

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
March 6, 2015

City Manager Perry is in Tallahassee this week. Mr. Perry has made contact with various State legislators, and on the federal side, Senator Nelson and Senator Rubio's offices about the new flood maps for the City. Mr. Perry met with Patrick Howard with DEO regarding our Commerce Park grant closeout and repayment. Mr. Perry is also attending the Florida Chamber's Capital Days learning about legislative issues and the current condition of our State.

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you retire on Saturday, March 7 as daylight savings time begins on Sunday.

Dates to Remember:

March 9, 2015 – City Commission Workshop – US 27 Corridor

March 12, 2015 – City Commission Workshop

March 16, 2015 – City Commission Meeting

Spring Cleaning – March 28 – “No Butts About It” - Pre-registration starts March 2nd

Sugar Festival – April 10 and 11 – Visit www.clewistonsugarfestival.net for more information

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- The Planning & Zoning Board met on Monday, March 2nd to discuss a variance request for the Area Housing Commission of Clewiston, LaBelle and Hendry County. The variance request was for a reduction of setbacks for their proposed development of fifty (50) units located at 1016 West Ventura Avenue. Their recommendation will be heard by the Commission on March 16th at their regular meeting.
- Code Enforcement staff, Police Chief Gutshall & Lt. Chad Pelham met with Community Development Director Travis Reese and City Attorney Charlie Schoech on Monday, March 2nd to discuss topics raised by the Commission regarding the US27 corridor. They will formulate a strategy to resolve redevelopment issues in the older east end of town
- Utilities Office Manager Rhonda Davis has supplied a listing of all commercial meters located in the City to Community Development. Karen Moore is in the process of verifying that the business owners have a current Local Business Tax Receipt (Occupational License) with the City of Clewiston. Anyone found in violation will be referred to Code Enforcement for further action. To get started, the focus is in blocks 377, 378 and 385.
- Certified letters have been mailed to all current owners of mobile home parks located within the City limits. Staff has developed an application procedure requesting the owners to disclose information regarding their park(s) and return this information to the Community Development Department no later than 3/20/15.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- The One-Book-One Community program was a huge success. We were able to take Dr. Dexter Thomas into four of our schools in Hendry County and the kids had a blast interacting with him. In total, he spoke to 1,570 persons for the day. That includes the 2 Hendry County high schools and middle schools and the program in the Library in the evening. Several members of our community were honored as well as two agencies – Goodwill Industries and Palm Terrace of Clewiston. Cassie of Cracker Cookin provided excellent refreshments.
- The African American History month program honored several African American students. A large crowd of 89 gathered to celebrate with the students, including principals and teachers from most of the schools in town.
- We are in the process of negotiating with OverDrive for E-books for our Library. We will receive support for this venture from the SW Florida Library Network (SWFLN) which has committed to pay the \$10,000.00 it will cost to get the program going for our Library system. We are counting this as a blessing.



Did you know that Florida's public libraries had more visits in 2013 than the seven major theme parks in the state? Library visits totaled 78.5 million, while the seven major theme parks saw 70.4 million visitors. Congratulations to Florida's public libraries. This statistic validates the valuable services and programs our libraries offer. For more information, contact [Katrice Stewart](#), State Data Coordinator, at 850.245.6608

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Tuesday night, a young girl on West Crescent called and reported that her dad was acting strangely. When officers arrived, the girl said her dad had left the house moments earlier. At that time, they heard a noise in the bushes at the corner of the house and discovered the dad lying face down, hiding in the bushes. When ordered to stand, he did so and dropped two baggies which were later determined to contain cocaine. The man's strange behavior worsened and officers called medics who transported the man to HRMC. The man admitted to ingesting a large amount of cocaine. He will be transported to jail upon release from the hospital.
- A traffic stop of a pickup truck resulted in the confiscation of a stolen motorcycle which was in the bed of the pickup. The driver and a passenger were arrested for possession of stolen property and illegal narcotics.
- Neighbors in the Trocadero neighborhood alerted officers to a prowler in the neighborhood. Two of the men found the suspect inside a carport/porch area and held him until officers arrived. Henderson Trammel was arrested and charged with burglary.
- Sunday night a Labelle man drove his company work truck to Clewiston to attend a party. After leaving the party hours later, he drove the vehicle into the canal at San Diego and Alverde. A City of Clewiston drainage structure was heavily damaged as a result. The man was arrested and charged with DUI.

- We are fully staffed for the first time in nearly a year. The result is astounding as you will see in the numbers. Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1103** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 651** Complaints Investigated
 - 42** Arrests Made
 - 55** Traffic Citations
 - 39** Red Light Violations
 - 5** Code/Ordinance Violations
 - 70** Merchant escorts
 - 16** Alarms Responded To
 - 3** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Public Works Director Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: Contractor & staff started trapping this month. This is to establish a base line on activity and support spray missions. The three elements used by the Federal Government to warrant a spray mission are trap counts, complaints, or virus out-break.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff corrected a minor drainage problem on Bayberry Loop this week. (2) "Buffered End Sections" were installed on barricades at various locations around town. (3) The Palms on US27 got a fresh layer of "red mulch" this week. (4) A special thanks to the Electric crew for changing out the street light and pole at Ponce de Leon and Balboa. Not only does this look better, the new LED light is cheaper to operate and illuminates the intersection much better.
- Pasadena Drainage / Paving project: Staff is scheduled to meet with Lisa Brinson on March 16th. This is a required meeting to go over all requirements of the SCOP Grant before the agreement is issued.
- New Truck inspection: The new solid waste front loader truck was delivered on Monday. A thorough inspection was performed and staff was trained on new operations. Once it has been numbered and decalated, it will be ready for Commission review and put into service.
- Spring Cleaning: Three more local business people have committed to being sponsors in this year's "Spring Cleaning / No Butts about it contest". Don't forget that only pre-registered volunteers are sure to get a free tee shirt March 28th. ***Contest starts on March 23.***

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- The Water/Sewer crew repaired the lift station at the Hendry County Health Department on Olympia Avenue and repaired several water breaks this week. They are also repairing the water feed line for Well 4 for the Water Treatment Plant.
- The Electric crew set a new concrete pole and street light on Ponce de Leon and removed the existing light on the corner of Ponce and Balboa. A street light was relocated on West Del Monte Avenue. They continue to remove old transformers not on line and are trimming trees. Several old poles have been changed out in accordance with our pole change-out program.
- One customer was caught stealing electricity on East Trinidad.

- 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 UTILITY PAYMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE!** Our Online Utility Website is up and running. Payments can be made by credit or debit card. You can also review your account activity, consumption history and request certain work orders. You can register your account by visiting our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov.