

For Your Information

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

December 6, 2019

Dates to Remember

December 9, 2019 – City Commission Workshop

December 16, 2019 – City Commission Meeting

December 19, 2019 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

December 24-25, 2019 – Christmas Holiday – City Offices Closed

Office of the City Manager:

Citizens, Business Owners & Other Interested Parties:

As we are currently in the holiday season which is filled with examples of good will and the generosity of so many, I write to recognize all those individuals, civic organizations and others who unselfishly contribute so much to our community and particularly to those in need. I will not try to name everyone knowing that I would leave far too many deserving of recognition and thanks off the list. This could not be a comprehensive list under any circumstance since so many do acts of kindness that are anonymous. I have been amazed already during my brief tenure here at the number and scope of these type activities which apparently are the norm here in Clewiston. On behalf of the City and me personally, THANK YOU ALL! It is sure nice to live in such a caring community.

The season is also a great time for reflection and for each of us to set our sights on goals for the coming year. A lot of folks make resolutions and to varying degrees, some of these efforts are successful while others are not so. Your City officials are in the process of a goal setting exercise for the top priorities for the City to pursue in 2020. As we have been discussing possibilities, one thing has become clearly apparent to me. The members of the City Commission are united in their focus on doing what they believe to be in the best interests of Clewiston. We may not always individually agree on the best methods to achieve this goal, but it sure is helpful when there are no other competing influences creating obstacles that are challenging to overcome.

As we meet to discuss top priorities in the near future, I encourage interested parties to get engaged and provide city officials feedback on our discussions. The Commission and I are deeply committed to transparency in our operations and the priority setting process is no exception. Let your input be heard.

In closing, I wish each of you the happiest of holiday seasons, a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the City of Clewiston,
Randy Martin

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- The proposed changes for the floodplain maps for the city have been approved. These changes will be effective May 15, 2020. Many properties will be removed from the special flood hazard; this should be an economic relief to those property owners affected.
- Walmart has completed their renovations- including the grocery pick-up addition and awning. Grocery pick-up seems quite popular and is a convenient, time-saving service for our community. Also included in the renovations is a new fire alarm system and sprinkler system for increased fire prevention and safety.

Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:

- Over the past three weeks, the Library was accessed for normal operating business and meeting space for the community. There was a total of 82 individual meetings held.
- Library staff provided ready reference assistance directly to 188 patrons along with daily routine services which included circulation of materials, computer assistance and programming.
- On November 20th, Bonanza was held from 3:30-4:30 p.m. with 2 children and 2 adults in attendance.
- On November 18th, the Library held the Social Security and Medicare Informational Session from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. There were 6 participants.
- Ms. Bautista is continuing to do a fantastic job with our afterschool homework help. On October 21st, 24th & 28th, she assisted 24 students from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. This program is currently at full capacity, however, we are encouraging parents to sign-up on the waiting list if their child needs assistance with their homework. If at any time we have children who drop from the program, Library Staff will reach out to those students on the waiting list. Registration forms are located at the Library.
- On November 19th, Play-Doh-Play Date was held from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. There were 3 (2 children and 1 adult) in attendance.
- On November 19th and 20th, Outreach Storytime session was held at Covenant and Discovery Preschools. There was a total of 29 children in attendance.
- Lego Club was held on November 21st with a total of 13 participants. Lego Club is held each Thursday from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.as library staff is continuing to bring in additional Lego Kits and building supplies.
- The library's computer lab was accessed and used by a total of 14 patrons. Patrons needing a quiet place to use the computer are welcome to use the computer lab along with the computers located on the main floor of the library.
- On November 21st, the library continued celebrating Native American Heritage Month by having a Family Movie Night for all to enjoy. The movie shown was Smoke Signal. We had 3 in attendance.
- On November 25th, Native American Artist Elgin Jumper was our guest speaker from 6:15 - 7:15p.m. Mr. Jumper's stories of his Seminole heritage were very interesting; they caught and held the attention of his audience. There were 11 (3 children and 8 adults) in attendance.

- On Tuesday, November 3rd, The Green Thumb Garden Club came and created their magic with our annual holiday decorations. Stop in and admire the beauty of all the naturally handcrafted decorations; you can smell the season as you walk in the door.
- During the week of December 2nd - 12th, afterschool homework help will be provided to those registered on Mondays and Thursdays from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.; on Tuesday December 10th, the Sewing Club for Tweens & Teens will be held from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.; and on December 11th, Storytime with Little Disciples will be held at 9:30 a.m.
- If any school or center would like to have the library come to them to provide Storytime, please contact the library as we would like to provide literacy services to those in the community who are unable to come to the library.

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:** No activity this reporting period.
- **Project Updates:**
 - The new Ventura Sidewalk Project is under construction.
 - The brown block veneer was completed on the west end “Welcome” sign. Veneer work on the east end sign has begun.
 - Work on the levee cut off wall has begun. Please be aware of a lot of big dump trucks.
 - Sidewalks on the south side of US27 from Wendy’s to San Luiz and from San Luiz to Alverde and on the north side of US27 from McDonalds to Berner Road have a projected construction start date of FY 2021/2022.
 - Staff is seeking ¾ of a mile of sidewalk through a FDOT SRTS grant.
- **Parks Department Activities:**
 - A welder was brought in to repair rusted out holes on the picnic table posts at the lake. Bees have been using them for their hives.
 - Painted all steel parts of the lake side picnic tables.
 - Scheduled the last two gates on the tennis court behind the Youth Center for repair.
 - Installed new spectator rules signs for Field #1 (High School Boys).
 - Installed another 137 feet of fence on the north side of the Sports Complex.
 - Painted the two access gates yellow. They will be clearly marked for night time safety.
 - Power washed the picnic tables in Civic/Memorial Park.
- **Street Division Activities:**
 - Staff put up 33,220 Christmas lights and decorations throughout the Civic Park, festival grounds and City buildings.
 - Repaired street pot-holes.
 - Delivered sidewalk and bike route surveys to three schools for input from teachers, parents and students on sidewalk needs in their area.
 - Bond Street, City Hall and the John Boy Auditorium got a fresh layer of red mulch.
 - Trimmed palms at City Hall, Country Club, Berner Road, Central Ave. and Ventura Ave.
- **Facility Maintenance Activities:**
 - Cleaned gutters on the Youth Center building.

- Replaced the washing machine in the Animal Control Building.
- Addressed several plumbing problems at various buildings.

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush reports:

- Get all information of what's going on at Clewiston Golf Course Facebook.
- **Rotary Club of Clewiston Campbell & Frances Nall Golf Tournament** played out Saturday, November 16, 2019. 78 players competed in a 4-person team scramble format raising money to give two Clewiston High School student scholarships. The tournament was a great success. It was the Rotary Club of Clewiston's 32nd Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser. Congratulations!!
- **His Vision Our Hands Golf Tournament** is scheduled for December 7, 2019.
- **Gators vs World Tournament** is scheduled for December 13-15, 2019.
- **Seminole Tribe of Florida** will be having their **Chairman Cup** on December 18, 2019.
- **Clewiston Golf Course Men's Club Championship** is scheduled for December 28, 2019.
- **Congratulations Jeff Steffel!!** Mr. Steffel is a winter golfer for years here at the Clewiston Golf Course. On hole #15 Mr. Steffel shanked his tee shot in the water off the tee into the water. He then re-teed and flew his third shot into the hole. Hole in Three.
- **Golf Shop Hours are 7:15am-5:00pm. The first tee time is 7:30am.**
- **Golf Carts must be in at 5:45pm.**
- **Walking is permitted all day at the golf course now. Tee Time is a must.**
- New season merchandise is in the golf shop now. Come in and get a **Christmas** gift for the golfer in your family.
- **For more information call golf shop 863-983-1448.**

Utilities Director Danny Williams reports:

- **Electric Crew Activities**
 - installed new transformer and primary cable to Hampton Inn;
 - installed two new customer security lights;
 - completed Christmas decoration installations;
 - relocated spare pad mount transformers at shop;
 - removed vegetation from power lines;
 - removed two pumps at lift stations;
 - replaced bad terminator on distribution pole at USSC;
 - repaired street lights;
 - removed bee hives from customer meters at nine locations;
 - installed transformer at sugar festival park;
 - organized wire inventory;
 - sprayed weeds around shop property;
 - assisted contractor with substation 138kV transformers annual maintenance;
 - changed connectors on main line on Obispo Avenue to restore power;
 - replaced bad fuse on W. Crescent Drive.
- **Water Sewer Crew Activities**
 - Repaired lift station pump;
 - repaired six water breaks on 2" pipes;
 - installed water and sewer service for new business.

- **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.