

For Your Information

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

March 8, 2023

Dates to Remember

March 16, 2023 - Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

March 20, 2023 – City Commission Meeting

March 21, 2023 – Special Magistrate Hearing

Office of the City Manager

Citizens, Business Owners & Other Interested Parties:

It is important to recognize the performance of employees periodically and especially when they exceed expectations in their achievements. Such is the case with the Animal Services division of the Police Department which recently won statewide peer recognition as detailed in the Chief of Police's report included in this FYI. Congratulations are in order to all departments and staff that supported the transformation which has occurred at animal services and in their facilities over the past year plus. Special credit is due to all of our dedicated animal services staff, volunteers and Police Department leadership for the incredible efforts that led to the special recognition.

Also, of particular significance at this time and most deserving of special recognition, are the efforts of various staff working with the incredible team of community volunteers who comprise the Sugar Festival Committee and the incredible support of sponsors for the massive undertaking necessary to make this outstanding annual communitywide event the huge success that it has become in showcasing America's Sweetest Town to the region, state and beyond. I look forward to the event every year, but I am particularly excited about several new activities planned for the 2023 installment that should make this year a classic to remember. Great job thus far to all involved and I highly encourage locals to be very engaged and supportive of the event.

In the last several months, your City Commission, advisors and staff have been actively pursuing necessary steps to scrutinize various development plans for new housing, commercial/industrial development and amenities that collectively have strong potential to greatly improve our community over the next several years and provide new opportunities to meet community needs and desires. This circumstance has developed into an opportunity for smart growth of the boundaries, service areas, population and economic opportunities for all Clewiston area citizens, businesses and visitors. The level of interest and activity is unprecedented in this community and is in great part the culmination of the last several years of planning and improvement efforts undertaken by the city with the blessing of your elected officials to pursue significantly higher amounts of federal and state financial support to enhance infrastructure, address pent up demand for service level changes and other key factors which have set the stage for the development

conditions to encourage private sector investment in our community. I encourage interested parties to share your input as this crucial stage continues to progress, but I assure you city officials intend to do our utmost to make Clewiston the best it can be while preserving the charm and character that make it such a special place to call home.

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

Randy Martin

Staff Reports

Recreation & Leisure Services Director Lauren McGinnis reports:

- This month we were thrilled to share that the C.S. Mott Pool is officially under construction! We are hoping to have the pool fully operational for the summer season. While construction is going on we will have to keep the splash pad closed to avoid any unnecessary contact with construction debris.
- Baseball season is in full swing at Sugarland Park. Our fields and grounds are ready for their moment! The opening ceremonies was a huge success and a great way to kick off the season. It was the highlight of our weekend getting to see all of the families enjoying the sports complex! If you took any pictures at the event please be sure to tag us in them.



- We are in the final countdown to Sugar Festival 2023! Staff has been working hard to get the city parks ready for everyone to enjoy. The activities will kick off on Sunday, March

12 with the Sweet Taste Competition being held at the Youth Center. We will have food trucks, games, and activities for the whole family to enjoy! On Thursday, March 16th be sure to join us at the Sugarland Sports Complex as the Clewiston Police Department takes on the Hendry County Sheriff's Department in a game of softball. The game is going to be one for the record books and you won't want to miss it! The fun keeps going on Friday, March 17th with "Saved By the 90's" taking the stage and getting everyone in the festival spirit. Saturday, March 18th will be packed with fun. There will be a 5k, games, kiddie park, good food, corn hole tournament, gator wrestling, and so much more for the whole family to enjoy. Be sure to come out and see all that we have planned!

- We are currently working on renovating our parks! Before long you will notice some of the old equipment being removed in preparation, it will take some time before the new pieces come in please be patient. You may also see us out painting and cleaning the areas around the park to help ensure that you have a beautiful area to enjoy with your families. If you see something that needs repairs or replacing please let us know.
- The Youth Center will remain open daily during Spring Break. The hours of operation for students to enjoy our building during Spring Break are 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM Monday – Thursday and 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM on Friday. We invite all of our youth to come and enjoy all of the board games, books, xbox game systems, and 3D printers. When school resumes the open hours will return to normal; Monday – Thursday 2:30 – 6:00 and Friday 2:30 – 4:30.
- Our 3D printer runs each Thursday. If you would like to be a part of our 3D print club and/or volunteer for the club please call us to find out how. We are always looking for volunteers to help with our clubs and activities here at the Youth Center. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering, please call us at 983-1492 to find out how you can get involved.
- As the spring semester gets going, remember we do have testing prep books here and offer quiet time and peer help for students who would like it. Come in to find out more information on dates and times. Does your student need volunteer hours for scholarships? If they do, give us a call. We have opportunities for students to earn hours!
- We have upgraded our facility rental process to make it fully digital. This includes a new information sheet that will help us prepare a more accurate quote and help us find the facility that will best serve you for your event.
- Our facilities are booking quickly for the 2023 year with many dates now having a waiting list! Don't wait, if you are thinking about hosting an event at one of our facilities or parks, give us a call today.
- Are you or your student looking for volunteer hours? We are looking for volunteers to run a club afterschool, as well as help students when they need it. If you or someone you know is interested, please give us a call.
- If you have any pictures enjoying any of our parks or facilities that you would like to share, please tag us on Facebook or email them to lauren.mcginis@clewiston-fl.gov. We love to see our community enjoying the many spaces we have to offer.
- Be sure to follow us on Facebook for up to date information on all events and activities going on at the Youth Center.

Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:

*Library Book Sale and Silent Auction
Saturday, March 18th
9 a.m. until 2 p.m.*

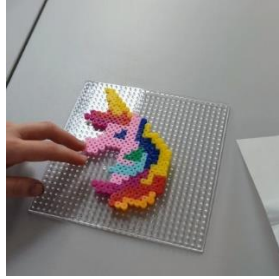
Be sure to stop by the Clewiston Library during this year's Sugar Festival to pick up your favorite books for as little as .25 cents as well as join in on the silent auction...

So far we have over 50 items for the auction which includes (but not limited to):

Clewiston Tiger Pride basket (3 shirts and trivet); Diamond jewelry; Local business gift certificates (Nana's Cupcakes, Dunkin Donuts, Marathon/Berner's); Handmade/painted stool by our very own local artist, Mrs. Mary Thomas; Various arts & craft items; Collegiate jewelry and hats; two beautiful hand-carved side tables (1 Oak and 1 Maple) made by Mrs. Toni Couse; Story Stones; Michael Kors purse; Large Gator Wall Helmet; 3 Reading Baskets, and much, much more!



- Library staff provided ready reference/computer assistance, circulation activities, and patron programming to 1,509 patrons this month.
- This month's programming activities have included:
 - There were 38 participants who completed February's scavenger hunt challenge. Be sure to check out the new theme and find what's hidden around the library.
 - Crafternoon Perler Beads was held on Wednesday, February 8th with a total of 29 participants.



- Stem 3D Pen Art was held on Wednesday February 15th with a total of 10 participants.



- Video Game Club was held every Tuesday with a total of 36 participants. Make sure to swing by the library and join the fun!



- Anime Club Via Zoom and In-Person was held every Monday and Friday with a total of 32 participants.
- The Friends of the Clewiston Library met Wednesday, February 15th to discuss the upcoming Annual Library Silent Auction/raffle and Fundraiser which occurs during the Sugar Festival.
- Giant Game Day was held on Monday, February 20th.



- LEGO Builders Club was held on Thursday, February 23rd with a total of 18 participants. This month's challenge was to build something using all one color.
- At this time 53 patrons have utilized the free tax assistance services provided through VITA United Way at the library. Please call and make your appointment for free tax preparation and filing for individuals earning less than \$66,000 a year.
- AWE Learning Stations were accessed and used by a total of 57 children. The AWE learning computer will allow young children the ability to learn about Literacy, Math,

Science & Nature, Art & Music, and Writing & Computer Skills. Make sure to stop by and let the kids try it out!

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

- **Scavenger Hunt:** The Leprechaun visited and hid some gold coins! Stop by the library anytime from 3:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. starting Wednesday, March 1st until Wednesday, March 29th to find all the coins to complete the riddle and get a prize out of his Pot O' Gold.
- **Book Club:** Come join the fun at our next TWO meetings: Monday, March 6th at 2:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. to discuss the newest book club title, "*Wish You Were Here*" by Jodi Picoult. With lively discussions, this group truly enjoys their meetings as they exchange their thoughts about each new title. New readers are always welcome.
- **Crafternoon Wood Mosaic Art:** Get creative! Join the fun on Wednesday, March 8th at 3:30 p.m. Please call the library or email library@clewiston-fl.gov to register. Children ages 7-12. This program is designed for children and accompanying adults.
- **Spring Break Drop-In Craft Day:** Looking for activities to keep kids entertained during spring break? Drop into the library anytime on Wednesday, March 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to make a fun craft for all ages. Children 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Registration appreciated.
- **The Friends of the Library Book Sale & Silent Auction/Raffle:** Make sure to stop by the library during Sugar Festival on Saturday, March 18th for a chance to win this hand painted Tiger stool.



- **Board Game Hangout:** Let's play some board games! We have several giant games along with a variety of other games available. Drop into the library at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22nd. Families are welcome to attend. No registration required.
- **LEGO Builders Club:** Love LEGO bricks? Come join in the club and build fantastic creations! LEGO Club meets again on Thursday, March 23rd at 3:30 p.m. This is a free STEAM activity aimed for children aged 4-12.
- **Anime Club**
 - **In-Person (Open to 6th-12th graders):** Anime Club meets every Friday from 3:30 - 4:15 p.m. Come hang out and chat with other Anime fans. We will be watching anime provided courtesy of Crunchyroll and talking about your favorite manga.
 - **Via Zoom:** We invite tweens and teens to join us every Monday at 3:30 p.m. To register, email library@clewiston-fl.gov to receive Zoom log-in information. If you are under 18, please be sure to have a guardian's permission to participate in this online event.
- **Video Game & VR Club:** You don't want to miss this! Stop in at 3:30 p.m. every Tuesday for video games. We have Super Smash Bro's, Mario Kart, Minecraft, Animal Crossing and the Oculus Quest! Open to all skill levels. Children ages 7 and up. Walk-ins welcome, but registering is always encouraged for better preparation.

- **FREE Tax Preparation:** The library is partnering with VITA United Way to host free tax preparation on Thursdays during this tax filing season. IRS certified United Way volunteers prepare taxes for FREE for households earning \$66,000 or less per year. Book your appointment today! Call the library at 863-983-1493.

FREE TAX Preparation Hendry County

Clewiston - Public Library
120 W. Osceola Ave.
Clewiston, FL 33440
(239) 433-3900
Wednesdays, and Thursdays: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Clewiston - Goodwill Community Resource Center
957 West Sugarland Highway
Clewiston, FL 33440
Saturdays: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

LaBelle - Goodwill Community Resource Center
91 S. Lee St.
LaBelle, FL 33935
(863) 674-0559
Select Tuesdays: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

LaBelle United Way House
133 N. Bridge St.
LaBelle, FL 33935
(239) 433-7559
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm



IRS certified United Way volunteers prepare taxes for FREE for households earning \$66,000 or less per year.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE
VITA **United Way**
A UNITED WAY COLLABORATIVE

WHAT YOU NEED:

TAXES WILL NOT BE COMPLETED WITHOUT THESE ITEMS:

- Valid Picture I.D.
- Social Security Card or Individual Taxpayer
- Identification Number (ITIN) for each family member and working adult
- Birth dates for EVERYONE on the tax return
- All earning statements (W-2, W-2G, 1099s)
- Total paid for Daycare & provider's Business Employer Identification Number
- Your spouse, if you are married and filing jointly
- Did you buy insurance from the Marketplace?
- Bring Form 1095-A

WHAT YOU MAY NEED:

- A copy of 2020 & 2021 federal and state returns
- Routing and account numbers for direct deposit
- Are you a student or are you making payments on a student loan?
 - Statements from your university or college (1098-T)
 - Student loan interest statement (1098-E)
- Are you self-employed?
 - Written totaled mileage records
 - Totaled business income and expenses (less than \$35K)
- Identity Protection Pin (IPP) if applicable

APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

Visit

UnitedWayLee.org/FreeTaxPrep
CALL 2-1-1 OR (239-433-3900)
Book your appointment today!

GRATIS Preparación de Impuestos Hendry County

Clewiston - Public Library
120 W. Osceola Ave.
Clewiston, FL 33440
(239) 433-3900
Miércoles, y Jueves: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Clewiston - Goodwill Community Resource Center
957 West Sugarland Highway
Clewiston, FL 33440
Sábados: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

LaBelle - Goodwill Community Resource Center
91 S. Lee St.
LaBelle, FL 33935
(863) 674-0559
Algunos Martes: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

LaBelle United Way House
133 N. Bridge St.
LaBelle, FL 33935
(239) 433-7559
Martes y Jueves: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm



Voluntarios de United Way certificados por el IRS prepare impuestos GRATIS para hogares que ganan \$66,000 o menos por año.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE
VITA **United Way**
A UNITED WAY COLLABORATIVE

QUE NECESITAS:

LOS IMPUESTOS NO SE COMPLETARÁN SIN ESTOS ELEMENTOS:

- Identificación con foto válida
- Tarjeta de la Seguridad Social o Contribuyente Individual
- Número de identificación (ITIN) para cada miembro de la familia y adulto que trabaja
- Fechas de nacimiento de TODOS en la declaración de impuestos
- Todas las declaraciones de ingresos (W-2, W-2G, 1099)
- Total pagado por la guardería y el número de identificación del empleador comercial del proveedor
- Su cónyuge, si está casado y presenta una declaración conjunta
- ¿Compró un seguro en el Mercado? Traiga el Formulario 1095-A

LO QUE PODRÍAS NECESITAR:

- Una copia de las declaraciones federales y estatales de 2020 y 2021
- Números de ruta y de cuenta para depósito directo
- ¿Eres estudiante o estás haciendo pagos de un préstamo estudiantil?
 - Declaraciones de su universidad o colegio (1098-T)
 - Declaración de intereses de préstamos estudiantiles (1098-E)
- ¿Eres trabajador independiente?
 - Registros escritos de kilometraje total
 - Ingresos y gastos comerciales totales (menos de \$35K)
- Pin de protección de identidad (IPP) si corresponde

CITA REQUERIDA

Visitar

UnitedWayLee.org/FreeTaxPrep
Llamar 2-1-1 o (239-433-3900)
Reserva tu cita HOY!

- **SHINE (Serving health Insurance Needs of Elders)** and Area Agency on Aging-Southwest Florida will be hosting virtual classes for anyone interested in learning more about Medicare! To register for upcoming webinars, email library@clewiston-fl.gov or call 863-983-1493.
- **New Library Hours:**
Monday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Need a place to hold a meeting? What about a computer lab to host your organization's/company's training? The Clewiston Library offers a classroom and computer lab 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.
- 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.
- Please stop by the library to pick up a calendar with a list of events and programs so you can join in on the fun.

Recap of Upcoming Events:

- **Wednesday, March 1st**
 - Scavenger Hunt Begins
- **Thursday, March 2nd**
 - Tax Preparation from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- **Friday, March 3rd**
 - Anime Club at 3:30 p.m.
- **Monday, March 6th**
 - Book Club at 2:00 p.m. & 5:15 p.m.
 - Anime Club Via Zoom at 3:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, March 7th**
 - Video Game Club at 3:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, March 8th**
 - Medicare 101 (with Medicare Part B Enrollment Demonstration) Via Zoom at 12:00 p.m.
 - Crafternoon: Wood Mosaic Art at 3:30 p.m.
- **Friday, March 10th**
 - Anime Club at 3:30 p.m.
- **Monday, March 13th**
 - Anime Club Via Zoom at 3:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, March 14th**
 - Virtual Reality at 3:00 p.m.
 - Video Game Club at 3:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, March 15th**
 - Drop-In Craft Day from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 - Medicare Part C + Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period Via Zoom at 2:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, March 16th**
 - Tax Preparation from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, March 18th**
 - Friends of the Library Book Sale & Silent Auction/Raffle
- **Monday, March 20th**
 - Anime Club Via Zoom at 3:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, March 21st**
 - Video Game Club at 3:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, March 22nd**
 - Board Game Hangout at 3:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, March 23rd**
 - Tax Preparation from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 - LEGO Builders Club at 3:30 p.m.
- **Friday, March 24th**
 - Anime Club at 3:30 p.m.
- **Monday, March 27th**
 - Anime Club Via Zoom at 3:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, March 28th**
 - Medicare Part D Via Zoom at 12:00 p.m.
 - Virtual Reality Club at 3:00 p.m.
 - Video Game Club at 3:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, March 30th**
 - Tax Preparation from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- **Friday, March 31st**
 - 3D Pen Art at 2:00 p.m.
 - Anime Club at 3:30 p.m.

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.
- Rates have changed for the Season for Non-members \$45.00 Plus Tax 18 Holes and \$22.50 Plus Tax for 9 Holes.
- Group Rates are available and we run a Monday Special after 12pm. Call the golf shop for more information.
- Walking is permitted all day.
- Golf Shop Hours are 7:15am-5:00pm. The first tee time is 7:30am. Carts are due in at 5:30pm daily. The golf course is open 7 days a week.
- Advertise a Tee Sign out on the golf course. If you are interested in advertising your business at the golf course call 863-983-1448.
- The Driving Range has a new token machine now. Get your tokens in the golf shop.
- Golf lessons and Club Repair are available at the club from PGA Professional Robbie Rush. Contact golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Clewiston Golf Course can supply all your golfing needs. You can inquire in the golf shop for whatever merchandise you need.
- Ladies Day - 8:30am Tuesday's
- Senior Men's Group - 9:00am Tuesday's and Friday's
- Men's Group - Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Call golf shop for times.

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

Community Development Director/Fire Chief Travis Reese reports:

- A new mattress store will be opening soon at 114 E. Sugarland Hwy., called Mattress Depot USA LLC.
- A new industrial storage lot is being developed and built on 1307 Olympia Street across from the City's Public Works Department.
- The shape of Clewiston will be changing soon. Approximately 500 acres will be added to Clewiston along the current northwest boundary. US Sugar, Kelly Tractor, and Hendry County School Board have petitioned the City to be annexed into the city limits. This additional property will move the city limit approximately half a mile westward along US 27.

Code Compliance Supervisor Debbie Clay reports:

New Amended Ordinance Changes the Permitted Uses of Storm Shutters both in Residential and Commercial Developments



ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CLEWISTON, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES § 110-530, RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT and § 110-531, COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PASSED AND ADOPTED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING BY THE CITY COMMISSION ON FEBRUARY 20, 2023.

Please take the time to review these changes:

Sec. 110-530 – Residential development and improvement

(d) Storm Shutters, ~~storm panels and storm rollups~~. Shutters, ~~storm panels and storm rollups~~ shall meet the following design standards:

(1) Definition: Storm Shutters, ~~storm panels, and storm rollups~~ refer to any window or door covering designed, intended, or used to protect the window or door opening from wind or flying debris damage during a windstorm or other weather event. Examples include but are not limited to, plywood panels, aluminum panels, steel panels, polycarbonate panels, rollups, movable awnings, and accordion shutters.

~~(1)~~ (2) Permanently installed shutters:

- a. Shutters shall be painted to match either the principal color or the trim color of the structure to which they are attached.
- b. Permanently installed hardware for storm panels and storm rollups shall be painted to match the principal color or the trim color of the structure to which it is attached, according to which will make such hardware the least noticeable.
- c. No permanently installed plywood panels are permitted.
- d. Use. It shall be prohibited to cover any window or door opening with Storm Shutters unless a hurricane, tornado, or tropical storm watch has been declared for the area encompassing the City. Storm Shutters shall be removed within thirty (30) days after the issuance of the hurricane, tornado, or tropical storm watch. This period for removal may be extended by order of the City Manager during a declared state of emergency.

~~(2)~~ (3) ~~Storm shutters and panels which are not permanently installed shall meet the following utilization standards~~ Temporary Shutters:

- a. Use. It shall be prohibited to cover any window or door opening with temporary Storm Shutters unless a hurricane, tornado, or tropical storm watch has been declared for the area encompassing the City. Temporary storm shutters shall be removed within thirty

(30) days after the issuance of the hurricane or tropical storm watch. This period for removal may be extended by order of the City Manager during a declared state of emergency.

~~They may be put in place or closed not more than 72 hours before and 72 hours after a storm event;~~

~~b. They may be put in place or closed for two periods of up to 15 days each between June 1 and November 30 (the hurricane season) when the owner is absent; and~~

~~c. They may be put in place on rear windows during any period of time.~~

(4) Seasonal Shutters:

a. Use. In the event, a property owner will be out of town for an extended period of time and wishes to maintain permanent or temporary shutter coverage outside the limitations of this section an application may be made for such coverage subject to the community development director's approval. Such application shall be signed by the property owner and shall state the reason for the request and the window of time necessary for coverage.

Sec. 110-531 – Commercial development and improvement

(b) Storm Shutters, storm panels and storm rollups. Shutters, storm panels and storm rollups shall meet the following design standards:

(1) Definition: Storm Shutters, storm panels, and storm rollups refer to any window or door covering designed, intended, or used to protect the window or door opening from wind or flying debris damage during a windstorm or other weather event. Examples include but are not limited to, plywood panels, aluminum panels, steel panels, polycarbonate panels, rollups, movable awnings, and accordion shutters.

~~(1)~~ (2) Permanently installed shutters:

- a. Shutters shall be painted to match either the principal color or the trim color of the structure to which they are attached.
- b. Permanently installed hardware for storm panels and storm rollups shall be painted to match the principal color or the trim color of the structure to which it is attached, according to which will make such hardware the least noticeable.
- c. No permanently installed plywood panels are permitted.
- d. Use. It shall be prohibited to cover any window or door opening with Storm Shutters unless a hurricane, tornado, or tropical storm watch has been declared for the area encompassing the City. Storm Shutters shall be removed within thirty (30) days after the issuance of the hurricane, tornado, or tropical storm watch. This period for removal may be extended by order of the City Manager during a declared state of emergency.

~~(2)~~ (3) Storm shutters and panels which are IUL permanently installed shall meet the following utilization standards-Temporary Storm Shutters:

- a. Use. It shall be prohibited to cover any window or door opening with temporary Storm Shutters unless a hurricane, tornado, or tropical storm watch has been declared for the area encompassing the City. Temporary storm shutters shall be removed within thirty (30) days after the issuance of the hurricane or tropical storm watch. This period for removal may be extended by order of the City Manager during a declared state of emergency. ~~They mMay be put in place or closed not more than 72 hours before and 72 hours after a storm event;~~
- b. ~~They mMay be put in place or closed for two periods of up to 15 days each between June 1 and November 30 (the hurricane season) when the owner is absent; and~~
- c. ~~They may be put in place on rear windows during any period of time.~~

The complete City of Clewiston Ordinances is 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 these or any other City of Clewiston Ordinances you may contact our office at 863-983-1454 extension 309 or Code Compliance Supervisor: debbie.mcneil@clewiston-fl.gov

Debra Clay
Community Improvement Division

Police Chief Tom Lewis reports:

Police Department

ACCREDITATION PROGRESS UPDATE – Over the last 20 months, we have been working hard to prepare the police department to be accredited for the first time in the 98-year history of the city. We are very pleased to announce that we have secured the dates of December 12-14, 2023 as our official accreditation assessment dates. During this time, the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) will send a team of subject matter experts to the Clewiston Police Department for a three-day on-site assessment. After proving compliance to the team (including policies, equipment, facility requirements, training, personnel interviews, etc.), their report will go to the CFA Accreditation Commission for review. We can expect to receive our accredited status during their February 2024 Conference. This accredited status will show the public, whom we proudly serve every day, that every aspect of our operation is operating under best practices and outside experts get a continuing first-hand look at our operation.

SAVE THE DATE: On March 16th at 6:00pm, the Clewiston Police Department is set to battle it out with the Hendry County Sheriff's Office in a charity softball game. The battlefield is set at the Clewiston High School Baseball Field and all concession stand proceeds will go directly to the Clewiston Tigers. As the Sheriff's Office prepares to lose in a very public setting, please take the time to console them.



On February 16, 2023, Chief Lewis and Commander Nieves attended the Palm Beach County Police Chiefs Association meeting. The meeting hosted law enforcement equipment vendors as well as a presentation by FDLE on officer discipline. This networking opportunity also resulted in the Clewiston Police Department receiving a donation of 4 additional AEDs. With this new addition, we will have a minimum of 2 AEDs on every patrol shift to increase our ability to saving lives.



On February 21, 2023, Officer Buffie McLeod visited the Discovery Day Academy to talk to the kids during their *Community Helper* week. As part of the visit, Officer McLeod also let the kids see the inside of a patrol car.

On February 28, 2023, the police department's outside sign had a makeover. The aging vinyl siding was replaced with concrete stacked rock that matches the front pillars of the building.

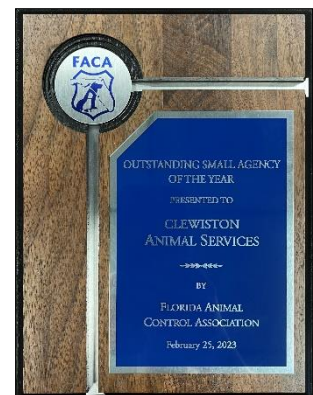
On March 1, 2023, Chief Lewis attended the Harlem Community Garden 'Garden to Table' luncheon. The presentation was attended by Senator Collins, members of US Sugar, and a contingent of local residents. A meal was served including freshly grown cabbage, collard greens and other vegetables grown right in the community garden.



Animal Services

In the month of February 2022, Animal Services reported the intake of 18 cats and 36 dogs. As Clewiston will soon see the start of kitten season, residents that are replacing bath towels or other linens can donate old ones to the shelter. These donations make our animals' stay a little more comfortable before they find their way to their forever home! We encourage everyone to stop by and take a look at what your tax dollars are doing – and maybe even find a new face to bring home.

On February 25, 2023, members of the Clewiston Police Department and Animal Services staff attended the Florida Animal Control Association's (FACA) annual awards banquet in Orlando, Florida. With more than 80 member agencies and organizations in FACA, Clewiston Animal Services was honored to accept the 2022 State of Florida's Outstanding Small Agency of the Year.



Highlighted Training

On February 3, 2023, Evidence Custodian Espino participated in a one-day online Property and Evidence Management course.

On February 15, 2023, all of our police officers were trained on building clearing, felony stops, and Narcan. The training was held at the former police department next to City Hall and focused on single-officer entry to an active shooter as well as a team-approach in building clearing.

On February 21, 2023, Officer Conyers attended a one-day Glock armorer course. The certification course will better prepare the agency to comply with accreditation standards for mandated firearms inspections and will also serve the save money as we can make minor repairs.

Beginning on February 27, 2023, Officer Rueben Louis-Pierre attended a three-day course on Driving While Intoxicated and Standardized Field Sobriety Exercises hosted by the Indian River State College Criminal Justice Institute. This training was followed by a two-day course on Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement. These classes will serve to bring the latest techniques to all of our officers on DUI detection, proper and legal investigations, as well as reduce liability for the department.

General Services Director Williams reports:

Please visit our informational booth at the upcoming Sugarfest on March 18 – we'll share information about our services as well as the latest updates on current projects that are in the works, including the much anticipated Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project. We look forward to seeing you there!

- **Electric Crew Activities:**

- installed new service to gate at Clewiston Christian School,
- repaired street light fixtures,
- trenched and installed conduit for electric service to new flag pole on Sugarland Highway,
- installed underground service on Trinidad Avenue,
- repaired underground service on Trinidad Avenue,
- removed primary and repaired underground conduit damaged by contractor in commerce park,
- installed armor rod and tied phases in for power distribution to sewer plant,
- repaired fairground event lighting,
- changed cutout and connector on pole behind Marathon station,
- assisted water/sewer crew pull lift station pump on Margaret Street,
- installed two “raptor” bird guards on electric poles for line protection from birds,
- replaced two fuses on Saginaw Avenue from osprey interference,
- removed vegetation from power lines on Kentucky Avenue,
- installed two new 120 amp outlets behind VIP tent for Sugar Fest,
- marked voltages for all power boxes for Sugar Fest
- replaced a rotten electric pole on Kentucky Avenue,
- set new pole and installed three transformers, and ran a new service to sewer lift station,
- installed two LED fixtures on Central Avenue and one new security light,
- repaired street lights on US 27,

- assisted public works department install a well pump,
- removed a roof from the golf course pump shed,
- installed two new net meters.
- **Water Sewer Crew Activities:**
 - Pumped down Golf Course, Est/Wst Lift Station and replaced pump,
 - Finished setting up Est/Wst Lift Station. It's up and running with new pump and panel,
 - Changed water filters on Della Tobias service lines,
 - Disconnected water service at two customer locations for leak repairs on customer side,
 - Changed water meter at 1029 Virginia,
 - Checked for water leak. Replaced gasket at (4) meters,
 - Conducted AMI water meter testing with consultant,
 - Flushed hydrant on Della Tobias,
 - Checked water pressure at 526 E Del Monte Ave. and replaced water meter,
 - Checked water leak at San Benito & El Paso Ave. and made repairs to polyethylene pipe,
 - Tested hydrant at the rodeo grounds with Fire Marshal,
 - Checked sewer main for new service at E Sugarland Cir.,
 - Repaired 2" galvanized pipe at 346 E Trinidad Ave.,
 - Opened hydrant and closed valve for Denco Construction Inc.,
 - Checked for leak at 1111 Della Tobias Ave.,
 - Inspected lift stations,
 - Reset De Soto Lift Station pump,
 - Replaced leaking 2" PVC pipe and installed a 2" Gate valve,
 - Performed (7) locates,
 - Attempted to replace check valve for El Paso Lift Station,
 - Replaced starter at High School Lift Station.
- **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.
 - *IT'S LIGHTNING SEASON!* Don't forget to sign up for your meter based surge protection! Visit our office today.
 - **ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE** on our web site at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.
- **Facility Maintenance:**
 - Staff made major repairs to the sprinkler systems at the John Boy Auditorium and Civic Park,

- Staff also made facility repairs to: lighting and locks in the John Boy Auditorium; City Hall building roof; library restrooms and plumbing repairs at Sikes Park, replaced an exhaust fan at the Community Development building, and repaired a water line to the cart shack at the Pro Shop.
- Ball Field maintenance included: fence repairs, plumbing repairs at all concessions stands and restrooms, safety nets on the “Small Quad”, score board repairs to Stalls Field and Lady Tiger’s field.
- **Street Division:**
 - Staff restriped all parking and stop bars in the Sugar Festival area and made other preparations for the upcoming 2023 Sugar Festival.
 - Staff continues to maintain all of our street signs throughout town and continues to collect shopping carts and return them to the business of origin.
- **Solid Waste:**
 - Our new residential and commercial trucks have arrived and are being decaled so they can be put to work ASAP.
 - Staff collected 400 cubic yards of solid waste debris from the Hendry County Fair.
 - Staff continues to recycle material gathered from all city office buildings.
 - **Solid Waste Special Pickups:** Your Clewiston Public Works Department offers curbside pickup for “white goods” (household appliances) and other bulky items. Solid Waste consisting of discarded furniture, bedding items and white goods is collected on a weekly basis as a regular service by the city. However, If the volume of such waste exceeds dimensions which measure larger than an average-sized refrigerator, removal will require a special pick up service. Special pickups will be coordinated by the resident and the public works department as to time, place, date and items to be picked up. Please be aware that by city ordinance, “a minimum fee of \$35.00 will be charged, and the director of public works 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.” If you’d like to schedule a special pickup service, please call the Public Works Department at 983-1471.
- **Ball Fields:**
 - AYSO Youth Soccer is ongoing and we are ensuring that our fields are safe.
- **Parks & Recreation:**
 - Staff is working with Labor Finders to prepare the Civic Park area for the upcoming Sugar Festival.
 - Staff has made minor repairs to the restrooms at Trinidad Park.
- **Central Garage:**

The City of Clewiston is still searching for a qualified CDL driver to collect and load garbage, horticulture, and other material, and a Mechanic 1 to perform necessary repairs and routine maintenance of City vehicles. Please visit our website for more information: <https://www.clewiston-fl.gov/>