximately 9:30 p.m., the fire department responded to a structure fire in an apartment building located at 113 North Francisco Street. Approximately eighteen (18) people were displaced. The Red Cross assisted with relocation of the occupants. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Fire Marshal/Building Official.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- **For information regarding any of our programs, please call the library at (863) 983-1493 and remember to visit www.hendrylibraries.org. Your library truly has a lot to offer.**

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush Reports:

- The greens and fairways were fertilized this week.
- The greens were sprayed with fungicide this week.
- Get your grips re-done. Contact golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Clewiston First Tee Junior Golf Clinic is scheduled for Saturday February 6, 2016 (Soccer Golf) 4pm-5pm
- Men's Senior Club Championship is scheduled for February 9th and 10th 2016. Sign-up is in the golf shop or call 863-983-1448.
- Glow Ball Tournament is scheduled for Friday February 12, 2016. To sign-up call golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- CLGA Ladies Invitational is scheduled for Tuesday February 16, 2016 with a 10am start. The golf course will be closed for regular play until 2:30pm.
- CHS Project Graduation Foot Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday February 20, 2016. The tournament starts at 3pm.
- CLGA Komen Tournament sign-up is now in the golf shop. The tournament is Saturday February 27, 2016.
- Mr. Bob Shields, Sr., one of the great PGA Golf Professionals, has passed away. Mr. Bob Shields, Sr. influenced many PGA Golf Professionals in our country. He was the true definition of what a golf professional should be. Mr. Shields was just elected to the Half Century Club of the Professional Golfers Association of America.
- Get all Clewiston Golf Course news. Visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov and sign up under Constant Contact. You will automatically be put on the golf course e-mail.

- Golf lessons are available, contact Robbie Rush at 863-983-1448.
- Season is in full swing - we suggest calling ahead for tee times.

Recreation Director Lance Ramer reports:

- Please visit www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: With all the rain, old breeding habitats will be revitalized and new habitats will be created. The city was sprayed on Tuesday night and is scheduled to spray again on Thursday night. Staff distributed 110 larvicide briquettes in standing water along Okeechobee Blvd. Residents should check their property and surrounding area for containers holding water. This is where the only mosquito that would carry the Zika Virus will lay her eggs. Dump it out if you find it. Call 983-1471 if you find a large container or recreational vehicles holding water off your property. The mosquito is a night and day biter (early morning hours primarily). Remember to cover your arms and legs when outside or spray a mosquito repellent with Deet on exposed skin.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff filled pot holes for two days following all the rain we got. (2) Wheel stops, curbs and the dumpster enclosure were painted at the Boat Basin. (3) Red mulch was placed around the palms along Francisco and the Bottle Brush on Hoover Dike Road.
- Civic Park Rebuild: (1) Lee is working on the British Airmen and U.S. Veterans Memorial Plaque Monuments for the center of the park.
- Sidewalk Project: The contractor will start as soon as weather conditions allow.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- In response to citizen complaints, officers have been vigilant for semi's and dump trucks running red lights along Highway 27. Many traffic citations have been issued for those violations.
- We continue to field calls late at night regarding homeowners who hear strange noises or see prowlers around their homes at night. Officers have been able to make a few arrests for loitering and prowling each week. Homeowners are encouraged to be aware and call us for anything suspicious. As always we encourage the homeowner to call us, remain on the line with the Dispatcher, and DO NOT go outside to investigate.
- Officers discovered a suspicious person asleep in his vehicle in the street on West Avenida Del Rio at 3 pm in the afternoon. As the officers interviewed him they discovered drugs and drug paraphernalia in his possession. The man was arrested.
- A resident on Popash reported his vehicle was broken in to during the week. The suspect broke a window and took a handgun from the vehicle.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1332** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 599** Complaints Investigated
 - 31** Traffic Citations issued
 - 29** Arrests Made
 - 10** City Ordinance Violations Issued
 - 77** Merchant Escorts Provided

18 Alarms Responded To
4 Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- 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 BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE on our web site at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.

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:

- 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.