

For Your Information

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

September 30, 2021

The Clewiston City Commission is seeking nominations for the 2021 Outstanding Community Service Award to honor an individual who has made a sustained commitment to volunteer service. Nominations are due by November 1, 2021. Use this link https://www.clewiston-fl.gov/egov/documents/1632234080_11512.pdf for more information and the nomination form.

Dates to Remember

October 18, 2021 – City Commission Meeting

October 21, 2021 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

Office of the City Manager:

Citizens, Business Owners & Other Interested Parties:

I am pleased to report that the City Commission on September 27, 2021, adopted the new City Operating and Capital budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 which begins on October 1, 2021. The Commissioners and staff worked diligently over the past few months to finalize the annual budget that will ensure the necessary resources to provide quality city services over the coming year. To review details of the approved budget, please visit the city website.

In other matters, I am pleased to report that the lakefront recreation area asphalt resurfacing project has been essentially completed. As the long reconstruction period of the Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) rehabilitation project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers comes to closure, this is a welcome accomplishment. On behalf of the city, a big Thank You to all for your patience during this process. In the weeks ahead, the final details will be wrapped up and the area is going to be much improved overall and of course it will be safer for Clewiston property owners in terms of the stability of the HHD during extreme weather events.

Of course, now that the HHD project is being wrapped up in our area, the city is excited to proceed with the next project impacting improved access to the lakefront area with the long anticipated construction of an elevated bridge connecting to the top of the dike. This \$5 plus million project is being funded entirely with grant funds appropriated for the new bridge project at the request of the city from the Florida Legislature. Not only will vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian access to the lake be significantly improved, but the new bridge will also allow for enhanced water access for boating traffic to be able to go under the new bridge. This will provide multiple benefits in the form of community and economic development opportunities and recreational activities in the vicinity of the canal and lakefront areas. To prepare for the changes, the city is partnering with the Southwest Florida Planning Council to develop a

waterfront master plan utilizing state grant funding. I encourage all citizens and interested stakeholders to get involved and share input into this planning process as the city attempts to enhance its lakefront presence for locals and tourists alike.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the City of Clewiston.

Randy Martin, City Manager

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- The Technical Review Committee and the City Commission has approved the development plans for a new Furniture Manufacturing facility to be built in Commerce Park. The site will consist of two buildings totaling 60,000 square feet and will bring new employment opportunities to our town.

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- **NOTICE:** Irrigation systems must be turned **OFF** during the summer rains.
- **Mosquito Control Trap Counts:**

	8/23	8/27	8/29	9/1	9/3	9/13	9/15
Okeechobee Blvd.	1992	1000	2000	1500	20	1500	4000
Saginaw	1102	300	50	150	25	50	50
Golf Course	884	500	500	400	50	200	350

Ground Spray Missions: August 27, September 1 and September 10

Air Spray Missions: August 4, August 21, August 25 and September 3

- **Parks Department Activities:**
 - Rodney, the Sports Complex Superintendent, resigned and is moving to Gainesville. We will miss him. Vacancies in the maintenance staff for the complex have resulted in some maintenance items being delayed longer than we prefer. New staff hires should allow maintenance activities to return to normal in the near future.
 - “Fall Protection” material has been installed at the Sweetest Town Playground.
 - New nets were installed on the tennis courts and the court surfaces have been cleaned.
- **Street Division Activities:**
 - Staff worked two days cleaning out the former Police Department building.
 - Royal Palms on US27 were sprayed for grass growing in the mulch.
 - Five Italian Cypress trees were planted in front of the current Police Department Building.
 - An invasive tree growing in the swale on Ponce de Leon was removed.
- **Facility Maintenance:**
 - The fan in the evidence room at the Police Department was repaired.
 - Work in the Youth Center continues. Staff installed a new double door and have been working on taping and sanding wall joints. This renovation project is still being scheduled when time allows. A contractor has completed replacement of the flat roof portion on the building which will now allow interior work in that section of the

- building to proceed. The new “outside” double doors with glass inset have been ordered. Paint and flooring contractors are close to getting the notice to proceed.
- Several A/Cs on multiple city buildings have required attention, repair and service this month. High humidity and heat has put everyone’s A/C into overdrive.
 - **Reminder:** We are in the peak of Hurricane Season. Do you know where your storm shutters and hardware to install them are located? Are all your important documents in a sealed “zip-lock” bag and in a suitcase ready to go in a moment’s notice? Has your generator been run under a load for thirty minutes?
 - **Salutation:** With a sense of sadness, this is my last activity report as my retirement from city service is effective September 30, 2021. As I look back over my past 42 years of employment with the City of Clewiston, I see many good things that have happened in this community. In my view, Clewiston is poised to be the premier community around the lake. I thank the Commission for allowing me to serve the community I love and call home. May God be with you all as we move forward into the future. Plant more trees. Kiss your kids and take your spouse off for a long week end. You know they deserve it.

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush reports:

- Get all information of what’s going on at Clewiston Golf Course Facebook.
- Get on our E-mail list by going to the City of Clewiston website. Go to the golf course division and at the bottom of the page you can sign-up on Constant Contact and get all Clewiston Golf Course information.
- Golf Shop Hours are 7:45am-5:30pm. The first tee time is 8:00am. Tee Times are required. The Golf Shop contact number is 863-983-1448.
- Golf Carts have to be in at 7:00pm.
- Clewiston Golf Course has a driving range. The driving range has lights which means you can hit golf balls after hours (Night Time). Tokens for the range ball machine can be purchased in the golf shop or at the Clewiston Police Department after hours.
- Golf lessons are available at the club from PGA Professional Robbie Rush. To schedule, contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.

For more information call the golf shop 863-983-1448

Code Enforcement Officer Debbie Clay reports:

Article VI. – Solid Waste

Division 1. – Generally



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Sec. 74-170. – Prohibitions

- (b) **Unauthorized placement.** The placement or scattering of yard clippings, tree limbs and/or other refuse in or upon street gutters and/or the street surface, or **drainage canal banks** is hereby declared a nuisance and a danger to storm drainage control and shall be prohibited.

Sec. 74-187. Collection scheduling and placement

(b) *Horticulture waste.*

(1) The city will collect on weekly basis one pile of horticulture waste, including limbs, trimmings, and cuttings, not to exceed the volume dimensions which measure four feet by four feet by eight feet. Limbs shall not exceed eight feet in length and four inches in diameter. Bushy limbs shall be cut apart and trimmed to lay flat. Persons placing wastes for collection which exceed these standards shall coordinate with the public works department for proper removal as a special pickup service.

(2) **Horticulture waste shall be placed for collection immediately adjacent to the premises producing such wastes, but not upon the paved street, sidewalk, storm gutter or canal bank.** The city will not be responsible for damage to sprinkler systems, sprinkler heads, water meters and other objects, including fences, gates and hedges, other plants and trees damaged due to horticulture waste being placed over or piled on or against such items as a result of being placed there for collection by the occupants and/or owner of the property.

(3) No horticulture waste shall be placed for collection against or within ten feet of any wall, fence, vehicle, electric pole, down guys, utility lines, traffic control device, telephone interface junction panel, water valve box, manhole, tree, or any other obstruction so as to impede collection.

(4) No garbage or other solid waste materials shall be placed for collection commingled with horticulture waste. Commingled waste of this nature shall constitute a contaminated waste pile and will only be removed by special pickup service.

(5) **Waste placed for collection in violation of any section of this article shall be tagged with written notice stating that the occupant of the premises must remove same within 48 hours; if the occupant fails to remove the waste, the city will pick up this accumulation and the occupant will be charged for a special pickup service. The special pickup fee will be charged with the occupant's monthly utility bill.**

(e) *Special pickup.* A special pickup is a collection service for items not authorized on a regular collection schedule. Such pickups include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) All bulky wastes and white goods exceeding size thresholds;
- (2) Contaminated horticulture waste piles; and
- (3) Any other unacceptable residential waste as determined by the public works director.

Special pickups will be coordinated by the resident and the public works department as to time, place, date and items to be picked up. A minimum fee, found in appendix A to this Code, will be charged. The director of public works or his designee shall charge an additional amount above the minimum based on excessive volume,

difficulty of collection, and other relevant factors. This fee shall be charged with the customer's next regular utility bill.

Both our Public Works and Code Enforcement personnel will begin focused enforcement on this ordinance as well as continued enforcement of all City of Clewiston Ordinances.

The complete City of Clewiston Ordinances are available online and may be accessed utilizing the City of Clewiston website: <https://www.clewiston-fl.gov/> or Municode Library website: https://library.municode.com/fl/clewiston/codes/code_of_ordinances.

If you have any questions about how to achieve/maintain compliance with this or any other City of Clewiston Ordinance you may contact our office at 863-983-1454 extension 309.



PROTECT FLORIDA'S WATER, STOP POINTLESS PERSONAL POLLUTION

Nonpoint Source Pollution

A SERIES OF FACT SHEETS FOR FLORIDA STORMWATER EDUCATION

Did You Know That...

- ◆ At least 50% of the water quality problems in the U.S. result from NPS pollution (EPA).
- ◆ Five quarts of used motor oil can create an oil slick two football fields in size.
- ◆ Yard fertilizer runoff from residential areas is estimated to be responsible for one third of the excess nitrogen polluting our waterways.
- ◆ The first inch of runoff generally carries 90% of the pollution from a storm (FDEP).
- ◆ Storm drains do not go to sewage treatment plants, they lead directly to bodies of water.

What is NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION?

Commonly referred to as stormwater runoff or urban runoff, nonpoint source pollution is water pollution that cannot be traced to its specific origin or starting point.

NPS pollution comes from our home, yards, streets and farms. For example, substances such as detergents, pesticides, oil, lawn clippings and soil erosion from lawns and construction sites pollute our waterways.

Every time it rains, these substances run off of the land and flow through our storm drainage systems directly to our lakes, streams and rivers.

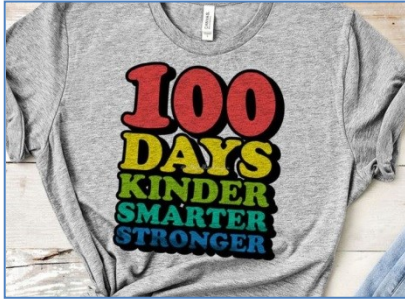
This process causes more than half of the pollution to our water bodies.

Midwest Research Institute-Florida Division
1470 Treeland Blvd. SE
Palm Bay, Florida 32909
321-723-4547

Interim Police Chief Tom Lewis reports: Animal Control

In the month of August 2021, Animal Control reported the intake of 77 cats, 51 dogs, and 1 Guinea Pig. There were a total of 74 animal-related calls-for-service in the month of August (26 outside the city limits).

On September 9, 2021, our animal shelter celebrated **100 days** of being a no-kill shelter. We continue to update the facility with a focus on increasing sanitation and the welfare of the animals. With some funding coming at the start of the new fiscal year (October 1st), we are hoping to wrap up these initial upgrades in the next few months and have an open house for the community; more to come on that.



Animal Control will soon be open seven days per week! With the anticipated addition of our newest staff, we will be changing the schedule to ensure that we have employees at the shelter every day, not only to care for the animals, but to increase the public's access to be reunited with the pets or to come by and adopt. We encourage everyone to visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ClewistonAnimalControl>, where you can see the latest news and pictures of our four-legged friends.

On September 18, 2021, in conjunction with Justin Bartlett Animal Hospital, a free rabies clinic was offered to the community. The event was held at Clewiston High School and was very well attended.



Highlighted Training

Interim Operations Commander Tito Nieves attended a three-day training class in Altamonte Springs, FL titled, Managing the Detective Unit.

On September 21, 2021, members of the State Attorney's Office provided our officers with a legal updates course. Housed at the police department, the training was provided free of cost. A huge thank you to our partners at the State Attorney's Office for a great working relationship. On September 23rd and 24th, Evidence Technician Norma Espino and back-up Evidence Technician Adelys Valles attended a Property and Evidence Management course in Orlando, Florida. The course is designed to teach the current industry standards, best practices, and will lay the groundwork as we look forward toward accreditation.

Other News

On August 31, 2021, Sergeant Willie Roberts did a little future recruiting in a kindergarten class at Harvest Academy Christian School. After talking to them about what it takes to be a police officer, they made him these thank you cards.



On September 1, 2021, Interim Chief Lewis and Commander Tito Nieves gave a presentation about the negative effects of vaping to the high school kids at Clewiston Christian School. What an amazing group!



Life Saving Award - Sometimes, small actions can lead to big successes. Sergeant Willie Roberts has been recognized with a Life Saving Award related to a simple traffic stop for speeding. He could have easily wrote a ticket or a warning and let this woman drive away. Even after thinking something was a little off, he could have brushed it off and let this woman drive away. Instead, he called EMS. EMS was hesitant to transport her due to COVID restrictions but Willie insisted that she be checked out. EMS transported her and later called Willie back, noting that if she had not been transported, her brain bleed would have killed her.

Sergeant Roberts will be honored with a Life Saving ribbon (shown below) to be worn on his uniform and a certificate to be placed in his personnel file. The Clewiston Police Department is lucky to have Sergeant Roberts among the ranks. Congratulations!



Interim Chief Lewis was the guest speaker at the Clewiston Rotary Club on September 20, 2021. After introducing himself to the group, the Chief spoke on topics related to the police department and animal services.

On September 22, 2021, Interim Chief Lewis held the first-ever *Coffee with the Chief* program at Common Grounds Coffee Shop. The program is an opportunity for any member of the public to come and find out about the inner workings of the police department, get up to speed on current events, and ask any questions you may have in a relaxed conversational environment. At least one lucky attendee will receive a mug with the program logo on it each month. We hope to see you there at the next one!



Utilities Director Danny Williams reports:

A final agreement with Contractor SENSUS for a Smart Meter implementation and managed service contract has been executed. The new smart meter infrastructure will achieve significant improvements to our electric and water distribution systems, touching all aspects of our utility operations and administration. Watch for a roll out of the new meters in January, 2022!

- **Electric Crew Activities:**

- repaired street lights
- installed 600'+ of underground 4" pipe in Clewiston Commerce Park
- changed three lightning arresters
- replaced four broken pole top pins
- pumped out transformer containment area at substation
- sprayed weed suppression in substation yard
- replaced poles on Kentucky Avenue and Twelfth Street
- removed vegetation from power lines
- restrung two downed lines caused by extreme weather
- installed new "net" meter on Carolina Avenue
- installed wildlife mitigation around water treatment plant
- assisted contractor to install underground pipe below W.C. Owen Avenue
- serviced transformer bank for water treatment plant well

- **Water Sewer Crew Activities:**

- Repaired 12" water break
- Ran temporary water service line to Herbert Hoover Dike
- Flushed fire hydrant at Della Tobias
- Repaired four water breaks in the Community of Harlem, and Berner Road
- Performed maintenance at seven collection system lift stations
- Removed and replaced customer water meters

- **Customer Service Department**

- Your Utility partners with customers to bring renewable power to the electric grid. If you'd like to learn more about net metering, please visit the FTC consumer information site at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0532-solar-power-your-home>.
- 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 attic insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you more information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.