

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
May 22, 2015

Clewiston Recreation and East Recreation Summer Camps are currently open for registration for the 1st and 2nd sessions. Registration must be completed by May 22nd and final/full payment must be made by June 1st. Please check www.clewistonrecreation.com for registration information and how to take advantage of the 50% discount for Summer Camp! Please call the Youth Center at 983-1492 if you have any questions.

City offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, Memorial Day. There will be no residential garbage pickup on Memorial Day; garbage will be picked up on Tuesday.

Dates to Remember:

May 25, 2015 – Memorial Day – City offices closed – No residential garbage pickup

June 11, 2014 – Commission Workshop

June 15, 2015 – City Commission Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- **Reminder:** There are only six (6) weeks until the new flood maps become effective. If you have not purchased flood insurance, now is the time to consult with your insurance agent.
- Plans have been submitted for a permit to build a 3,719 square foot single family residence at 403 West Avenida del Rio. The permit should be ready before the end of the week.
- Mr. Reese stopped by the radio station this week to record an informational message regarding the National Flood Insurance Program. It's scheduled to be broadcast Thursday morning, May 28th.
- This week, we have the 4th common term used by FEMA to aid understanding flood insurance and flood map changes:
 - **The National Flood Insurance Program** (NFIP) makes federally backed flood insurance available to homeowners, renters and business owners in more than 22,000 communities across the nation. Just a few inches of water from a flood can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Over the past 5 years, the average paid flood insurance claim was nearly \$34,000. Flood insurance is the best way to protect yourself from devastating financial loss. Flood insurance is available to homeowners, renters, condo owners/renters and commercial owners/renters. Costs vary depending on how much insurance is purchased, what it covers and the property's flood risk. All policy forms provide coverage for buildings and contents. However, you might want to discuss insuring personal property with your agent, since contents coverage is optional. Typically, there's a

30-day waiting period from date of purchase before your policy goes into effect. That means now is the best time to buy flood insurance.

Golf Course Director Rush reports:

- **JNF U.S. Sugar Tournament** on May 2 was a great success with 84 players playing in the field.
- **Tiger Boosters Tournament** on May 16 went well with 118 players. This year's winners were Jimmy McDuffie, Al Grooms and Pee Wee Mergott.
- Ten (10) children attended the **Junior Clinic** on Saturday, May 9th.
- Clewiston Golf course is coming up with plans for a Junior Golf Program to start this summer. The information will be on the City web site and also the golf course Facebook page.
- Planted new flowers around the Pro Shop in hanging baskets to make the appearance look nicer from the back side.
- Put down new gravel under the oak tree by #18 green. This space will be used for cooking food on tournament days.
- Monday May 18th staff aerified the greens. We also have been fertilizing, top dressing and grooming them the last two weeks.
- Spraying weed control all around the golf course the past month to try to keep weeds to a minimum.
- A big thank you to Joe Whitehead for trimming the palm trees on the golf course.
- Another thank you to Miller Couse and Lee Davis for mowing high rough.
- A contract is being put in place with the City of Belle Glade for a 5 week Junior Golf Program this summer at the Clewiston Golf Course.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- The Library held its second annual English as a Second Language class graduation on 5/21/2015. Eleven students received certificates.
- The Clewiston Library Summer School is set to begin on June 8, 2015 and will run through July 2, 2015. Certified teachers will be involved in providing instructions this year. Space is limited to only 30 children and we already have very close to 20 of those already. Registration will close on Wednesday June 3, 2015. Call the library at 863-983-1493 to register your grade 2 – 5 child. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided free of cost.
- For the first time, the Library will be represented in pre-school graduation in Clewiston. Students at the Rainbow Pre-school and the Little Disciples Learning Center will receive certificates for their participation in the Library's Lexia reading program. The program exposed the students to skills in rhyming, letter matching, and picture categorizing, as well as basic keyboarding skills.
- Finally the moment we have been waiting for is here! Our Library is now officially a site where you can get e-books ***free of cost.*** It is being sponsored by the South West Florida Library Network (SWFLN) to the tune of \$10,000.00. Details are being worked out now including training for staff so we can be of help to you.

Did You Know?



Library Facts

- From 1883 – 1929, Andrew Carnegie is credited with spending \$55 million of his own fortune to open 2509 libraries.
- J. Edgar Hoover is a librarian who was responsible for renaming the Bureau of Investigation to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He head the agency under eight different presidents.
- In a recent Pew survey, 90% of Americans said their community would be impacted if the local public library closed

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Click it or Ticket week is upon us. Please pass this along and make sure you buckle up!
- We underwent audits of our grants programs last week. Compliance was 100%.
- The smoke and haze hanging about town this week is due to a large brush fire in Big Cypress. Forestry officials estimate the blaze covers 17,000 acres. Anyone with respiratory problems should remain indoors as much as possible.
- Code Enforcement is running at a record pace. Efforts to clean up our community and bring us into compliance are at a full run. Please be patient with us as we try to correct problems that have been ignored for fifteen years.
- Animal Control welcomed a host of volunteers from Jupiter this past Sunday. A veterinarian from that area came down with his own volunteer staff and set about assisting with free spay and neuter clinics for our animals. They also brought their own supplies and provided us with many free needed items. They plan to continue to come regularly on Sundays.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1149** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 606** Complaints Investigated
 - 23** Arrests Made
 - 35** Traffic Citations Issued
 - 44** City Ordinance Violations
 - 28** Code Enforcement Cases Filed
 - 4** Rental Inspections Done
 - 68** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 14** Alarms Responded To
 - 5** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Public Works Director Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: Trap counts dropped after Monday night's treatment. We seem to have a "hot spot" in the north west section of town that is producing in large numbers. The contractor's staff will be searching the "out of the way" areas this week looking for and treating the active spot. We will be trapping again on Thursday and spraying if counts support a treatment.
- Street Maintenance: (1) A request for guard rail on North Francisco Street at Del Rio Avenue was submitted to the county. This guard rail was determined to be necessary after a vehicle left the travel surface and went into the canal breaking a large water line. (2) Two small sidewalk repairs were made on West Del Rio Avenue. (3) Staff installed the first of two "slope retaining mats" at the Boat Basin to help control an erosion problem.
- Landscaping: (1) Florida Public Utility relocated the gas tank at the Golf Course this week. It was also upgraded from 200 hundred pounds capacity to 250 pounds of capacity and from two vertical tanks to one horizontal tank. Staff is working on a decorative fence design and cost estimate to hide the unsightly grease trap and gas tank and improve the look of the area. (2) Two palms on US27 will be replaced this week. (3) It seems that every irrigation timer in the City went bad at the same time. A contractor has been working on the Government complex system and PW/ Utility staff have been working on Central Avenue. Just last week, the Civic Park system had to be addressed.
- US27 Signage: If you haven't noticed yet, take a look at the two, very large signs installed by the DOT last week pointing motorists to North Francisco Street and to the Lake.
- Lake Signage: Locates in the area of the new Lake Okeechobee sign to be installed on North Francisco at Hoover Dike Road have been done. Staff will deliver materials early this week and are scheduled to start installation on Thursday.

Recreation Director Ramer reports:

- The C.S. Mott Pool and the James Mason Pool will be open this weekend from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Sunday and 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Monday.
- Clewiston Recreation staff has been "feverishly" working to ensure that our camp staff, CIT's, lifeguards, LIT's, Clewiston and East Hendry County Rec Staff, summer camps/facilities/programs and our entire dept. are compliant with new Level 2 background screenings through the DCF Clearinghouse and portals. We have completed the necessary LiveScan fingerprints and photos on Monday and Thursday of this week for all the Recreation Department and East rec. staff, lifeguards, LIT's, as well as staff from the Library.
- Clewiston Recreation and East Recreation Summer Camps are currently open for registration for the 1st and 2nd sessions. Registration must be completed by May 22nd and final/full payment must be made by June 1st. Please check www.clewistonrecreation.com for registration information and how to take advantage of the 50% discount for Summer Camp! Please call the Youth Center at 983-1492 if you have any questions.
- CIT and LIT applications are available at the Youth Center and must be returned by May 22nd at 5:00 p.m. to the Youth Center.

- The pressure washing of the buildings and deck at the James Mason Pool in Harlem, in addition to cleaning and stocking the bathroom and office in both pools, was completed this week.
- Softball Boot Camp and Showcase at Sugarland Sports Complex will take place this weekend. Approximately 75 players will begin arriving on Friday and participate in the 2 day showcase and stay overnight in America's Sweetest Town. A scrimmage game will take place on Field # 8 on Sunday. We are EXCITED to welcome our guests!
- Negotiations have begun to host additional softball showcases and tournaments throughout the summer at Sugarland Sports Complex.
- If you are interested in participating in an adult men's and co-ed softball league this spring, an adult co-ed volleyball league in the early summer or youth flag football and AAU Track and Field during the late summer, please contact Andre at 983-1492.
- The Clewiston Splash Pad has "NEW" operating hours; the Splash Pad will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - noon and Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- ZUMBA at the Youth Center on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings beginning at 7:30 p.m. Contact Tanya (our Certified Instructor) directly at (914) 338-6577
- Go to www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- The Electric crew is assisting the Public Works Department with the installation of the Lake access sign on North Francisco. A pole that was struck by lightning was changed out on South Deane Duff. Trees were trimmed at the Youth Center this week and a transformer was changed out at the Harlem Library in keeping with our transformer downsizing efforts.
- We have assigned one employee to tree trimming on a full time basis in preparation for hurricane season.
- The Water/Sewer crew repaired several water breaks this week, including one on Via Del Aqua and one on East Trinidad
- The Meter Readers are assisting Code Enforcement checking house numbers in the City. A list of non-conforming houses will be turned in to Code Enforcement for follow-up.
- 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 UTILTIY PAYMENT AVAILABLE! 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 and click on the link at the bottom of the page or by going to <https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl>.