

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
February 12, 2016

For information regarding the Zika Virus, please visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov and follow the Zika Virus link under Quick Links on the home page.

Dates to Remember

February 13, 2016 – Hendry County Fair Parade
February 15, 2016 – City Commission Meeting
February 18, 2016 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting
March 8, 2016 – Hendry-Glades Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
March 16, 2016 – Special Magistrate Hearing

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- Update on Greentree West – Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing rough-in inspections have been started. Internal walls and fire separations have also begun;
- A Special Event Permit, as required by the Florida Fire Prevention Code, has been issued to the Hendry County Fair and Parade for the upcoming weeklong fair starting on Friday, February 12th. Fire Marshal Reese is scheduled to conduct a fire/safety inspection;
- On Tuesday, February 9th, the fire department responded to a vehicle fire at the intersection of South Berner Road and Sugarland Hwy. A vehicle was towing a concession stand from Vermont heading to the Hendry County Fairgrounds. The concession stand was a total loss; however, the towing vehicle was saved and there were no injuries.

Code Enforcement Officer Debbie McNeil reports:

- I have responded to various citizens' complaints including but not all inclusive lawn maintenance, unpermitted structures, commercial sign maintenance and illegal construction.
- Research and drafting of the proposed residential rental permit program is ongoing.
- Rooming houses within city limits without proper city permits are being addressed with Notice of Violations to owners. Working in partnership with other departments to address the issue of unidentified rooming houses operating illegally without permits within city jurisdictions.
- Hotel/motel research in regards to transient versus non-transient stays is ongoing.
- 24 new code cases were generated, 12 code cases resolved, 1 referred out and 5 rental inspections completed.

Code Review of the week:

- ***Sec. 18-422. - Duty to obtain and display numbers.***

(a)Whenever any building or structure, residential or commercial, shall be erected or located in the city, it shall be the duty of the owner, or the contractor, on behalf of the owner, to procure the correct number designated to such building or structure, and to affix such number in the same manner provided in subsection (b) of this section. A certificate of occupancy shall not be issued by the city building official until such number is affixed as provided by this section.

(b)The owner or occupant of any building or structure, residential or commercial, designated a number shall affix such number in a conspicuous place above, on or at the side of said building or structure, or to a permanent fixture located in the front yard of the property on which the building or structure is located. Whenever any building or structure is situated more than 50 feet from the street line, such number shall be affixed to a permanent fixture located near the front walk, driveway, or common entrance to such building or structure.

(c)The owner or manager of every mobile home park in the city shall cause each lot in the mobile home park to be numbered in accordance with the directions of the city manager and, further, to affix such number in the manner provided in this section.

(d)The number required to be affixed as provided in this section shall be not less than four inches in height in residential districts and six inches in height in all other districts, shall be of a color that contrasts with the color of the part of the building or structure or other fixture to which such number is affixed, and shall be located in a position to be easily discernible from the street fronting the building, structure or mobile home lot. Once the number is affixed as provided herein, it shall be the duty of the owner or occupant of any building or structure, and the duty of every mobile home park owner or manager, to replace such number if the same is removed therefrom for any reason.

(Code 1960, § 6-20; Code 1982, § 6-212; Code 1999, § 18-712; Ord. No. 78-3, § 1, 3-6-1978; Ord. No. 86-5, § 1, 7-14-1986)

The Community Improvement Division has moved to 141 Central Avenue, Clewiston Utilities Building. The public is encouraged to report code violations by contacting us at the above address, phone: 983-1454 ext. 235 or email: debbie.mcneil@clewiston-fl.gov.

Join me in our dedication to fight the blight in America's Sweetest Town.

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:

- Get your grips re-done. Contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Glow Ball Tournament is scheduled for Friday, February 19, 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.
- 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: Trap counts on Okeechobee Blvd are high, producing 1000 mosquitoes. The trap in Harlem produced 50. The trap on the Golf Course produced 50. Staff discovered large amounts of standing water in the Maiden Cane and under Holly trees while clearing the ROW on Hoover Dike Road.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff repaired the erosion cuts in the detention pond at the Boat Basin again this week. We are in persistent contact with the sod company to get those slopes stabilized. (2) Staff has been clearing back the ROW on the south side of Hoover Dike Road. Over the years the Maiden Cane and Holly trees have encroached into the ROW. (3) New flowering plant material was planted on US27 to fill in some spots that needed some help. (4) Three truckloads of red mulch were picked up and will be used in the festival ground area.
- Civic Park Rebuild: (1) One of five memorial monuments has been built and is curing. It will be moved into the park when the new pads will support the weight. We are preparing to pour a second monument this week.
- Sidewalk Project: The contractor started on Monday behind the Youth Center. They will be moving into the Civic Park next to replace 300 feet of broken sidewalk and replace the monument pads. The final location of this year's project is on Avenida del Rio between Ponce de Leon and Banyan.
- Building Maintenance: The paint contractor has been given the paint color selections. A meeting is scheduled for Friday morning to discuss the scheme for the City Hall and set a start date. Upon the satisfactory completion of the first building, the contractor will move to the Utility Building, the Community Development Building and the Fire House.
- Pasadena Drainage & Paving Project: This project, consisting of new drainage and sidewalks, street paving and driveway aprons, is scheduled to start the week of February 8th and has a sixty day duration.
- Special Thanks: The Atkinson family donated a new concrete floor in the Chickee beside the Youth Center. Thank You David's Concrete and Carpentry for all you do for this community.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- CID and Patrol each chipped in a nice Drug Bust this week. CID operated most of the day Thursday with their sights on the Royal Executive Inn on the West end of town. The takedown at the end of the operation netted +4 lbs. of Synthetic Marijuana, counterfeit cash, cocaine, marijuana and prescription pain killer. Four people were arrested as a result. Patrol meanwhile behind the alert actions of Nicholas Williams took down a sidewalk Pharmaceutical Salesman near the Superstop on the East end of town. The bust yielded a full pound of marijuana and significant amounts of cocaine. Much of the drug was prepackaged and ready for sale. One person was arrested as a result.
- The FLW Tournament went very smoothly from a Law Enforcement perspective. We had no issues other than two suspicious vehicles left stuck and abandoned on Okeechobee Boulevard overnight. Both were towed and impounded. We will now turn our attention to the Hendry County Fair, Fair Parade, BFL Tournament and Big Fish Tournament.....It is a busy February.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1188** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 605** Complaints Investigated
 - 42** Traffic Citations
 - 30** Arrests
 - 67** Merchant Escorts
 - 8** City Ordinance Violations
 - 15** Alarms Responded To
 - 2** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- We will be working with Verizon testing smart meters in the coming weeks
- Water Sewer Activities
 - Repaired several water breaks including one at Bass & Sun Condos
 - Replaced pumps at East/Westside and Walgreen lift stations
 - Winford Thomas repaired the scoreboard at the Girls Softball field. Some parts are being ordered to complete repairs.
- Electric Activities
 - Preparations continue for Sugar Festival laying conduit
 - Preparations are under way at the Fair Grounds, testing and repairing lights
 - Street light repairs
 - We welcome Justin Edwards to the Electric crew as a groundman
- 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