

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
May 20, 2016



A big “Thank You” to the Southwest Florida Community Foundation for the Community Impact Grant funding for Hendry County Library Cooperative’s IHELP Program. Pictured above are Sarah Owen, President and Chief Executive Officer of Southwest Florida Community Foundation, and Clewiston Library Director Ava Barrett.

Registrations for 2016 Summer Camp have begun! Please visit www.clewistonrecreation.com for pricing, registrations and other information regarding camp, or call the Youth Center at 983-1492.

City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 30, 2016 in observance of Memorial Day. There will be no residential garbage pickup on Memorial Day; garbage will be picked up on Tuesday, May 31, 2016.

Dates to Remember

- May 23, 2016 – Clewiston City Commission Special Meeting (Recessed from May 16, 2016)
- May 30, 2016 – Memorial Day Holiday (City Offices Closed)
- June 8, 2016 – Special Magistrate Hearing
- June 13, 2016 – Library Advisory Board Meeting
- June 16, 2016 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting
- June 16, 2016 – Clewiston City Commission Workshop
- June 20, 2016 – Clewiston City Commission Meeting and Tentative Budget Workshop

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- We have received plans for a new single family home to be constructed at 774 East Del Monte Avenue. It will be 2,819 square feet and have 2 bedrooms/2 baths;
- Two (2) applications for pools were submitted by Bahama Pools making a total of six (6) pool permits issued in the last 12 months.

Friendly Reminder:

With summer just around the corner, pool safety should be a priority in all households.

- Barriers are not child proof, but they provide layers of protection for a child when there is a lapse in adult supervision.
- Barriers give parents additional time to find a child before the unexpected can occur.
- Barriers include a fence or wall, door alarms for the house, and a power safety cover over the pool.

Barrier Locations:

- Barriers should be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.

Fences:

- A fence completely surrounding the pool is better than one with the house serving as the fourth side. Fences should be a minimum of 4 feet high, although fences 5 feet or higher are preferable.
- If the home serves as one side of the barrier, install door alarms on all doors leading to the pool area. Make sure the doors have self-closing and self-latching devices or locks beyond the reach of children to prevent them from opening the door and gaining access to the pool.
- Pool covers add another layer of protection and there are a wide variety of styles on the market. Keep pool covers well-maintained and make sure the control devices are kept out of the reach of children.

Community Improvement Officer Debbie McNeil reports:

- I have responded to various citizens' complaints including, but not all inclusive, public nuisance buildings, lawn maintenance including hedge height, signage, business tax receipt, commercial maintenance and trash management.
- Operation Show Your Numbers is in full force and will continue throughout the City until compliance of commercial and residential structures is achieved. Thank you to Ricardo Martinez and the utilities crew who have been very helpful with this operation thus far.
- Our next scheduled Magistrate Hearing is on June 8, 2016 at 10:00 AM in the City Commission Chambers.
- 39 new code cases were generated, 30 code cases resolved, 1 referred out and 21 rental inspections completed.

Hurricane Preparedness Week May 15- May 21

Overall Message: **#ItOnlyTakesOne.**

It only takes one hurricane to change your life and your community. Hurricanes are one of nature's most powerful and destructive events that the nation faces; they've caused eight of the 10 costliest disasters in U.S. history. **Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30.** If you live in an area prone to hurricanes or inland flooding, now is the time to prepare.

GET READY NOW It's the best way to be prepared for these dangerous storms. People should:

- **Build an emergency kit** with a gallon of water per person, per day, non-perishable food, a flashlight, battery-powered radio, first aid kit, medications, supplies for an infant if applicable, a multi-purpose tool, personal hygiene items, copies of important papers, cell phone chargers, extra cash, blankets, maps of the area and emergency contact information. Many of these items are available through the Red Cross Store at redcrossstore.org.
- Talk with household members and **create an evacuation plan**. Practicing the plan minimizes confusion and fear during the event.
- **Be informed**. Learn about the community's hurricane response plan. Plan routes to local shelters, register family members with special medical needs as required and make plans for pets.
- People should also download the free Red Cross Emergency App to select up to 35 different severe weather and emergency alerts on their mobile device. The content includes expert guidance on what to do before, during and after different emergencies or disasters from home fires to hurricanes. All Red Cross apps can be found in smartphone app stores by searching for American Red Cross or by going to redcross.org/apps.

If someone already has a disaster kit, now is the time make sure the food and water is still okay to consume and that copies of important documents are up to date. If they already have an emergency plan for their household, they should talk about it again with family members so everyone knows what to do if an emergency occurs.

With the Hurricane season fast approaching the Community Improvement Division is asking that all of our neighbors take this time to walk and observe their property with a high wind event in mind. Take this time to secure or remove any items that has the potential to become missiles and constitute a nuisance, detrimental to health, safety and welfare of all neighbors within the city during an event.

Code Review:

- **ARTICLE III. - JUNKED, WRECKED PROPERTY**
- **Sec. 34-52. - Definitions.**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Junk means wrecked, derelict, dismantled, partially dismantled or nonoperative vehicles, washing machines, refrigerators, dishwashers, water heaters, television sets, similar machinery, boats, old scrap copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper, lumber, trash, rubber, debris, oddments, wastements, litter, leavings, ruins, castoffs, rummage, waste, and any other old scrap ferrous or nonferrous materials.

Junkyard means a place, structure, lot or parcel of land where junk is bought, sold, exchanged, stored, baled, packed, disassembled or handled as a business.

Property means any real property within the city which is not a street or highway.

Street or *highway* means the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly dedicated right-of-way within the city.

Vehicle means a machine propelled by power other than human power designed to travel along the ground by the use of wheels, treads, runners or slides and shall include, but not be limited to, automobiles, trucks, trailers, motorcycles, tractors, buggies, wagons and farm equipment.

(Code 1982, § 9-1; Code 1999, § 34-81; Ord. No. 88-5, pt. 1, 8-15-1988)

- **Sec. 34-53. - Nuisance declared.**

The accumulation and storage of junk not maintained as provided in this article shall constitute a nuisance, detrimental to health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the city.

(Code 1982, § 9-2; Code 1999, § 34-82; Ord. No. 88-5, pt. 1, 8-15-1988)

- **Sec. 34-54. - Junk on street or highway prohibited.**

No person shall leave any junk upon a street or highway. This section shall not apply to grass, leaves, tree and shrub clippings and similar items which have been placed out to be picked up by the city.

(Code 1982, § 9-3; Code 1999, § 34-83; Ord. No. 88-5, pt. 1, 8-15-1988)

- **Sec. 34-55. - Junk on real property prohibited; exceptions.**

No person in charge or control of any property, whether as owner, occupant, lessee or otherwise, shall allow any junk to remain on any real property within the city for a period longer than 72 hours, nor shall any person deposit junk upon the real property of another person. This prohibition shall not apply to junk in an entirely enclosed building, a junkyard maintained in a lawful manner, or junk vehicles on the business property of a new or used vehicle business maintained in a lawful manner.

(Code 1982, § 9-4; Code 1999, § 34-84; Ord. No. 88-5, pt. 1, 8-15-1988)

- **Sec. 34-56. - Notice for removal of junk on property.**

(a)

It shall be the duty of the code enforcement officer to give written notice to the registered owner of any junk which is in violation of this article, and to the registered lienholder thereof, to the person responsible for depositing the junk, or to give such notice to the owner of the real property, or the person in charge or control of such real property, where such junk is situated (in cases where the identity of the owner or lienholder is not registered or otherwise readily ascertainable) advising such person that such junk violates this article and demanding that such junk be removed to a lawful place. Such notice may be given by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested. A copy of the written notice shall be posted on the property where the junk is located when the original notice is mailed or delivered.

(b)

Notice shall be deemed to be complete and sufficient when addressed to the owner and lien holder of the personal property, and the owners of the real property as shown on the registration of the personal property and on the latest tax roll and deposited in the United States mail with proper postage prepared.

(Code 1982, § 9-6; Code 1999, § 34-86; Ord. No. 88-5, pt. 1, 8-15-1988)

All Clewiston Code of Ordinances may be publicly accessed on Municode at the following link:

https://www2.municode.com/library/fl/clewiston/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=14849

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.
- Clewiston Golf Course Summer Memberships are available now. June 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016 (\$180.00) which includes tax.
- Member Rate for unlimited holes the same day is \$19.00 plus tax.
- Non-Member Rate for unlimited holes the same day is \$28.00 plus tax.
- Clewiston Golf Course Summer First Tee Junior Golf Camps are June 13-17, 2016 and July 11-15, 2016. For more information, contact the golf pro shop at 863-983-1448.
- **CHS Tiger Boosters Golf Tournament** had 108 players on Saturday, May 14, 2016. Congratulations!! Jamie Dickson, Trini Reyes and Dave LaSarre. They shot 56 and were the winners.
- Clewiston Elks Lodge Golf Tournament is scheduled for June 11, 2016. Call the golf shop at 863-983-1448 to sign up.
- **Responsibilities we have as golfers when we play golf:** 1) Replacing or sanding our divots; 2) Raking sand traps after we exit them; 3) Repairing our pitch marks on the green; 4) Keeping our golf carts off green and tee slopes; 5) Letting faster players through; and 6) Throwing your trash away.
- **Golf tip of the week:** How do you hit a golf shot high or low in the air? If you want to hit the golf ball higher, finish your golf swing with your hands up in the sky. If you want to hit the golf ball low, finish your golf swing below the kitchen table. That is how you control your ball flight.

Recreation Director Lance Ramer Reports:

- If you are interested in participating in an adult co-ed dodgeball league, summer co-ed softball league, or Summer K-5th 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: Trap data for this week is as follows: Trap #1: 339; Trap #2: 105; Trap #3: 737; Trap #4: 328. Ground ULV applications are still on Tuesday and Friday. However this week, with heavy/windy rain events late in the afternoon and evening, applications may be adjusted to meet with environmental conditions. Please call 983-1471 to register a mosquito complaint.

- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff removed dead palms from Olympia Street and Berner Road. (2) Trip hazards and wheel stops were painted at the Community Development Building and the Firehouse. A fresh coat of paint was put on the handrail at South Lopez & 27. (3) The bridge on Royal Palm was power washed and painted. Reflectors were installed to increase visibility and public safety. (4) Irrigation systems are being checked and reset for longer run times because of the long hot days of summer. (5) The final review of this year's overlay and striping projects will be done on Friday and if all is in order will be advertised next week.
- Pasadena Drainage & Paving Project: The City has directed the Engineer to send a letter to the contractor giving them a date to have all work completed on this project or penalties will be issued. There have been concerns about the sod. Hopefully the rain we get this week will pump new life into a suffering situation.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Patrol stopped a vehicle behind a local hotel. Driver arrested for suspended DL. Passenger arrested on various felony drug possession offenses.
- Following an investigation which lasted several days, officers arrested a Subway employee for grand theft from the business.
- Overnight Monday an Orchard Park resident reported her vehicle had been broken into. The vehicle was locked and appeared unmolested. Suspect may have used a slim-jim style device.
- Also on Monday night, officers noticed a man urinating in public on Highway 27. The man was arrested for indecent exposure and resisting arrest.
- Early Monday morning, a vehicle was discovered in the canal at the intersection of Ventura and San Diego. Only a rear tail light was above water. The vehicle owner and his wife were found inside deceased. Initial evidence showed the vehicle was likely in the water for more than two hours before discovery. Investigation is continuing.
- Officers responded to a melee on Sugarland Circle East. A father of two minor children showed up at his ex-wife's residence to pick up his children for scheduled visitation and a fight broke out involving the ex-husband and his current companion vs the ex-wife and her mother. In the immediate aftermath of the dustup it was impossible for officers to determine who initiated the conflict. Warrant requests have been submitted to the SAO for all four adults involved in the fracas.
- Another domestic dispute erupted at a local hotel parking lot when a man's ex discovered him there with another woman. The ex-wife was removed from the property and peace was restored.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1202** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 622** Complaints Investigated
 - 35** Arrests made
 - 43** Traffic Citations issued
 - 2** City Ordinance Violations Issued
 - 69** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 27** Alarms Responded To
 - 3** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- Water Sewer Activities
 - Repaired water breaks at West Trinidad, North Berner, Deane Duff, Aztec and Fairgrounds Trailer Park.
 - Replaced pump and belts at main lift station.
 - Jetted sewer line at Library.
 - Assisted South Shore Water Association with a water break.
 - Made water tap for new construction on E Del Monte.
- Electric Activities
 - Changed flashing caution lights on the West end of US 27.
 - Repaired traffic light at W C Owen and US 27.
 - Run five underground services in Everglades Trailer Park.
 - Repaired sprinkler in Sugar Festival Park.
 - Changed rotten cross arm.
- 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 of 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.