

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
September 25, 2015

Something is happening... our parks are receiving a little TLC. Our City is truly awesome – we are made up of individuals and organizations who care and are always willing to work together when there's a job to be done. If you haven't noticed, our Civic Park has been receiving a makeover; the main idea is to create a memorial honoring our Veterans. This project has been possible due to the efforts and contributions of many individuals, organizations and City staff who have steadfastly given their all from the beginning...YOU ARE APPRECIATED.

We can't say it enough... we are made up of awesome individuals and organizations - Mark your calendars for October 10, 2015 – 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. *Active Citizens for Children* will spearhead a community celebration for the second anniversary of the building of the *Sweetest Town Playground*; an event that will involve providing minor repairs and maintenance to this wonderful park...YOU ARE APPRECIATED.

If you'd like to find out how you could help with our Civic Park Enhancement, please call Public Works Director Sean Scheffler at 983-1471; he will be more than happy to fill you in on what is happening. For more information on our parks, or if you'd like to help with them, please contact Recreation Director Lance Ramer at 983-1492. All together, we are America's Sweetest Town. You make a difference.

Dates to Remember

September 28, 2015 – Final Budget Hearing
October 13, 2015 – Hendry-Clewiston Recreation Board Meeting
October 15, 2015 – City Commission Workshop
October 19, 2015 – City Commission Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- Director Reese met with Josh Overmyer from the Bureau of Mitigation, Florida Division of Emergency Management regarding the Florida Community Rating System Initiative. We will receive a report from Josh outlining what Clewiston will need to accomplish in order to get a rating to help reduce flood insurance rates for our citizens.

- We have received plans for replacing the signage on US Hwy. 27 at the executive offices of U.S. Sugar.
- We are preparing for the Planning & Zoning Board to meet on Monday, October 5th. There will be two (2) items on the agenda for discussion – one (1) on East Osceola and one (1) on Central Avenue.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- The Hendry County Library system is now providing an AMNESTY to users who have overdue items. Items that are late or have been marked as lost may be returned between now and October 14th and the fines will be eliminated.
- During amnesty time, patrons with lost library cards will be able to receive a replacement without the fee. Important to note - beginning October 15, 2015, computer signup in the libraries is going digital. Customers will be required to have a valid library card and pin number to use the equipment.
- **The library is starting a new series of after school tutoring and homework help sessions for children in grades 1 through 5.** Tell your family, friends and neighbors. This is a free program and we will have qualified teachers and honor roll high school students helping with the attendees. Signup is on a first come first served basis.
- October will see the start of an intensive collaborative effort between the Hendry County Libraries and 9 pre-schools. We will provide curriculum guided learning activities with pre-kindergarteners of each school, along with computer literacy and reading skills development classes.
- Two initiatives will be hosted at the library for assisting non-English speaking residents. They include the continuation of the English as a Second Language classes along with a new addition; what we call “The English Coffee Shop @ your Library”. This new addition is an opportunity for new English speakers who want to practice their English language skills in a social setting. We will use various themes to spark conversation as well as current issues. Invite as many as you think will benefit from this gathering. Snacks will be served.
- Be on the lookout...E-books will soon be automatically available through a search of the Hendry County catalog.
- Remember to visit www.hendrylibraries.org Your library truly has a lot to offer. As always, feel free to call the library at 983-1493 for more information regarding any of the library news mentioned.

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush Reports:

- Stay up to date with all Clewiston Golf Course news. Visit the City website at www.clewiston-fl.gov, follow the golf link and sign up on Constant Contact. You will automatically be added to the golf course e-mail blast.
- Golf lessons available - contact Robbie Rush at 863-983-1448.
- The fairways and tees were sprayed with herbicide and the tees fertilized this week.
- The rebuilding of the ladies tee on #15 is now under way.
- New ropes and stakes have been put out now to protect our green banks and tee banks.
- Get your grips re-done – contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.

- Parent-Child Championship is scheduled for Sunday September 27, 2015. Sign-up in the golf shop - 863-983-1448. At this point, 17 teams have signed up. The tournament starts at 3 p.m. and is 9 holes (Modified Alternate Shot).
- Clewiston Golf Course is now Junior/Kids friendly. We have set up a new short course for the kids. The new tee color is green and measures 1854 yards in distance. Front nine only.
- CHS golf team finished 2nd in a tri match Tuesday September 22, 2015 at home. Okeechobee finished first and Labelle finished 3rd.
- Clewiston Golf Course will be hosting the District High School Boy's and Girl's Golf Tournament on Tuesday, October 13, 2015. The tournament starts at 10 a.m.
- 2015 Men's Club Championship will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 17th and 18th 2015. Sign-up in the golf shop or call 863-983-1448. There is a low net division and low gross division. The golf course will be open for regular play both days.
- Seminoles in Recovery Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2015 with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. The golf course will be open for regular play.
- **Putts Fore Pets Golf Tournament is scheduled for October 31, 2015. Sign-up is in the golf shop. Call 863-983-1448. Proceeds to benefit Clewiston Animal Shelter.**

Recreation Director Lance Ramer Reports:

- **Soccer, Soccer is in the air...**the staff has furiously been working in preparation for the upcoming soccer season. As with all of the sports we host, many folks look forward to the arrival of their season.
- **Please visit www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.**

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Patrol Officers drove up on a suspected gang fight near a local business Monday Night. The two suspects, suspected of initiating the fight, fled and were pursued by officers. The suspects lost control of their vehicle on Davidson Road and were surrounded by three patrol vehicles. The suspects then restarted their vehicle and drove directly toward a patrol vehicle with the intent of ramming it. The officer quickly maneuvered out of the way and the suspect drove over the embankment into the ditch. Officers were able to arrest both occupants following a brief struggle. H/M Jose Ortiz 22, and H/M Alexis Ortiz 19 are being held in the Hendry County Jail on a variety of felony and misdemeanor charges.
- Fraud and Identity Theft cases are on the rise. CID has made a number of arrests involving these issues as well as Driver's License Fraud.
- We expect a warrant to be issued today for a suspect involved in an aggravated battery / shooting which occurred several weeks back.
- Detectives have spent a couple days reviewing video of another suspected gang fight which broke out in a business establishment over the weekend. Several participants have been identified via video. We are in the process of charging and arresting each

one involved and issuing a trespass warning to each of them from the property at the owner's request.

- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1177** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 594** Complaints Investigated
 - 17** Arrests Made
 - 18** Traffic Citations Issued
 - 66** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 21** Code Enforcement / City Ordinance Violations
 - 19** Alarms Responded To
 - 4** Rental Inspections
 - 4** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

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 of the following.

- 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.

- The Water/Sewer crew installed 200' of water pipe on Georgia Ave. Their work continues on the new 2" water line from Harlem Academy to Georgia Avenue. The crew repaired a main water line on East Pasadena and replaced the lift station pump twice. Due to a water break, they replaced a water service and ran a new line to the main line in the alley on East Sugarland Hwy. They made a new water tap on East Concordia to move a meter due to tree roots. They assisted South Shore Water Association on 4 water breaks and repaired gas pumps. Their assistance with office work orders and disconnects for non-pays continues.
- The Electric crew straightened a pole on Laurel Street and received and unloaded a shipment of transformers. They attended a day long safety class, raised two services on East Trinidad and trimmed oak trees at the Sugar Festival Park on Osceola.
- Effective October 1, 2015 Clewiston Utilities will no longer mail the yellow reminder/late notice.
- 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 though 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.

Public Works Director Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: Traps on the north side of town each caught between four and six thousand mosquitoes; south side traps were under a thousand. Last week's heavy rain event had a big impact on mosquito populations. Ground truck applications are scheduled for Tuesday and Friday nights.
- Street Maintenance:
 - Staff assisted the Electric crew trimming the Oaks in the Festival Ground.
 - The "pot hole patrol" was out last week.
 - Staff performed drainage maintenance on North San Pedro.
- US27 Rebuild: **Started on June 15, 2015**. Day 114 of 150 into the project. Residents are urged to take it slow and cautious and watch out for contractor staff working in the street after dark.
- West Pasadena Project: The Commission awarded the contract to LCCI Construction, a company out of Fort Lauderdale. A start date has yet to be determined.
- Boat Basin project: The Commission awarded LCCI Construction the contract for the construction of a dry detention pond and associated structures. This project is getting required "water quality" structures in place before the next phase of work begins.
- Civic Park Rebuild: The forms are off and the new columns and bench are in place. Staff will be installing the electric and ordering the material for the Arbor. During Monday's Commission meeting, The Clewiston Green Thumb Garden Club presented the City with a \$600 donation for this project. **A Super THANK YOU to the ladies in this club.**