

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
August 26, 2016

Dates to Remember

August 29, 2016 – Clewiston City Commission Budget Workshop
September 5, 2016 – Labor Day – City Offices Closed
September 6, 2016 – Planning & Zoning Board Meeting
September 12, 2016 – Clewiston Library Advisory Board Meeting
September 13, 2016 – Hendry-Clewiston Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
September 15, 2016 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting
September 15, 2016 – Clewiston City Commission Workshop and Tentative Budget Hearing
September 19, 2016 – Clewiston City Commission Meeting

Staff Reports

Library Director Barrett reports:

- City of Clewiston employees may now sign up for free Microsoft Word and or Excel classes that will begin September 12, 2016 from 5:30PM – 7:30PM on Mondays and Thursdays. Call the library at 863-983-1493 to register and ask questions.
- Computer classes for Seniors will begin in the Clewiston Public Library soon. Look out for further information.
- We are happy to announce that our facility is now being used for the training of pre-school teachers. The trainers are the SW Florida Early Learning Coalition. There are about 20 teachers in this program held in the library. Several other groups are also holding meetings in our beautiful facility.
- Three students have now graduated from the library's online high school program. Two more are due to be graduated soon. A graduation program is being planned for October at which Amy Johnson, State Librarian from the Florida Department of Library Services, from Tallahassee, will officiate.
- We are still searching for tutors for our after school program.
- For further questions the Library's telephone number is 863-983-1493. You can also visit our website at www.hendrylibraries.org for more information and like us at www.facebook.com/clewistonpubliclibrary.

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- Sadly, Oscar's Complete Auto Repair, located at 517 East Sugarland Hwy. has removed signage and has closed the business.
- The tenant buildout at Beall's has started. They are currently working on upgrading the plumbing, installing new A/C equipment and firewall.
- **Many residents have asked...When Do I Need a Permit?**
Applications for building permits are required to be submitted for installations regulated by Section 105.1 of the Florida Building Code if any owner or authorized agent intends to:

- Construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure; or
- Erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system.

If you have any questions, just ask. If you don't need a permit, we'll be happy to let you know. In the event of a conflict between this document and a specific rule or regulation, all applicable codes shall apply. For more information or a list of what ***does not*** require a permit, you can contact 863-983-1500.

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.
- **Clewiston Golf Course** is having a 20% off sale on all golf shop merchandise now, except golf balls and gloves.
- Get your grips re-done. Contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Golf lessons are available. Contact Robbie Rush at 863-983-1448.
- Member Rate for unlimited holes the same day is \$19.00 plus tax.
- Non-Member Rate for unlimited holes the same day is \$28.00 plus tax.
- **Clewiston Golf Course** has been selected now to be on the **Florida Historic Golf Trail**.
- Clewiston Golf Course has created a YouTube video about the 2016 golf season. Just go to youtube.com and search for Clewiston Golf Course or go to the Clewiston Golf Course Facebook page.
- Roland and Mary Ann Martin's Marina website and Tmannjr.com now have links to the Clewiston Golf Course page of the City's website. Thank you Ramon, Mary Ann and Tom Mann.
- United States Sugar Corporation has cleaned all the ditches and ponds on the golf course.
- Renovation of number nine pond has been done this past week.
- # 16 Fairway is looking great thanks to Miller Couse and Jeff Kent. They eradicated the tropical signal grass that has been the fairway for years.
- The renovation of the greens is moving right along as scheduled. We are on temporary greens now until Labor Day weekend.
- CHS boys and girls golf teams have their second match this week against Labelle.
- 2016 Clewiston Masonic Lodge Tournament is scheduled for September 10, 2016. Sign-up is in the golf shop or call 863-983-1448. Foursomes (8:30am Shotgun Start)
- 2016 United States Sugar Employee Tournament is scheduled for September 17, 2016.
- 2016 Parent-Child Championship is scheduled for September 25, 2016.
- Golf staff is planning some new tournaments this season. (Clewiston Match Play, Clewiston Stableford Tournament, Clewiston Senior Stableford Tournament and 2-Person Team Championship)

Recreation Director Lance Ramer reports:

- Ballfield staff has been squaring fields, marking lines and setting goals for the upcoming AYSO Soccer season beginning in Sept.
- City of Clewiston hosted Public Meetings in the John Boy Auditorium this week with SFWMD and the USACOE regarding Lake Okeechobee.

- Staff has been working with New Harvest Church to host the three (3) home games of their “new” 8 man football team at Sugarland Sports Complex. Their 1st home game will be Sept. 15th on Field #9 at 6pm.
- The irrigation system, valves and control boxes in the Civic Park have been repaired this week.
- Fencing and gates have been repaired at Sugarland Sports Complex where someone drove through a section of fencing along the south-side of the property.
- Staff will begin working with other departments this week and next putting together a “working plan” for Phase II construction of Trinidad Park.
- The C.S. Mott Pool will be open only on Saturdays from 10am-6pm and Sundays from 1-6pm beginning August 1st.
- The Splash Pad will continue to be open on Tuesdays from 3-5pm, Thursdays from 10am-Noon and Saturday/Sundays from 9am-7pm.
- FYI...Clewiston Recreation’s Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday Oct. 29th... Mark your calendars and save the date! Bigger and Better is on the horizon...! Stay tuned for details...!!
- UPCOMING Weekly highlights for Clewiston Recreation
 - Aug. 26th – Hendry County 4-H meeting 6-8pm Beardsley Room
 - Aug. 27th – Birthday Party 2-7pm Youth Center
 - Aug. 29th – Live Ministry Board Meeting 6pm Youth Center
 - Aug. 30th – Election Day 6am – 8pm John Boy Auditorium
 - Aug. 30th – Election Day 6am – 8pm Youth Center
- If you are interested in participating in a Co-Ed Dodgeball and/or Co-Ed Volleyball league contact Andre at 983-1492
- Go to www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: As you are well aware, the ZIKA virus is now at our backdoor. Confirmed cases in Lee and Palm Beach counties are making the news. The City is still in an aggressive treatment operation. However residents are reminded and cautioned to not rely on the City’s operation alone to keep you and your family safe. The mosquito that carries the virus from person to person is a resident mosquito. That means it lives and lays her eggs very close to her feeding opportunities. She is a “day biter” so don’t be lax because it’s not dark before you treat exposed skin with a mosquito repellent. Trap counts went up considerably last cycle. The plane is scheduled to fly on August 25. City trapped over 1,000 in the Harlem Community and at the Sports Complex. Just over 150 on Okeechobee Blvd.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Seven “Special Pick-up” operations were done last week; (2) 12 “STOP” signs and posts were replaced and 6 new “RED Diamonds” signs and posts indicating a dead end street were installed behind barricades on canals; (3) We sprayed the weeds growing on the Sugarland Circle West detention pond bank; (4) Staff was able to get back to Civic Park this week and work on the Rock Garden formation; and (5) Two wooden barricades were replaced with steel guard rail at the corner of San Diego and Alverdez.

- Paving Project: The “Award of Bid” notice was sent to Weekley Asphalt. Contracts are being processed and work arrangements are being worked out.
- Facility Maintenance: AC repairs are on the top of the work order list this week. They are working overtime pulling the humidity out of the air in City buildings. Two new Emergency “EXIT” signs were installed in the CPAC Building.
- NOTICE: Hendry County announced this week as of October 1, 2016, the Household Hazardous Waste collection site in Hookers Point, 1381 Evercane Road, will be open on Saturdays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm. Normal hours are still Tuesdays 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. For more information or questions call (863) 673-0508.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Early Sunday Morning two young men were walking in the area of the city pool. One decided to climb the fence with the intention of swimming in the pool. Tragically, he fell from the top of the fence onto the pool deck. The young man suffered critical head injuries and remains hospitalized in Ft. Myers.
- Sunday Night officers responded to calls for assistance from HCSO in Harlem. The deputies were requesting our help locating a stabbing suspect in a domestic violence case. The two groups worked together and apprehended the suspect without serious incident.
- Early in the week, patrol stopped a vehicle on the East end of town, a second vehicle pulled up to the scene and the driver of the first vehicle jumped in as both attempted to flee. A second officer arriving at the scene was able to block the vehicle in. It was later determined the first vehicle was stolen. The drivers of both vehicles were arrested for multiple offenses including vehicle theft. A passenger was also wanted out of North Florida for felony warrants. The arrests resulted in a three year old child traveling with the group to be left without supervision. **Officer Chamberlain’s wife came out that night to provide care and support for the child until DCF could find placement. Mrs. Chamberlain ROCKS!**
- A tractor trailer out of Miami was stopped for displaying illegal blue lights on the truck. The driver was a wanted felon out of Broward County. He was arrested and his truck was towed.
- We met with the Project Management Team Tuesday for the construction of the new police department building. The process is moving along smoothly and all members are working well together.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week’s activity:
 - 988** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 525** Complaints Investigated
 - 34** Arrests made
 - 46** Traffic Citations issued
 - 11** Alarms Responded To
 - 54** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 7** Traffic Accidents Investigated
 - 99** Red Light Camera Violations

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- **Hurricane Season Tip**: Keep up-to-date with weather reports prior to the storm’s approach. Prepare a hurricane survival kit that includes first aid supplies, water, batteries,

flashlights, battery powered radio, manual can opener, canned food, prescriptions, bleach and extra cash. Keep on hand, tarps, rope, trash bags, and charcoal or gas grill with plenty of fuel.

- Water Sewer Activities
 - Lift station maintenance: Read all lift stations; repaired Corona lift station
 - Ran new 2” water line under canal at Roland Martin’s
 - Repaired 3 water breaks and made a tap for a new 2” meter at the Old K-mart
- Electric Activities
 - Work continues at the Greentree Senior complex on West Ventura running new underground services
 - Disconnected two services in Harlem for demolition
 - Repaired several street lights throughout service area and trimmed trees
- 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 of 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.