

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
December 11, 2015



We're looking festive...it looks like the holiday season has officially come to our city. We hope everyone is enjoying the wonderful decorations that light up each evening. Our Civic Park is truly a sight to see. A job well done for everyone involved in making this happen.

We'd like to say a special thank you to Libby Williams for helping make sure City Hall is merry and bright.

Dates to Remember

December 15, 2015 – Hendry-Clewiston Recreation Board Meeting
December 17, 2015 – Golf Course Advisory Meeting
December 17, 2015 – City Commission Workshop
December 21, 2015 – City Commission Meeting
December 24-25, 2015 – Christmas Holiday – City offices will be closed.

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- Staff is working diligently on the required elements to enter Florida's Pilot Program designed to enable communities to join the Community Rating System for the National Flood Insurance Program. This program may provide reduced flood insurance rates for the citizens of our community. We anticipate having a resolution for the Seven Performance Measures for adoption by the City Commission;

- The interior remodel has begun at the Florida Community Health Center in preparation for their expansion. They are working with the Utility Department and CenturyLink in relocating the underground utilities;
- A permit for a new 3 br/2.5 ba single family residence with approximately 2,900 square feet has been issued. The new home will be constructed at the corner of Concordia and Francisco (745 East Concordia Avenue);
- The Clewiston Inn has been sold. For the time being, the new owner says he plans no changes to the current operation.

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 by signing up on Constant Contact. Go to the golf link on the City of Clewiston website and sign up on Constant Contact. You will be automatically put on the golf course e-mail.
- Golf lessons are available, contact Robbie Rush at 863-983-1448
- The fairways were treated for ants and mole crickets this week.
- Get your grips re-done. Contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Gators vs World is December 11-13 2015. On Friday December 11, 2015 the golf course will close at 1pm. Saturday and Sunday the golf course will be open for regular play.
- Men's Club Championship is Saturday December 19, 2015. Sign up is in the golf shop. 10am start, 18 holes. There is a net and gross division. The golf course will be open for regular play.
- Christmas is soon, so get your golfer gifts from the golf shop. We are stocking up our shop for Christmas and the season.
- Season is here. We suggest making tee times here at the golf course.

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: The trap in the Harlem Community: 25, Okeechobee Blvd: 150, Berner Road: 25. Consistent winds have hampered trap productivity, however mosquitoes are still active in area protected from the wind. Wind did die down enough to get a complete ground treatment in on Saturday night.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff ran pot holes & repaired road shoulders. (2) The Thanksgiving banners were replaced with Christmas banners. (3) Staff assisted water crews repairing a "sink hole" caused by a broken sewer line on Saginaw. (4) The Queen Palms at the Fire House were removed making way for the planting of flowering trees. Staff is getting quotes for Pink and Yellow Tabs.
- Civic Park Rebuild: (1) Several large rocks have been found and donated to the park renovation. Sean is scheduling transportation. These rocks will be used to rebuild two berms under the Banyan Trees to create a Fern and Bromeliad garden. (2)
- Invitation to Bid: (1) Bid packets for the south side mowing contract are ready to pick up at City Hall or the Public Works Office, located at 1300 S. Olympia Street during normal business hours. A "pre bid" meeting was held on Thursday at 2:00 to answer questions

about the contract. Bids will be opened on the 18th. (2) The Commission will consider the recommendation made for the contract painting of Public Buildings and Replacement of Sidewalks at the meeting scheduled for the 21st.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Officers responded to a report of a violent patient inside the hospital ER. The suspect was destroying equipment and attempting to strike employees with a metal pole. Ultimately officers had to use a Taser in order to subdue him. No one was injured in the incident.
- A shoplifter was caught and later found to be in felony possession of drugs. Both charges were filed and suspect was transported to Jail.
- Officers responding to a hit and run traffic crash followed a trail of debris from the fleeing vehicle and discovered it had been involved in a second collision. In all, two vehicles a pole and a mailbox were hit. Officers found the driver in Harlem and charged her with Leaving the Scene of a Hit & Run with Injury as well as other traffic related offenses.
- At the request of HCSO, officers searched for and located a suspect wanted for shooting at his wife during a disturbance that had occurred out in the county. Suspect was arrested by CPD Officers without incident.
- Screven Watson (Lobbyist) has been busy searching out possible funding options for a new Police Department Building. Last month I gave him and Representative Janet Cruz a tour of the building, and this week Mr. Watson accompanied Speaker Matt Hudson on a tour. All three were properly distressed with the poor overall condition of the building. Hopefully, their observations will lead to a fruitful dialogue with their peers.
- We have had two serious incidents this week. Last Friday night, Main Street Subs was robbed at gunpoint. There were no shots fired and no one was injured. Tuesday night a person was shot in the buttocks inside his home on San Pedro by an unknown assailant. Victim is in a Lee County Hospital in good condition.
- Officers responding to a disturbance at the Hospital ER found a Glades County man armed with an IV pole destroying property and attacking hospital employees. Officers were forced to use a stun gun on him in order to subdue him. He was subsequently transported to a mental evaluation facility.
- A burglary occurred last week at the Marina / Tiki Bar. Officers reviewed the video tape and though the suspect attempted to cover his face, the officers were eventually able to determine his identity. Patrol located, arrested, and transported him to the county jail this week.
- Domestic Disturbance, Domestic Violence and Traffic Accident incidents are climbing rapidly... **Happy Holidays!**
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:

1042 Commercial / Residential Security Checks
659 Complaints Investigated
28 Traffic Citations Issued
24 Arrests Made
66 Merchant Escorts Provided
18 Alarms Responded To
21 Code / City Ordinance Violations

- 7 Rental Inspections
- 15 Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

Florida Department of Transportation is nearing completion of the US Highway 27 rebuild. Until the project is complete, the traffic lights are under contract and the City of Clewiston does not have control. **If you have a complaint concerning traffic lights please call Florida DOT at 850-410-5600.**

- Water Sewer Activities
 - Replaced a 10-15 foot section of collapsed clay sewer pipe on Saginaw
 - Repaired the main lift station and the Berner lift station
- Electric Activities
 - Changing out poles and service for Florida Community Health Department
 - Repaired street lights
- We welcome two new employees to the Utilities Department, Sarai Cruz and Winfred Thomas
- 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 website 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.