

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
March 24, 2016

The City of Clewiston offices will be closed on Good Friday, March 25, 2016. We will resume our normal business hours on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

Dates to Remember

- April 11, 2016 – Clewiston Library Advisory Board Meeting
- April 12, 2016 – Hendry-Glades Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
- April 14, 2016 – City Commission Workshop
- April 18, 2016 – City Commission Meeting and Tentative Budget Workshop
- April 21, 2016 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- The Clewiston Fire-Rescue “duck race” at this year’s Sugar Festival was a great success. Kids of all ages had a blast “racing” their ducks through the course;
- We have issued a permit for construction of a duplex at 411/413 West Haiti Avenue. Each unit will be 1,500 square feet and have 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms;
- We have received plans for a single-family residence to be located at 740 East Del Monte Avenue. This home will be 2,820 square feet have 3 bedrooms/4 bathrooms.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- The Montura project is coming along very well. We are still open to receiving more books and other library type materials such as DVDs, etc. Listen for an opening date sometime in April.
- The 2nd Annual African American Student Award of Excellence program was featured on the front page of the March 17, 2016 issue of the Clewiston News. Read about this awesome event and see pictures of our honored students.
- The community tax assistance program offered by the library to the Clewiston residents for the past 12 years continues to be provided at the library in partnership with United Way.
- **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.
- Fairways, Tees and Tee Banks were fertilized this week.

- The Clewiston First Tee Spring Break Junior Golf Clinic was March 21, 2016. We had 7 kids.
- Clewiston Golf Course Couples Championship is Saturday, March 26, 2016. The tournament is a 9-hole modified scramble. The sign-up sheet is in the golf shop.
- The Presbyterian Nicaragua Medical Mission Golf Tournament is scheduled to be played on Saturday, April 2, 2016. Call or sign-up in the golf shop.
- A Glow Ball Golf Tournament is scheduled for April 22, 2016. You can sign-up by calling 863-983-1448.
- **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 behind the white lines; and 5) Letting faster players through.

Recreation Director Lance Ramer reports:

- Baseball and Softball teams have begun to practice all over town. Please be aware of the kids...Please SHARE!
- EXCITING NEWS...!!! The City of Clewiston Recreation Dept. has been awarded a FRDAP Grant through DEP in the amount of \$50,000.00 to rejuvenate Trinidad Park. Staff will begin scheduling a series of workshops for all interested parties as soon as possible to begin this project.
- Agreements have been made regarding the City of Clewiston hosting 3 COPA UNIVISION Soccer Tournaments at Sugarland Sports Complex on April 2nd, May 7th and May 21st for U-6, U-8, U-10, U-12 and U-24 teams from around the State. Facility Usage and Rental forms will be completed this week, early next week.
- Negotiations have begun to host a 2017 Spring Break Baseball Tournament next year at Sugarland Sports Complex with 8 teams (JV and Varsity) from around the area and the City of Clewiston will be hosting the TC Williams High School (Remember the Titans) teams from Alexandria, Virginia during the tournament week. Staff is currently working with VHSAA/ACPSD and FHSAA regarding eligibility and criteria.
- Staff is working to schedule and develop summer activities.
- Staff is working on schedules to bring both C.S. Mott Pool and the James Mason Pool up to standards and inspections for the summer swimming season.
- Plans are being finalized for the “MAKE-A-WISH Foundation” Walk on April 9th in Clewiston.
- “NEW CLASS” KIDZ ZUMBA – Thursday’s from 4-5pm at the Beardsley Room.
- UPCOMING Weekly highlights for Clewiston Recreation
 - Mar. 26th – Community Easter Egg Hunt 10am Harlem Gym and Pavilion (Everglades Masonic Lodge/East Rec.)
 - Mar. 26th – Wedding 2-4pm Beardsley Room
 - Mar. 26th – Birthday Party 3-7pm STP Pavilion #1& 2
 - Mar. 26th – Birthday Party 1-8pm Sugarland Park Pavilion (Bounce House)
 - Mar. 27th – Family Gathering Noon-7pm Sugarland Park Pavilion
 - Mar. 27th – Family Gathering 11am-5pm Splash Pad Pavilion
 - Mar. 29th – USSC Safety Training 7am-5pm John Boy Auditorium

- If you are interested in participating in an adult co-ed dodge-ball league, summer co-ed softball league, 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:

- **The Public Works office will be closed on Good Friday. Commercial solid waste collection will be offered to priority locations only Friday and Saturday. Regular service will begin on Monday morning.**
- Mosquito Control: Feels like the mosquitoes are here for the Festival. I guess it was all the advertising. Anyway we had a ground ULV treatment on Tuesday night and an air ULV treatment on Friday night. Traps caught 75 at one location and 200 at another. We spot treated on Friday night.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff took down and stowed Sugar Festival material on Monday. (2) Additional help from the street crews picked up road side trash. A lot of seasonal rentals seemed to be emptying out and the debris showed on the street overnight. (3) The last of the open areas are now mowed. (4) Staff repaired pot holes at identified locations.
- Civic Park Rebuild: The Park faired very well during the festival and many compliments were heard. The flags for the divisions of the armed forces flew for the first time in the park on Sugar Festival day. The next project scheduled for the park is to install the large rock boulders, donated by US Sugar, creating a “rock garden” for Ferns and Bromeliads. Three more donations were presented to the City this week for the continued work in the park. The Men’s & Women’s Auxiliary of the VFW donated \$3,000 and the Green Thumb Garden Club donated another \$500.
- Pasadena Drainage & Paving Project: The contractor has started installing the lateral pipe crossing the street. All demolition of old drainage has been completed.
- Sidewalk Project: We are waiting on the delivery of “riser-rings” for manholes in the sidewalk. When they are here we will finish the project.
- Paving Project: We have started putting together this year’s paving.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Sugar Festival came and went with very little problem for us. With the lone exception of a big dustup over a game of horseshoes, which resulted in three arrests, everyone else was mostly well behaved.
- CID worked deep into last weekend to recover an infant abducted by a noncustodial parent. The child was taken from a residence in Clewiston. With tracking technology, we were eventually able to recover the baby unharmed in Miami. The male suspect (52 year old James Kelly O’Brian) was later located and arrested by our Detectives and Fort Lauderdale Police in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. At the time of arrest, the suspect also had 2.5 lbs. of illegal narcotic in his possession. The child has since been reunited with her mother. The suspect remains in Broward County Jail on narcotics violations.
- Detectives following up on an older case made an arrest for Fraud this week. They are also following up on another case of identity theft which spans Hendry and Lee Counties.
- Retail Theft arrests continue on at least a once daily basis.

- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1088** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 606** Complaints Investigated
 - 11** Arrests Made
 - 15** Traffic Citations Issued
 - 9** City Ordinance Violations
 - 12** Alarms Responded To
 - 71** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 8** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- 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 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.