

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
September 9, 2016



September 11, 2016 is Patriot Day. Please take a moment this weekend to honor the victims and survivors of this tragic event.

Dates to Remember

- September 12, 2016 – City Commission Budget Workshop
- September 12, 2016 – Clewiston Library 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
- September 21, 2016 – Special Magistrate Hearing
- September 26, 2016 – Final Budget Hearing
- September 27, 2016 – Hendry-Clewiston Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Staff Reports

Library Director Barrett reports:

- Microsoft Excel classes begin September 12, 2016 at 5:30 – 7:30PM and Microsoft Word classes begin September 15, 2016 at 5:30 – 7:30PM. You may sign up for either or both. Call the library at 863-983-1493 to register and ask questions.
- Keep looking out for computer classes for Seniors.
- We are still searching for tutors for our after school program.
- Please help the library improve on our services and programs as well as our collections. Please fill out our very short 4 question survey available on our website, Facebook page, or in print. Thanks so much for your help.

- 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:

- Many homeowners AND contractors struggle with determining the need for a permit. Here is how we determine if/when a permit is required:

FLORIDA BUILDING CODE – EXISTING BUILDINGS, 5th EDITION (2014)

SECTION 503, ALTERATION-LEVEL 1

Level 1 alterations include the removal and replacement or the covering of existing materials, elements, equipment or fixtures using new materials, elements, equipment or fixtures that serve the same purpose. Level 1 alterations shall comply with the provisions of Chapter 7.

SECTION 503, ALTERATION-LEVEL 2

Level 2 alterations include the *reconfiguration* of space, the *addition or elimination* of any door or window, the *reconfiguration or extension* of any system or the installation of any additional equipment. Level 2 alterations shall comply with the provisions of Chapter 7 for Level 1 alterations as well as the provisions of Chapter 8.

SECTION 503, ALTERATION-LEVEL 3

Level 3 alterations shall apply when the work area exceeds 50 percent of the aggregate area of the building. Level 3 alterations shall comply with the provisions of Chapter 7 and 8 for Level 1 and Level 2 alterations, respectively, as well as the provisions of Chapter 9.

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 to be on the **Florida Historic Golf Trail**.
- New sand was put in the bunkers last week.
- We will be on the new renovated greens Friday, September 16, 2016.
- Saturday, September 17, 2016 is the United States Sugar Employees Tournament. The tournament will start at 8:30am.
- 2016 Clewiston Masonic Lodge Tournament has been re-scheduled for October 22, 2016. Sign-up is in the golf shop or call 863-983-1448. Foursomes (8:30am Shotgun Start)

Recreation Director Lance Ramer reports:

- Rain has held us up a bit...but, repairs and repainting of the tennis courts has begun. The East Courts received attention this week and we will soon move to the West Courts.

- Ballfield staff has begun staging equipment for AYSO Soccer and will begin squaring and setting goals this week and next.
- Repairs have been made to Sugarland Park Pavilion after some vandalism over the holiday weekend.
- Recreation Staff has completed safety inspections of equipment in the parks and is currently replacing swing seats, bucket swings, chains and “S” hooks as needed.
- Recreation Staff will begin spraying for emergent vegetation and weeds around the parks and fence lines next week.
- Recreation Staff has been chasing “ants” throughout the parks after the heavy rains and treating them with granulated bait as we find mounds.
- Staff has been working with Wounded Warriors to host their 3rd Annual Fishing Tournament on Lake Okeechobee at the John Boy Auditorium on Oct. 8th.
- Staff is working with the YMCA to provide FREE “Water Safety” classes tentatively scheduled to begin on Sept. 17th and continue for 5 weeks.
- Staff has been working with “Drug Free Hendry County” to host a Turkey Trot at the Levee Park on Nov. 17th. More info as this event progresses.
- 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
 - Sept. 10th – Pro Wrestling 2-11pm John Boy Auditorium
 - Sept. 10th – Birthday Party 7-10pm Youth Center
 - Sept. 10th – Birthday Party 12:30-6:30pm Sugarland Park Pavilion
 - Sept. 10th – Birthday Party 8am-2pm STP #4
 - Sept. 11th – Birthday Party 11am-6pm Sugarland Park Pavilion
 - Sept. 14th – USSC Mass Hire 7am-4pm John Boy Auditorium
- 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: Mosquito Control divisions all over the state have been operating at full capacity over the past several months. All of the rain has kept the breeding habitats full and trap counts prove they are producing. Clewiston Mosquito Control also has been running at full operation since April, when the ZIKA virus was on everybody’s mind. Several residents called and expressed concern. Additional funding has been allocated for Mosquito Districts in the State receiving State dollars. Clewiston however is not a District receiving State dollars. Staff may be requesting additional funds in the coming days to continue the aggressive mosquito spray operations.
- Street Maintenance: (1) With operations suspended on Monday because of the Holiday and the heavy downpours, all hands were on the street cleaning up. (2) Over 100 inlets were cleaned out last month producing over 2 tons of debris. With the heavy rain on Monday staff was out again removing debris from inlet tops.

- Paving & Striping Project: Contracts have been signed and a Notice to Proceed has been issued. Work should start soon.
- Facility Maintenance: (1) Repairs had to be made to one of the restroom facilities in the Sports Complex because of vandalism over the weekend. (2) Staff noticed and is checking into what appears to be moisture issues in the newly repaired wall at the Utility Building.
- Highway Beautification Project: A meeting was held at the Operations Office on Sept. 1st with City Staff and the DOT Landscape Architect. The plans were reviewed and good discussion raised some good points to be addressed. A timeline was also put together for everyone to see when and where all elements of the project would be coming together. The City's landscape architect was not at the meeting. A meeting with him, the Utilities Staff, Public Works Staff and the City Engineer is scheduled.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- We had a report of the "Grandparent scam"! The scam begins with something most grandparents don't get enough of -- a phone call from a grandchild -- or so the caller says. But it almost always ends with a desperate plea for money.
- Saturday morning there was a report of a Stolen Vehicle in the San Pedro St. area. Patrol Officers spotted the 1989, two tone brown Chevrolet truck in the Harlem area. The vehicle failed to stop, patrol requested backup from HCSO as well as CPD. The driver was identified as Curtis Moore and charged with Car Jacking, Possession of a Firearm, Possession of Narcotics w/o prescription and Driving while License Suspended. Mr. Moore also had an outstanding Warrant in Hendry County.
- The National Labor Day Campaign – “Drive Sober, or Get Pulled Over” was successful. Officer Hodge had to deal with the dangers of an Impaired Driver Friday night, thankful for a safe outcome. Driving while Impaired – Alcohol, drugs and driving simply do not go together. Driving requires a person's attentiveness and the ability to make quick decisions on the road, to react to changes in the environment and execute specific, often difficult maneuvers behind the wheel. When drinking alcohol, using drugs, or being distracted for any reason, driving becomes dangerous – and potentially lethal!
- Saturday night there was an altercation; Jose Gomez-Canales was charged with Aggravated Assault with a knife.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1142 Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 319 Complaints Investigated
 - 23 Arrests
 - 94 Traffic Citations
 - 6 Merchant Escorts
 - 6 Alarms Responded To
 - 0 City Ordinance Violations
 - 75 Red Light Camera Violations
 - 3 Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- Water Sewer Activities
 - Ran new water line, made tie-ins and set 2 new meters for Corp of Engineers and Ridgelawn Cemetery
 - Repaired 4 water breaks
 - Repaired 6” sewer main on Arkansas hit by contractor
 - Ran new sewer line and made tie-in for Beall’s Outlet’s new store
 - Repaired water main break in Tropical Mobile Home Park for South Shore Water
- Electric Activities
 - Completed new underground services at the Greentree Senior complex on West Ventura
 - Repaired underground service in Fairgrounds Trailer Park
 - Checked 3 services for voltage problems
 - Disconnected service in Clewiston Trailer Park for demolition
 - Changed out secondary line on East Pasadena (2 block area)
 - Repaired several street lights throughout service area
- 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.