

## *For Your Information*

### *Weekly*

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

July 26, 2019

Welcome to City Manager Randy Martin who began work on July 22. Mr. Martin's office is located at City Hall, 115 W. Ventura Ave. Please feel free to stop by or give him a call at 983-1484.

#### **Dates to Remember**

July 29, 2019 – City Commission Budget Workshop

July 31, 2019 – Planning & Zoning Board Meeting

August 5, 2019 – City Commission Budget Workshop

August 7, 2019 – Board of Building Commissioners Meeting

August 15, 2019 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

August 19, 2019 – City Commission Workshop, Meeting and Budget Workshop

#### **Staff Reports**

##### **Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:**

- **Please be advised that the library will be closed tomorrow, Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> due to maintenance. We will reopen for normal business hours on Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.**
- Make sure to inquire and join the Clewiston Library Book Club. The Friends of the Clewiston Public Library will meet on Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to discuss *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides. If you need help getting a copy of the book, contact the library and we can help!
- Monday Movie Madness was held on Monday from 1-3 p.m.
- Night at the Library with Eastside Elementary began on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. This program is provided by the administration and teachers from Eastside Elementary. Children are able to come in for an evening of storytelling. Students also learned how to access the library's catalog in order to search for books that interest them as well as find the AR (Accelerated Reading) level and point value of each book. As this event comes to a close, the last night will be held on Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. The guest reader this evening will be Mrs. Gutierrez.
- Universe of Stories summer library program continues to be a big hit. On Tuesday, the age group is from 5-7 years old and on Thursday it is 8-11 years old. As this program comes to a close, we will end with a bang. On Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., stop in and enjoy a magic show. Mr. James Chartier, owner of Showtime for Kids will be here bringing laughs and a grand ole time. The final day for our summer program will be Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. On this day, the program will last approximately 2 hours which

will consist of a raffle drawing for 4 desktop computers for children, a book bag giveaway provided by US Sugar, games, arts and crafts, as well as snacks. We have had an amazing summer and are looking forward to the school year beginning.

- Family Board Game Day was a huge success on Wednesday with a total of 13 participants.
- LEGO Club once again continues to astonish and excite all library staff and parents as we had a total of 47 participants this week. Stop in, take part in the challenges, and create your very own masterpiece to put on display here in the library every Thursday from 3:30-4:30.
- The Early Learning Coalition utilizes the computer lab on Wednesdays in order to assist community members with registering their children into the preschool program. If you would like more information, please stop by the library on Wednesdays from 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- If you have not done so already, please join our Facebook page (Clewiston Public Library) in order to remain up to date on the library's events and programs.
- 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.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - **Accelerated Reading Night at the Library with Eastside Elementary** - Every Monday through the month of July from 6-8 p.m.
  - **Monday Movie Madness** - Every Monday from 3-5 p.m.
  - **Universe of Stories Summer Program** - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11 a.m.
  - **Magician-Showtime for Kids** - Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> from 10-11 a.m.
  - **Crafternoon-Family Craft Event** - Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 2-3 p.m.
  - **End of Summer Bash** - Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup> from 10 a.m.-Noon

#### **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.**
- **Mosquito Control:** Trucks sprayed for mosquitoes on Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> and the plane sprayed on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Trap Counts are: Saginaw 89; Okeechobee Blvd. 101; S. Lopez 95; Golf Course 115; and Harlem 70. This indicates a significant drop in mosquito populations.
- **Paving Projects:** This year's paving project began this week. Please use caution around paving equipment and give them the space to go through. Driving on a road prepped for asphalt could result in you slinging "tack" on your vehicle that you will have to clean off.
- **DOT Sidewalk and New Welcome Signs Project Update:** New Ventura sidewalk and welcome signs are still on track to start in late September.
- **Parks Department:** The men's softball league is finishing up their season this week. Another men's season and a coed season are in the planning stage. If you are interested in playing, call Kevin Durance at 228-0636.
- **Street Division Activities:**
  - Trimmed trees;
  - Repaired a culvert failure on West Circle Drive;
  - Tore down dumpster enclosure at the John Boy Auditorium

- **Facility Maintenance Activities:**
  - Installed new LED lights in the bathrooms on both sides of the stage at the John Boy Auditorium;
  - Installed new digital thermostats in the Beardsley Room and lobby at the John Boy Auditorium;
  - Began power washing the racquetball courts
- **NOTE from Public Works:** Did you know that the “Move Over” Florida law also applies to City equipment and crews working in or next to the street? Our solid waste trucks make frequent stops and at times must back up to serve a resident. If you cannot see the driver’s rearview mirrors, the driver can’t see you. Stay at least 50 feet behind one of our big trucks. If the back up beeper sounds, be prepared to move out of the truck’s way.

**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 3 arrests
  - Officers responded to 295 Calls for service (Includes officer-initiated activity)
  - We responded to and investigated 6 traffic crashes
  - Officers conducted 75 business and 79 residential security checks
  - Average officer response time to calls for service, 00:00:37
- At approximately 2:00 am on 23 July 2019, officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle after observing a traffic infraction. During the stop, officers noted what appeared to be marijuana strewn about the interior of the vehicle. A search of the vehicle turned up felony amounts of marijuana as well as an assault rifle and numerous rounds of ammunition.
- At approximately 11:20 pm on 23 July, officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle after observing a traffic infraction. During the stop, officers noted a bag lying in plain view that contained what appeared to be marijuana. Upon noting this, officers questioned the driver of the vehicle further and asked if there was anything in the vehicle they should not have. Upon doing so, the driver of the vehicle produced a handgun which, as one might imagine, quickly escalated the nature of the contact. Thankfully officers were able to safely quell the situation without incident. A subsequent search of the vehicle was conducted which revealed a small amount of marijuana.

**Utilities Director Danny Williams reports:**

- **Electric Crew Activities**
  - Repaired street lights;
  - Removed vegetation from power lines;
  - Answered trouble calls
- **Water Sewer Crew Activities**
  - Cleaned lift station wells with vacuum truck at numerous locations throughout service area.
- **Customer Service Department**
  - We offer several bill paying options; please visit or call the office at 983-1454 if you’d like to learn more!

- **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.

**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.**