

For Your Information

Weekly

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

September 6, 2019

Dates to Remember

September 9, 2019 – City Commission Meeting

September 17, 2019 – Special Magistrate Hearing

September 19, 2019 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

September 23, 2019 – City Commission Workshop and Meeting

Staff Reports

Office of the City Manager:

To the Clewiston community, it has been an honor and a privilege to have been selected to serve as City Manager of the City of Clewiston effective July 22, 2019. The past several weeks have been hectic as I have been busy learning as much about the community as possible while meeting and getting to know as many of the fine citizens and business owners and operators as possible. I appreciate the fine welcome and all the support I have received from the Board of Commissioners, the community at large, our neighboring community and county partners and the dedicated City employees who serve this wonderful community.

My intent is to give my most earnest efforts aimed at making this community the best it can be and I humbly ask that each of you do your part to help me and other city officials achieve the goals established by the Commissioners going forward. I came here very enthusiastic about the potential of Clewiston based upon my research and initial reactions, but now I am even more enthused about the future of Clewiston after enhancing my knowledge and interacting with a number of you. I have high expectations that this level of optimism will only further grow for me and I hope it is contagious. I eagerly look forward to interacting with more of you as time goes on.

We all can now breathe a sigh of relief that Hurricane Dorian only had minimal impacts on the region, but given the potential for more storms on the horizon this season, we cannot allow ourselves to become complacent. I applaud everyone who heeded warnings and took necessary steps to be prepared. I encourage everyone to be diligent going forward as well. As for the City, the elected officials have long had plans in place for an organized response to emergencies of this nature and the staff responded well to the most recent threat. We are going to take the opportunity to review the response and as necessary tweak our procedures and policies accordingly. Again, the City says “thank you” to all our federal, state and local partners for the support we receive during emergency events such as hurricanes.

Finally, I have shared with the Board of Commissioners my thoughts about the best methods of improving our communication capabilities with citizens, customers, business entities and other interested parties on a regular basis. Stay tuned for some of these changes in the near term, and I

would welcome and appreciate feedback from anyone on the changes once implemented. In the spirit of optimizing transparency on the part of the City and to maximize the number of people who are aware of the ins and outs of City government, we will seek to expand the distribution of our updates of this nature to as broad an audience as possible. We will be encouraging all interested parties to sign up through our social media platforms for inclusion in this information sharing effort.

Please help me spread the word about America's Sweetest Town".

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Martin

Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:

- Stop in this month as we celebrate National Library Card Sign-Up Month. Come participate in the many programs offered at the library, check out favorite author, series, DVD, audiobook or simply enjoy the in house activities. Look forward to seeing you!!! Let's see how many places you will go with every flip of the page...
- The library was closed on Monday for Labor Day.
- This week, the library was also accessed for four private tutoring sessions and 24 other individual meetings.
- The LEGO Club was held yesterday with a total of 7 participants.
- Bring your children and friends to the library tomorrow, Saturday, September 7th at 11 a.m. to create their own masterpiece for their grandparents as National Grandparents Day is Sunday. All supplies will be provided.
- Preschool and toddler storytime begins next Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. Come enjoy stories and arts/crafts with your little ones.
- 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.
- Beginning September 30th, the library will offer afterschool homework help. The instructor is a Florida Certified teacher. As space is limited, please make sure to stop in the library and register your child. If all spaces become filled, please continue to register and we will call to inform if a spot opens.
- Need a place to hold a meeting? What about a computer lab to host your organization's/company's training? The Clewiston Library does have a classroom and computer lab available with a total of 16 computers for use. For more information or to secure the room, please stop in or call the library at any time.
- 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.
- Please stop by the library to pick up a calendar with a list of events so you can join in on the fun.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Arts and Crafts for Grandparents Day – Saturday, September 7, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.
 - Library Advisory Meeting – Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
 - Lego Club – Every Thursday from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

- Preschool Storytime-Little Disciples Preschool and Public Welcome – Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.
- Play Doh Play Date – Monday, September 16, 2019 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. (Ages 4-8 with adult supervision)
- Outreach Storytime – Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.
- Board Game Day – Thursday, September 12, 2019 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Outreach Storytime – Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.
- Social Security and Medicare Information Session – Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
- Book Club Meeting – Monday, September 23, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. – Come discuss the latest book, *Summer of '69* by Elin Hildebrand
- Afterschool Homework Help Program Begins (space is limited) – Monday, September 30, 2019 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

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:** Trap counts as of August 28, 2019: Saginaw 600; Okeechobee Blvd. 3,000; Golf Course 2,500; Harlem Community 700; Sports Complex 100. Our last treatment was Thursday, August 29, 2019. A ground mosquito treatment is scheduled today, September 6, 2019.
- **Project Updates:**
 - The new Ventura Sidewalk and Welcome Signs Project is still scheduled to start in late September.
 - The palms for Phases 3 and 4 of the U.S. Highway 27 Beautification Project are ready for final inspection by the installer and an independent inspector as required in the contract.
 - Hendry County's W.C. Owen Paving Project will go to bid in September.
- **Parks Department Activities:**
 - Installed gate behind the maintenance building.
 - Chemicals to kill weeds on the Sports Complex fields were ordered by the turf consultant; a treatment is planned for the middle of this month.
 - Prepared for Hurricane Dorian.
- **Street Division Activities:**
 - Repaired third "out fall" failure between Auto Zone and Wendy's.
 - Targeted and patched pot holes on the south side of U.S. 27.
 - Investigated a sink hole on South Berner; repaired hole on concrete pipe.
- **Facility Maintenance Activities:**
 - Sealed asphalt area, striped the parking lot and installed new wheel stops at the Animal Control facility.
 - Removed storm shutters on all City buildings.

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush reports:

- The Annual United States Sugar Employee Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 7, 2019. The golf course will be closed for regular play that day until 2:00pm.
- The Seminole Tribe of Florida Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 24, 2019.

- Get all information of what's going on at Clewiston Golf Course Facebook.
- There is a big sale going on in the golf shop at 50% off on selected merchandise.
- Pay for 18 holes, Play all day is going on through the summer.
- The golf shop hours are 8:00am-5:30pm.
- Golf Carts must be in by 7:15pm.

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 6 arrests
 - Officers responded to 354 Calls for service (Includes officer-initiated activity)
 - We responded to and investigated 2 traffic crashes
 - Officers conducted 98 business and 111 residential security checks
 - Average officer response time to calls for service, 00:00:42
- Thanks to everyone and have a great weekend!

Utilities Director Danny Williams reports:

- **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. 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.