

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
February 26, 2016

City of Clewiston Revitalization Plan – Join us in developing a new plan for the Downtown/US 27 Corridor. Drop by the Clewiston Inn anytime on Friday, February 26, 2016 between Noon and 7:00 pm or Saturday, February 27, 2016 between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm to provide your comments. For more information, contact Margaret Wuerstle: 239-938-1813 x222.

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

March 5, 2016 – Clewiston’s Annual Spring Cleaning
March 8, 2016 – Hendry-Glades Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
March 16, 2016 – Special Magistrate Hearing
March 17, 2016 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting
March 17, 2016 – City Commission Workshop
March 18-19, 2016 – Sugar Festival-Visit www.clewistonsugarfestival.net for more information
March 21, 2016 – City Commission Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- The former Fry Hardware building (vacant since 2005) located at 111 South San Benito has been sold to Palm Peterbilt Truck Centers. The new owners plan to remodel the existing building to accommodate a heavy equipment parts store and a training center for diesel technicians. Work is anticipated to commence within a month;
- Glamour Girl Studios will be opening soon in the vacant space formerly occupied by House of Beauty owned by retired barber Mr. Robert McColley;
- The Clewiston Fire Department hosted the Public Safety Academy students last Friday, February 19th. The future dispatchers attended classes to familiarize themselves with fire apparatus and equipment so that they can visualize and have a better understanding of the role that dispatching plays in a real world environment.

Debbie McNeil – Community Improvement Division reports:

- I have responded to various citizens’ complaints including but not all inclusive illegal parking, lawn maintenance, signage, unpermitted structures, and illegal construction.
- Research and drafting of the proposed residential rental permit program is ongoing. Final product in production to present to Commission.
- We have identified accessory structures being utilized for human occupancy within our city.

- Code enforcement fines/liens data is being consolidated into one spreadsheet and will be forwarded to Mr. Schoech with foreclosure recommendations by C.O.B. Friday.
- 5 Notices of Hearing and 1 reduction of fines request have been sent/received for our next scheduled Magistrate Hearing on March 16, 2016 at 10:00 AM
- 12 new code cases were generated, 7 code cases resolved, 1 referred out and 4 rental inspections completed.

Code Review of the week:

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

The Importance of House Numbers

When responding to an emergency, minutes matter. House numbers are not only convenient for finding addresses but necessary for emergency responders to locate those in need. So be sure that fire, ambulance, and police personnel can easily and quickly find your address.

The Clewiston Code of Ordinances requires in Section 18-422. – Duty to obtain and display numbers the following:

- 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.
- 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.

It is encouraged that all Clewiston residents take a few moments to install house numbers or examine existing house numbers for compliance. **Our Community Improvement Division will begin Operation Show Your Numbers beginning March 1, 2016.**

If you have any questions you may contact the Community Improvement Division at 141 Central Avenue, Clewiston Utilities Building. The public is encouraged to report code violations by contacting us at the above address or 983-1454.

Join us 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 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.
- Get your grips re-done. Contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Golf lessons are available, contact Robbie Rush at 863-983-1448.
- The greens were fertilized this week.
- We continue to trim trees on the golf course.
- Glow Ball Tournament was Friday, February 19, 2016. Jim Hammil, Tanya Hammil, Mark Linder and Dave Jackson won the tournament.
- Men's Senior Club Championship was February 23rd and 24th, 2016. Salaw Hummingbird won the Gross Division and Fred Waid won the Net Division.
- CLGA Komen Tournament sign-up is now in the golf shop. The tournament is Saturday, February 27, 2016.
- Ladies Golf Clinic (Full Swing) is March 5, 2016. Sign-up in the golf shop.
- Clewiston Golf Course Couples Championship is Sunday, March 6, 2016. The tournament is a 9-Hole Modified Scramble. The sign-up sheet is in the golf shop.
- 29th Annual Campbell and Frances Nall Scholarship Rotary Golf Tournament is Saturday, March 12, 2016. Sign-up is in the golf shop.
- Okeechobee Landings has scheduled another tournament for Monday, March 14, 2016.
- Golf Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2016 at City Hall. The meeting begins at 11am.
- Clewiston First Tee Junior Golf Clinic is March 19, 2016 from 4pm-5pm. Integrity is the life skill. For more information contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- **Pace of Play** is becoming an issue. Please be considerate of other groups behind you, by letting faster players go through.
- Season is in full swing - we suggest calling ahead for tee times.

Recreation Director Lance Ramer reports:

- Baseball and Softball teams have begun to practice all over town getting ready for this year's season. Please be aware of the kids...Please SHARE!
- Ballfield staff has been edging, scuff hoeing, cleaning base paths, fence lines and slide boxes on all fields at Sugarland Sports Complex in preparation for the upcoming baseball/softball season.
- Rebuilding of pitching mound, home plate and slide boxes on field #7 have been completed and infield clay will begin to be placed this week on the small quad.
- Ballfield crew has completed the pressure washing and cleaning of all dug-outs, bleacher pads and sidewalks on the small quad.
- Assembly of the new bleachers for the small quad will begin next week.
- All electrical and data boxes for the scoreboards at Sugarland Sports Complex have been checked and repaired/replaced. All scoreboards will be checked next week.

- Davco Electric/Musco Lighting will be out at Sugarland Sports Complex on Thursday evening Feb. 25th beginning at 5pm light gridding the ballfields and replacing bulbs, adjusting cowlings and re-aiming lights on all athletic fields.
- Replacement of the dugouts on field #5 and all the score tables on the small quad at Sugarland Sports Complex has begun. Thank You to David's Carpentry and Concrete for donating the labor!
- The irrigation systems have been repaired at the Civic Park.
- CHS Girls Softball next home games will be Tuesday Mar. 1st against Lake Placid against at 5:30pm (JV) and 7:30pm (Varsity) GO TIGERS!
- Weekly highlights for Clewiston Recreation
 - Feb. 26th – Little Miss & Jr. Miss Sugar Pageant 6-10pm John Boy Auditorium
 - Feb. 27th – Miss Sugar Pageant 6-10pm John Boy Auditorium
 - Feb. 27th – Birthday Party 6-12pm Youth Center
 - Feb. 27th – Soccer Registration 8am-1pm Sugarland Park Pavilion
 - Feb. 27th – Birthday Party 1-6:30pm Trinidad Park
 - Mar. 2nd – Miss Princess of the Glades Orientation 6:30-7:30pm Youth Center
- If you are interested in participating in an adult co-ed dodge-ball league, co-ed softball league, AAU Track and Field, please contact Andre at 983-1492.
- **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: Our traps are not catching enough mosquitoes to trigger a treatment. The Okeechobee trap is only producing 150 in a 12 hour period. The other two are catching less than 25 each. The Zika virus or the *Aedes* mosquito has not shown up in our community. All confirmed cases have been travel related cases and not cases where it was passed from person to person in our region. Let me remind you that the *Aedes* mosquito is a container breeding mosquito. So check your property for anything that may hold even the smallest amount of water and empty it.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Several loads of top soil were delivered to the new Horseshoe pit area to level the area. (2) The two "official" competition pits will be installed. (3) Sod has been ordered to cover exposed dirt and trench lines in the area.
- Civic Park Rebuild: (1) Plans are to install the monuments in their appointed places. (2) Five new flag poles for the Armed Forces Divisions are at Central Supply and will be installed as soon as possible.
- Sidewalk Project: The contractor has not yet started on Avenida del Rio between Ponce de Leon and Banyan. This is the last piece of sidewalk to be addressed in this year's project.
- Building Maintenance: The meeting to review paint instructions and locations was held on Monday morning. Upon approval, work will be scheduled to start.
- Pasadena Drainage & Paving Project: Residents received a letter informing them of the work scheduled in front of their property. My office received two calls to talk about the project. The Contractor is moving at a slow but steady pace. The City Engineer has an inspector on site and the Public Works Director visits the site on a regular basis.

- Spring Cleaning: Don't forget March 5 between 10:00a and 12:00p we are gathering together under the Chickee by the Youth Center to Clean up Clewiston. Twenty local businesses have already donated prizes for the Raffle Drawing held during the free lunch at the end of the event.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Patrol continues to make narcotic possession arrests on the night shift. They are very alert and showing excellent judgement and knowledge.
- Day shift came across a pair of travelling citizens over the weekend, one of which was in full labor, parked at one of the local convenience stores. Officers were able to safely guide the couple to HRMC for medical assistance.
- The investigation into an arson case on Pasadena has been progressing well. We have developed and interviewed a suspect in the case. Detectives are working with the State Attorney's Office to secure an arrest warrant.
- Firearms training went smoothly last Thursday and Friday. This week, all sworn officers will be receiving supplemental training on Taser use.
- The Gun Show at John Boy was smooth and well attended. Officers providing security reported no incidents. This weekend Patrol will closely monitor the Big Fish Tournament and motels during the overnight periods.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity.
 - 1228** Residential / Commercial Security Checks
 - 605** Complaints Investigated
 - 38** Arrests Made
 - 51** Traffic Citations Issued
 - 3** City Ordinance Violations Issued
 - 66** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 19** Alarms Responded To
 - 7** 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.