

For Your Information

Weekly

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

April 12, 2019

Dates to Remember

April 15, 2019 – City Commission Workshop and Meeting

April 18, 2019 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

April 18, 2019 – Library Advisory Board Meeting

April 19, 2019 – Good Friday – City Offices Closed

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- Three new houses were permitted for Orchard Park. All are 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Average square footage is approx 1500 sq. ft.
- AutoZone received its Certificate of Occupancy and is finalizing everything to be able to open soon.

Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:

- Library Amnesty Week was a success as many patrons were able to eliminate their fines/fees that had accumulated on their library accounts. We would like to remind everyone that the last day for this opportunity is tomorrow, Saturday, April 13th. Please stop in the library no later than 1 p.m. on Saturday in order to have any fines/fees waived as this opportunity is only available once per year.
- The High School Art Reception was held last night from 5:30-7:00 p.m. This was a great event as the community was able to come in and speak directly with the artists who were demonstrating their skills. Each artist displayed their artwork for all to marvel at, all the while engaging personally with the patrons in attendance. Art Teacher, Mrs. Harn along with the help of Mr. Harn, provided tall art display racks throughout the library which held a variety of artwork from cheese cloth masks to drawings and paintings by Clewiston High School students. The library raffled off a desktop computer as well. Light refreshments and smooth, jazz music was enjoyed by all. We cannot thank the artists enough and we look forward to the future as they continue to master their craft. The library will continue to display the Clewiston High School student's artwork for the next month. Make sure to stop in and even take home a piece of artwork for a small donation. All proceeds from these donations will directly go to the Clewiston High Art Club. Thank you to the artists, Kalina Mesa, Nicole Blanco, Michael Swaby, Gabriel Garcia, Margaret Gacula, and Abenamar Perez for such a great evening.



- The Medicare 101 Information Session was well attended on Wednesday. The presenter mentioned that this event was the highest attended session to date.
- The Family Coloring Event was enjoyed by many on Wednesday. Library staff provided all the supplies needed.
- Storytime was held twice this week as an outreach program. Due to GoodWheels no longer being able to transport two daycare/preschool centers to the library for this event, our Children's Library Aide went to them.
- Once again, the Lego Club was a success as we had new families and children in attendance. Make sure to stop in for the fun on Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. each week.
- Tutoring was held on Monday for grades 1st through 5th from 4-6 p.m. There are still spaces available for this free tutoring program. As the school year is coming to an end, please stop in the library and sign your student up for this opportunity. With Florida certified teachers assisting your students, this can help give your child the additional assistance needed at this time as state testing is occurring.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Free Tutoring Weekly (grades 1-5)**
Every Monday 4-6 p.m.
 - **Lego Club**
Thursdays from 3:30-4:30
 - **New Scrabble Club**
Tuesday, April 16th and 30th 3:30-4:30 p.m.
 - **Library Advisory Board Meeting**
Thursday, April 18th 5 p.m.
 - **Family Movie Night with Popcorn**
Thursday, April 18th 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 - **Closed for Good Friday**
Friday, April 19th and April 20th

- **Family Board Game Day**
Wednesday, April 24th 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- **Adult Book Club**
Thursday, April 25th 5:30 p.m.
- 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.**

Code Enforcement Officer Debbie McNeil reports:

- The Community Improvement Staff attended training April 1 thru April 4 on Field Safety and Interpersonal Skills. There were both class work and practical self-defense skills with a final practical and written exam to obtain certification from Florida Association of Code Enforcement Level IV.
- Code Cases Opened: 11
- Case Re-inspections: 24
- Notice of Violations: 10
- Notice of Hearings: 3
- Code Cases Resolved: 11
- Code lien search requests completed: 5
- Rental Inspections Completed: 7
- Next Scheduled Magistrate Hearing: May 14, 2019
- We received 37 Delinquent Business Tax Receipt invoices from Community Development this week. We are conducting the final courtesy contacts this week prior to sending out Notice of Violations beginning April 22, 2019. All businesses are encouraged to check their Business Tax Receipt to make sure it is current.

Call to Action

We are asking that everyone take a look into their backyards beyond the fence line...is the rear easement adjoining your property free and clear from overgrown grass and landscape?

City of Clewiston Ordinance

Section 102-118 Landscape Maintenance

(b) Maintenance of sidewalk areas as public right-of-way.

- (1) It shall be the responsibility of all property owners to maintain grass and landscaping which exists in street right-of-way swales and easements adjoining their properties. Grass in such areas shall not be allowed to exceed eight inches in height.

- (2) Grass and landscaping which exist near or around sidewalk areas shall be maintained by adjoining property owners. Sidewalks shall be kept free of grass and weeds and shall be cleaned of sand, dirt and trash.

(Code 1999, § 102-129; Ord. No. 2005-13, pt. 2, 12-19-2005)

Operation Rear Easement Check-Up Is Ongoing
Thank you for your response

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- *If you have any recreational needs or questions, please drop by City Hall from 8:00am to 5:00pm or call 863-983-1484.*
- **NOTICE:** *Running is not allowed in the pool or splash pad area. Slip and fall accidents could happen. Parents should be involved with their children while using this facility to ensure their safety.*
- **Mosquito Control:** Trap counts: Golf Course 175; Okeechobee Blvd. 10; Sports Complex 43; Saginaw 6; Harlem 5.
- **Paving Projects:** Nothing new to report. Expected to have contractor's signed contract back by the end of the week.
- **Country Club Roof:** All paper work is to be finished. "Notice to Proceed" issued. Work is scheduled to start this week.
- **Trinidad Park FRDAP Grant:** The picnic pavilion is finished. The new picnic table and park bench will be installed on Friday.
- **Street Division:** (1) The second phase of sidewalk in Trinidad Park has been poured. (2) Pot holes, mowing and sign maintenance was the target on Friday this week. (3) Five loads of top soil were delivered to the Trinidad Park bathroom. This will be used to set the finish grade around the bathroom.
- **Sports Complex:** Nothing to report this week.
- **Facility Maintenance:** (1) Plumbing problems in the ladies room at the Pro Shop were corrected this week. Waiting for parts to fix aged fixtures was the hold up. (2) Sean has made contact with the High School Art Class asking for them to do a "Special Community Project". He is asking for them to paint the mural on the Splash Pad and the Tiger on Stalls Field. (3) More holes were repaired in the old fence at the Sikes Park. (4) The relocation of the double gate and walk through gate on the soccer field at Trinidad is completed. (5) **New "No Running" signs have been ordered for the Pool and Splash Pad. The new signs will be larger, in both English and Spanish, and have the universal sign for no running on it.**
- **NOTE from Public Works:** Hurricane season is around the corner. May is Tree Trimming Amnesty Month. **You must call the office at 983-1471 and get pre-approved to get the "Special Pick-up" fee waived.**

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush reports:

- The Annual Horse Race Tournament was held on Friday, April 5, 2019. Steve Conrad won the tournament for the first time. The Final Four were Steve Conrad, Pablo Sanchez, Sam Todd and Steve Seal. Congratulations!

- The Moore Haven Terrier Boosters Fundraiser Tournament will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2019. The golf course will be closed this day for regular play until 2:00pm.
- The Lakeport Garden Club will have their annual tournament here at the Clewiston Golf Course on May 4, 2019.
- The Clewiston Tiger Booster Spring Fling Golf Scramble Tournament is scheduled for May 11, 2019.
- All merchandise has been marked down in our end of the season sale.
- Summer memberships start May 1, 2019.

Utilities Director Danny Williams reports:

- **Electric Crew Activities**
 - Disconnected service on Mississippi St. for contractor repairs;
 - disconnected service for contractor to replace service pole at high school;
 - repaired and replaced street lights throughout town;
 - repaired electric meter at Clewiston Christian School;
 - installed guy wires on poles along Sonora St.;
 - relocated pole from a future bus wash site at Central Elementary School ;
 - changed a damaged transformer in Harlem Gardens Community that was struck by a car;
 - installed a new transformer on Alverde St. to distribute load;
 - removed vegetation from power lines.
- **Water Sewer Crew Activities**
Contractor USSI crews will return soon to install inflow dishes in all our manholes. Other activities reported by our water/sewer department include:
 - Restored power to lift stations at San Benito and First Bank of Clewiston locations;
 - repaired two water line breaks.
- Did you know your **Customer Service Department** offers several bill paying options?
 - ONLINE bill pay is available on our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.
 - AUTOPAY is also available; come visit our office and complete an application, choose a payment date (5th, 15th or 25th) and your bill will be deducted from your checking, savings or major credit card account.
 - Of course, payment by cash, check, money order or credit card (MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and American Express) is always welcomed.
- **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.

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.