

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
December 16, 2016



The annual library holiday giveaway program this year focused on the children in its After School Program. The event took place on Monday evening. Thanks to Public Works Director Sean Scheffler who dramatized the telling of the story “The Night Before Christmas” for the children, with props and all. Thanks also to his wife Lorina for her creativity in making the pajamas and cap for Sean.

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.

Dates to Remember

December 19, 2016 – Clewiston City Commission Meeting

December 23-26, 2016 – Christmas Holiday – City Offices will be closed

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- We have received an application for complete renovation of the Domino's Pizza located at 503 East Sugarland Hwy.
- The new rehabilitation center at Hendry Regional now has vertical walls.
- Florida City Gas hosted a simulated 6" natural gas line break on US27. Participants included US Sugar and Southern Gardens. After the drill, the Clewiston Fire Department and Florida City Gas developed an operating procedure for high pressure releases.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- The library's senior computer class closed out. Several seniors received certificates for learning basic computer skills. Again, Danny Williams and Justin Lucas (JD) are to be commended for making this possible. We will be doing it again next year, starting January 10, 2017 at 10:00 AM., for six weeks. See the picture below of our proud graduates.



- There was a free computer giveaway at the library this Saturday. Computers were purchased by US Sugar for this purpose. They were distributed on a first come first served basis. About forty (40) persons turned up for the event. Twenty (20) additional computers were available for purchase and all were sold that day. The program was hosted by the non-profit, Computers for Kids.
- 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.

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** once again has been recognized as one of the premier golf courses in South Florida. Southern Golf Magazine writer Mike May and

GoGolfandTravel.com have just published an article on our great golf course. You can read the article on the Clewiston Golf Course Facebook page.

- Play is starting to pick up at the golf course. Tee times are required.
- Clewiston Golf Course has Gift Cards, Sun Mountain Golf Bags, Titleist 917 Drivers, Imperial Logo Hats, Golf Buddy Range Finders, Tervis Tumblers, Ping Irons, Ping Woods, Putters, Wedges, Donald Ross Men's Shirts, Greg Norman Collection Women's Clothes and Outerwear for both men and women.
- Golf Course Staff can get anything for you that pertains to golf. You can find great **Christmas Gifts** in the golf shop. Last week for special orders.
- Remember the Clewiston Golf Course Facebook Website has a lot of info and great pictures. Check it out.
- All golf carts must be in by 5:45pm for the Fall and Winter season. First tee time every day is 7:30am.
- The annual Gators vs World Tournament was held December 9-11, 2016. The World won the tournament 24 ½ to 13 ½ for the second year in a row. 40 players participated.
- Clewiston Golf Course Men's Club Championship is Saturday, December 17, 2016. For more information call 863-983-1448.
- The golf staff has put together our January-June Tournament Schedule and Ladies/Junior Golf Clinics. You can pick up the booklets in the golf shop.
- Please rake bunkers, fill divots and stay back from the green slopes and tee slopes with the golf carts. The golf course is in wonderful shape and we as golfers have the responsibility to keep it that way. **Respect Your Surroundings!!** Thank You.
- If you are looking for people to play with, please ask someone on the golf staff. There are groups for everybody to play with no matter age or skill level. We will lead you.

Recreation Director Lance Ramer reports:

- **FREE 50+ T'ia Chi Classes** Free T'ia Chi classes for those individuals 50 years old and older at the Youth Center began on Wednesday Dec. 7th from 9am – 10am and will continue every Wednesday thru Jan. 25th, 2017. Licensed Instructor Gretchen DeBree will be conducting the class.
- AYSO Soccer continues to practice at Sugarland Sports Complex. 4 teams have been formed in U-10, U-12 and U-14 age groups to participate in the AYSO State Games over the MLK Weekend in Palm Beach.
- Ballfield crews are prepping the baseball and softball fields for the upcoming seasons. Clay was ordered this week and will be spread as soon as possible onto the playing fields.
- Fertilizer has been spread on all Soccer Fields and CHS Softball and Baseball Fields this week. A 2nd round of herbicide will be placed next week on the small and big quads.
- All game fields and ancillary spectator areas were treated for fire ants at Sugarland Sports Complex this week.
- Food Truck Invasion will be hosted by AYSO Soccer on Dec. 19th at the Sugar Fest Field from 5-9pm... different trucks, different activities, same GREAT community event..! Hope to see you there!
- PICKLEBALL has arrived in Clewiston... A Pickleball demonstration and rules of the game seminar will take place on the East Tennis Courts under the lights on Dec. 19th during the "Food Truck Invasion"... Come over to watch and learn the newest sports sweeping the nation..!

- The Splash Pad will continue to be open on Tuesdays from 3-5pm, Thursdays from 10am-Noon and Saturday/Sundays from 9am-7pm.
- UPCOMING Weekly highlights for Clewiston Recreation
 - Dec. 19th – Food Truck Invasion 5-9pm SugarFest Field (hosted by AYSO)
 - Dec. 17th – Christmas Party 10am-2pm Beardsley Room
 - Dec. 17th – Baby Shower 5pm-10pm Youth Center
- 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: Trap counts: All three traps only caught around fifty mosquitoes. However they are harboring in protected areas where the wind doesn't get to. That means my spray won't get there either, so use a good mosquito repellent. No Zika in our area, but it is always a good idea to keep infants and women with child indoors during the period of heaviest mosquito activity.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff is working on sidewalk repairs on Royal Palm Avenue and we are scheduled to pour the first 100 feet on Thursday. (2) My litter control specialist is out three times a week and averages over 65 pounds of litter per day. (3) Staff responded to an oil spill behind the KFC this week. Fortunately no oil made it to the waterways. (4) The Public Works Director has been in contact with the FDOT about the "Pushing Issues" on US27 in several places. A copy of the letter from the FDOT to the contractor was sent to the Public Works Director as proof of communication.
- Facility Maintenance: Door frames in the Library that were chipped badly were painted.
- The Mowing Contract: Two mowing contractors have been recommended to the City Manager for the coming year's mowing operations. The Commission will make the final decision during their regular meeting on the 19th.
- Drainage Project: (1) The Public Works Director has been in contact with the drainage project contractor. Locates have been called for at San Gabriel and Alverdez (Block 402). All paper work and signatures will be in order this week.
- Holiday Solid Waste Services: The Public Works Department is planning to place dumpsters at 20 different locations throughout town before Christmas. Residents are asked to use the dumpsters for "over flow" Christmas debris. This is in hopes of keeping boxes and debris off the shoulder of the road. Be sure to break down boxes and do "NOT" place cooking oil, TVs, old PCs, radios, stereos and any other electric device in the bins. These items are to be placed beside the bin for a different form of collection. We will offer regular solid waste collection operations the day after Christmas.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Officers responding to a domestic disturbance on East Pasadena discovered that the dustup between a mother and her adult son was triggered over a disagreement about sugar cookies, a picket fence and a dog kennel. Adult son went to bed. Peace was restored.
- A traffic stop on a car exhibiting careless driving resulted in a significant drug arrest. Driver was in possession of opiates, syringes, cocaine, non-prescribed prescription drugs and various other drug paraphernalia. When the driver was placed under arrest, he decided he was having chest pain. EMS responded and took him to HRMC. Officers sat with him until he was released the following day, upon which he was given a complimentary ride to jail.

- Patrol responded to a disturbance at CYDA. Officials told the officers that a young man was refusing to go to class, screaming obscenities and pulling his pants down. He had fled when learning police had been summoned. However, he left his phone behind and returned to get it while officers were present. The young man then gave a repeat performance for the officers and was promptly arrested for Disorderly Conduct.
- Saturday night officers were called to a complaint of a man sleeping behind the Marathon East. A quick examination revealed the man's drowsiness was likely due to the large knot on his head. Video footage review revealed the man had been in a physical altercation with another man minutes earlier. The investigation is continuing.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1219** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 544** Complaints Investigated
 - 30** Traffic Citations Issued
 - 3** City Ordinance Violations Issued
 - 19** Arrests Made
 - 38** Red Light Camera Violations
 - 9** Alarms Responded To
 - 53** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 2** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- Water Sewer Activities
 - Repaired meter box on East Ventura and made a 2" tap for 2" pipe on West Ventura
 - Assisted South Shore Water with 2 water breaks on US 27 and helped Greg Westberry repair break at Evercane
 - Lift Station Maintenance: Installed new 40HP pump at main lift station and replaced pump at Courtyards lift station; read all lift stations
- Electric Activities
 - Assisted FPL with testing of supply line from McCarthy Substation to Clewiston Substation
 - Repaired Christmas lights and street lights
 - Check voltage on Virginia Avenue
- 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.