

For Your Information

Weekly

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

February 8, 2019

Dates to Remember

February 12, 2019 – Special Magistrate Hearing

February 18, 2019 – City Commission Meeting

February 21, 2019 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- This week 2 more houses were permitted for construction in Orchard Park. Both are 3 bedroom 2 bathroom structures averaging approx. 1500 sq ft.

Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:

- Hendry County Library Cooperative met yesterday for our quarterly meeting. This meeting was held in Harlem at the Florida B. Thomas Library at noon.
- Library staff would like to take a moment and express our gratitude for the support that we have received this week from our local schools. Once again, each school from Clewiston nominated students and community members for our Annual Black History Month Awards of Excellence program. We are excited to highlight the accomplishments of those doing amazing things within our community. Our program will be held on February 21, 2019 from 5:30-7:30. Come out and support the great accomplishments of the students and adults serving in our community each day! We would like to thank all of the schools who participated with helping make this program a success because without their contributions and recommendations from the faculty, volunteers, administrators, and community members this program would not be possible. Thank you Clewiston High, Clewiston Middle, Central Elementary, Eastside Elementary, Westside Elementary, and Harvest Academy Christian School. We would also like to thank US Sugar and Sievista Group for their donations to the event.
- Microsoft Excel classes are successfully continuing. It is held on Thursday evening from 5:30-7:30. We welcome everyone from the community to participate. The fee for the Advanced class is \$50.00 per person.
- Library Director met with Sugar Festival representatives and those in charge of the Sweet Taste contest. The library has agreed to partner with US Sugar so they are able to use the classroom here at the library to hold their event that day. The Friends of the Clewiston Library will also hold their Annual Silent Auction and Book sale at the same time. We invite all those who are attending the Sugar Festival to stop in, browse our selection of donated books, participate in the library's silent auction and raffle, visit the Candy

Shoppe in the classroom and make sure to place a bid on an item in the Sweet Taste Contest.

- Storytime was held this week for Little Disciples and Rainbow Preschool. Mrs. Maria did an outstanding job as she highlighted Valentine's Day with the children through books and a craft. Preschoolers also visited the computer lab and practiced their skills using Lexia and abcmouse.com.
- Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Pearson have begun processing taxes for our community members at no cost for those individuals earning less than \$55,000 a year. Please call the library and schedule your appointment.
- The library still has openings for free tutoring on Monday evenings for students in grades 1-5. It is held at the library from 4-6 p.m. Please stop in and fill out a registration form for your student. Classes are taught by Florida certified teachers.
- Lego Club was held on Thursday.
- Human Trafficking Informational Session will be held on Monday, February 25th from 6-7 p.m. This event is open to all ages. Unfortunately human trafficking is occurring, but with this program you will learn tips on how to spot it, stop it, and become familiar with how to protect yourself from this dangerous situation. The library staff will have games, coloring sheets, and a movie showing in the children's area so little ones can play/interact while their parents attend this program.
- Library Director is working with Mrs. Harn, High School Art Teacher, to bring an art display to the library. It is tentatively scheduled for March 21st from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mrs. Harn will bring artwork created by her students for our viewing pleasure. She will also set up stations where the students will demonstrate their skills to the community. There will be light refreshments served during the art reception.
- Remember you can get your e-books free at 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. Like us at www.facebook.com/clewistonpubliclibrary.**

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush Reports:

- The Clewiston Men's Senior Club Championship took place on February 5th and 6th 2019. Congratulations! Glen Baxter was the winner of the Gross Division and Sam Todd was the winner of the Net Division.
- A no charge Junior Golf Clinic will be held on February 9, 2019 from 11:00am to 12:00pm. The life skill will be Integrity. We will be on the driving range doing full swing.
- The third Ladies Golf Clinic of the year on Full Swing will be held on February 15, 2019. It will take place at 4:00pm and there is no charge for the clinic.
- The Clewiston Ladies Golf Association will host their annual invitational on February 19, 2019. The Ladies will celebrate the Clewiston Golf Course's 90th Birthday. The golf course was established in 1929.
- CLGA Rally for the Cure Mixed Scramble will take place on Saturday, February 23, 2019. Sign-up is in the golf shop.
- **For more information, please call the Golf Shop at 863-983-1448.**

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- *New Youth Center visiting hours are Monday through Friday 2:00pm to 5:00pm. Calls are still being received and answered from 8:00am to 5:00pm. If you have any recreational needs or questions, please drop by City Hall from 8:00am to 2:00pm or by the Youth Center from 2:00pm to 5:00pm.*
- **Mosquito Control:** Mike Young and Sean Scheffler will be in Gainesville first week of February getting their required CEU's in Public Health to keep their license current.
- **Street Division:** (1) Replaced 100 feet of sidewalk in Trinidad Park. (2) Relocated a Crape Myrtle at Trinidad Park.
- **Sports Complex:** (1) Bleachers and hand rails were inspected and repaired where needed on Field One.
- **Facility Maintenance:** NOTICE – The John Boy Auditorium will be closed February 25 through 28 for maintenance. (1) Outside lights in front of Animal Control Building were repaired. (2) The gate closer on the back gate of Animal Control was replaced. (3) Re-keyed door locks on Cougar Building.
- **Parks & Playgrounds:** (1) Swing sets in the Trinidad Park were painted. (2) Treated Trinidad Park for Fire Ants.
- **NOTE from Public Works:** The hospital installed new signs on Trinidad at Olympia and Gloria St. warning us not to drive on that one block while a helicopter is in service.

Police Chief Aaron Angell reports:

- The following is a brief synopsis of activity over the course of the past week.
 - Officers made a total of 9 arrests
 - Officers responded to 391 Calls for service (Includes officer-initiated activity)
 - Average officer response time to calls for service, 00:01:01

Utilities Director Danny Williams reports:

- **Electric Activities**
 - Repaired URD that feeds to Highway 27 streetlights.
 - Ran service line to Orchard Park property and four Central Avenue apartments.
 - Installed two new security lights for customers.
 - Removed old transformers and equipment from the Old Fish House on Highway 27.
 - Cleared vegetation from power lines.
 - Assisted customer with meter relocation.
 - Set last distribution pole for USACE on the Herbert Hoover Dike.
- **Water Sewer Activities**
 - Phase one of the Inflow/Infiltration program will be completed soon. Smoke testing will begin February 11 and should last about two weeks. The Contractor, USSI, will be placing door hangers on front doors to notify residents before the work begins in individual neighborhoods. Please call the office if you have any questions or concerns.
 - Crew activities reported this week: Replaced ten water meters.
 - Helped South Shore Water staff with a water line break.
 - Repaired a break on a 4" waterline at the Hampton Inn site.
 - Repaired a waterline service at 601 Sabal Avenue.
 - Inspected a 6" main waterline in the Lopez Street area.

- Performed several locates around town.
- **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.