

*For Your Information*

*Weekly*

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

July 14, 2017

**The City of Clewiston is currently accepting nominations for the 2017 Outstanding Community Service Award. If you know of someone who you feel deserves this honor, please complete a nomination form and return it to City Hall. Nomination forms are available at City Hall and on the City's website. Nominations will be accepted until August 18, 2017.**

**Dates to Remember**

July 17, 2017 – Clewiston City Commission Meeting

July 20, 2017 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

August 1, 2017 – Clewiston City Commission Budget Workshop

August 7, 2017 – Planning and Zoning Board Meeting

**Staff Reports**

**Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:**

- Two Certificates of Occupancy were issued last week. One was for 526 Old Farm Place, a 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,098 square foot single family home, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one was for 1002 South San Pedro Street, a 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,428 square foot single family home. Both of these new homes are located in Orchard Park.
- We have a new franchise owner who is going to re-open Little Caesars Take Out Pizza. They are in the process of cleaning, stocking and hiring approximately 12 new employees. They are hoping to open August 1, 2017.
- Over the summer we have issued several new permits for swimming pools. We want to remind all pool, spa, and hot tub owners of the safety tips below.

**Safety Tips for Swimming pools, hot tubs and spas**

**Tips for swimmers**

- Look out for underwater lights that are not working properly, flicker or work intermittently.
- If tingling occurs, immediately stop swimming in your current direction. Try and swim in a direction where you had not felt the tingling, Exit the water as quickly as possible and avoid using metal ladders or rails. Touching metal may increase the risk of shock.
- Do not swim before, during or after thunderstorms.

**Tips for swimming pool owners**

- Have a qualified electrician periodically inspect and—where necessary—replace or upgrade the electrical devices or equipment that keep your pool, spa or hot tub electrically safe. Have him/her show you how to turn off all power in case of an emergency.

- Make sure that any overhead lines maintain the proper distance over a pool and other structures, such as a diving board. If you have any doubts, contact a qualified electrician or your local utility company to make sure power lines are a safe distance away.
- If you are putting in a new pool, hot tub or spa, be sure the wiring is performed by a licensed electrician, experienced in the special safety requirements for these types of installations.
- Electrical appliances, equipment and cords should be kept at least 6 feet away from the water. When possible, use battery-operated instead of cord-connected appliances and equipment, such as televisions, radios, and stereos.

**Sr. Library Aide Shirley Reynolds reports:**

- A Fun-filled Time with Ronald McDonald will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Please contact the library for more information.
- Our Elected Officials will be held on Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Hendry County Supervisor of Elections Brenda Hoots will entertain and inform kids about our election process. Please contact the library for more information.
- Remember you can get your e-books free at [www.hendrylibraries.org](http://www.hendrylibraries.org).
- **For information regarding any of our programs, please call the library at (863) 983-1493 and remember to visit [www.hendrylibraries.org](http://www.hendrylibraries.org). Like us at [www.facebook.com/clewistonpubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/clewistonpubliclibrary) .**

**Golf Course Director Robbie Rush Reports:**

- **Get all Clewiston Golf Course news by signing up on Constant Contact.** Go to the City of Clewiston website, and sign up on Constant Contact. You will be automatically put on the golf course e-mail. The Clewiston Golf Course also has a Facebook page with pictures and all golf course information.
- The next Junior Golf Camp is scheduled for July 24-28, 2017. Contact the Clewiston Golf Course at 863-983-1448 to register.
- Summer memberships are now available.
- Summer rates are now in effect at the golf course.
- **Upcoming Events**
  - July 24-28 2017 Clewiston Golf Course First Tee Junior Golf Camp
- **For more information call golf shop 863-983-1448**

**Recreation Director Lance Ramer reports:**

- SUMMER CAMP begins again on July 10<sup>th</sup> ... Please watch out for our kids as they move around the City Commons Monday-Fridays from 7am-6pm...
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Session Summer Camp kids and staff will be enjoying a Day Trip to Billie Swamp Safari next week on Wednesday July 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday July 20<sup>th</sup>. They will participate in buggy rides, airboat tours and the reptile show.
- Recreation Staff is putting together a “Community Hero Day” for Friday July 21<sup>st</sup> for the Summer Camp kids showcasing City staff and equipment used every day that help make Clewiston - “America’s Sweetest Town”.
- Adult Swimming Lessons and Adult Water Aerobics began at C.S. Mott Pool.

- **Adult Swimming Lessons** will take place from 6-7pm on Monday and Thursday evenings beginning July 10<sup>th</sup> and ending July 27<sup>th</sup>. You must be pre-registered to participate.
- **Adult Water Aerobics** began with Certified Instructor Deborah Barrios on Tuesday evenings from 6-7pm. Cost is \$5.00 per session and payable on the day of class.
- Ballfield crew has begun aggressively spraying for evasive weeds on “ALL” soccer game fields at Sugarland Sports Complex this week, 2<sup>nd</sup> round will take place next week.
- Recreation staff completed spraying the parks and fence lines for evasive vegetation this week.
- Adult Men’s and Co-Ed Softball resume their season this week. Games begin at 6:45pm Monday-Thursday on Field #9 on the Big Quad at Sugarland Sports Complex.
- The Splash Pad is open daily from 9am-7pm.
- C.S. Mott Pool is OPEN for public swim on the following schedule:
  - Saturdays 10am-6pm
  - Sundays 1-6pm
  - Monday-Friday 2pm-6pm
- **UPCOMING** Weekly highlights for Clewiston Recreation
  - July 17<sup>th</sup> – Adult Swim Lessons 6-7pm C.S. Mott Pool
  - July 18<sup>th</sup> – Adult Water Aerobics 6-7pm C.S. Mott Pool
  - July 19<sup>th</sup> – Summer Camp Field Trip Billie Swamp Safari 8am-3pm
  - July 20<sup>th</sup> – Summer Camp Field Trip Billie Swamp Safari 8am-3pm
  - July 20<sup>th</sup> - Adult Swim Lessons 6-7pm C.S. Mott Pool
  - July 21<sup>st</sup> – “Community Hero Day” 9am Sugar Fest Field
- Go to [www.clewistonrecreation.com](http://www.clewistonrecreation.com) to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

**Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:**

- **Block 402 Drainage:** The contractor started Monday. All pipe is in and the inlet set. Asphalt is cut and removed in preparation for paving. The engineer is ordering a “riser ring” to adjust the height of the junction inlet.
- **Mosquito Control:** Trap counts continue to hold about the same with counts in the 500 range at Golf Course, 300 range at the ball parks and 150 range in the Harlem Community. We will have a ground treatment on Friday. Note: I did a yard inspection at my home on Wednesday evening. I found two containers with active mosquito larva. I emptied them and turned them over. Point is, if I have them, you have them. Please take a minute and inspect your property for breeding habitats and eliminate them.
- **Street Division:** (1) Staff built the frame to repair an inlet top on Balboa. (2) Mowing grass (3) Keeping new Royal Palms watered. (4) 200 pounds of a special “Frizzle Leaf” treatment for Royal Palms was ordered and is expected this week.
- **Facility Maintenance Division:** (1) Staff had to clean out a “drip pan drain” first thing Monday morning and replace some ceiling tiles. (2) High humidity and rain has caused A/Cs to work overtime pulling moisture out of inside air. This in turn may cause some water dripping from air vents. Staff has responded to several calls of this nature this week. (3) Staff is working on lights in the John Boy Auditorium.
- **Residents are reminded:** We are in hurricane season. Do you have an evacuation plan if your home is destroyed and you have to leave quickly? If your family gets separated,

where is your rendezvous point? Where will you take your family from there? These are the things you need to be ready for.

- **Canal Maintenance Update:** David Davis, CDD Director has had crews in Clewiston the past week mowing canal banks and spraying for surface aquatic vegetation. This will keep our storm water runoff moving efficiently and help control our mosquito populations.

**Police Chief Aaron Angell reports:**

- On the evening of July 8<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to a suspicious vehicle complaint from a concerned citizen. The vehicle was parked in front of a residence whose owner was out of town. When officers arrived, they located the vehicle just as described by the caller. Officers did make contact with the occupant of the vehicle who seemed to be startled by the arrival of law enforcement and who also began exhibiting nervous mannerisms during the encounter. During the investigation, officers asked the occupant of the vehicle a series of easy questions in an attempt to provide the occupant of the vehicle with the opportunity to explain his reason for being at the residence. The occupant of the vehicle either gave very vague and elusive answers or refused to answer the questions. This obviously did not help him and led to our officers continuing their investigation. With permission, a search of the vehicle was conducted which revealed the reason for his nervousness. Officers located black clothing, to include a Halloween mask, and a .44 caliber revolver under the driver seat. The occupant of the vehicle was arrested and delivered to the Hendry County Jail.
- During the early morning hours of July 11<sup>th</sup> while on patrol, the officer's attention was drawn to a suspicious vehicle incorrectly parked across several parking spaces at a business. The vehicle's alarm was activated and clearly audible. As the officer approached the vehicle to investigate further, a male subject turned the car off, removed the keys from the ignition and immediately exited the vehicle and stated to the officer "that the car just started going crazy". As the officer was speaking with the subject that had exited the vehicle, a second male subject approached the vehicle. While speaking with the two subjects, the officer noted the strong odor of alcohol on the breath of the person who had been in the vehicle and the strong odor of marijuana emanating from the male subject that had approached. During an interview with the subjects, both admitted to the use of marijuana and the consumption of alcohol. A search of the male subject that had approached the vehicle yielded a small amount of DABS, which is a form of marijuana. The subject advised he had found the DABS in the park and that he used the internet to look up how to smoke it. Based on the officer's observations, he also felt that the male subject who had been in control of the vehicle was impaired. An investigation confirmed this and both subjects, who were under the age of twenty-one, were arrested.
- During the early morning of July 12<sup>th</sup>, an officer was patrolling the area of Aztec Mobile Home Park when he heard several gun shots and what sounded like people joyfully yelling. Several other officers immediately responded to the area and they approached the residence from where the gun shots were believed to have come from. As they were preparing and as they approached the residence, several more gun shots rang out in rapid succession. As officers reached the residence, they noticed several spent shell casings on the ground. Contact was made with a female subject found outside the residence and officers immediately noted the smell of marijuana. During their conversation with the female subject, she requested that she be allowed to enter the residence and retrieve her

child who was inside sleeping. Officers allowed this and escorted the female to the front door of the residence. When the door to the residence was opened, the smell of marijuana became even stronger and officers observed, through the now open front door, drug paraphernalia in plain sight. Officers determined at this point that a search warrant would be obtained for the residence. During the execution of the search warrant, officers located and seized over 100 prescription pills, marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, and a significant amount of drug paraphernalia including scales and packaging material. Officers also located one firearm and ammunition for several different calibers of firearms, both handguns and rifles. In addition to this, officers located and seized a bulletproof vest and two-way radio communication devices. The female subject, who lived at and claimed control for the residence, was arrested and delivered to the Hendry County Jail and is now facing a number of criminal charges.

#### **Utilities Director Williams reports:**

- Water Sewer Activities
  - Cleaned lift stations with vac truck
  - Repaired water breaks
  - Assisted South Shore on water break repair
- Electric Activities
  - Replaced hospital rehabilitation center new service
  - Repaired street lights
  - Completed transformer job for yogurt shop
  - Transferred two transformer services over on 10<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Installed three new lights on 10<sup>th</sup> Street by Library
  - Removed tree from power line on 13<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Replaced old CT meter can at fairgrounds
  - Repaired CT's at Shamrock Store
  - Repaired underground service in Fairgrounds Trailer Park
  - Cut trees on 10<sup>th</sup> and Arkansas
  - Cut service for electrician to change meter parts at hospital
  - Vegetation control at substation
- Office Activities
  - 33 Connections for new service and 24 disconnects for final billing
  - 44 disconnections for non-pay and 42 reconnections
  - 39 work orders sent out to reread meters
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.clewiston-fl.gov) or [www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl](http://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.**