

## *For Your Information*

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

November 6, 2023

The City of Clewiston City Commission is seeking nominations for the annual Outstanding Community Service Award to honor an individual who has made a sustained commitment to volunteer service. Nomination forms are available at City Hall and on the City's website [https://www.clewiston-fl.gov/egov/documents/1698783422\\_5932.pdf](https://www.clewiston-fl.gov/egov/documents/1698783422_5932.pdf). Nominations may be emailed to [Kathy.Combass@clewiston-fl.gov](mailto:Kathy.Combass@clewiston-fl.gov), faxed to 863-983-4055, or mailed or hand-delivered to City Hall, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440. Nominations must be received by November 17, 2023.

The City of Clewiston will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 23-24, 2023 for the Thanksgiving Day holiday. All solid waste collection for Thursday, November 23 will be collected on Wednesday, November 22. Collection for Friday, November 24, will be collected as normal.

### **Dates to Remember**

November 10, 2023 – Veterans Day Holiday – City Offices Closed

November 16, 2023 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

November 16, 2023 – Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services Advisory Board Meeting

November 20, 2023 – Clewiston City Commission Meeting

November 21, 2023 – Special Magistrate Hearing

November 23-24, 2023 – Thanksgiving Day Holiday – City Offices Closed

### **Office of the City Manager**

Citizens, business owners & other interested parties:

Wrapping up the first month of the new fiscal year, the City of Clewiston has a significant number of public facility capital improvement projects either underway or slated to begin in the near term. The long awaited and grant funded \$5.6 million C-21 elevated bridge project providing much improved and safer access to the Herbert Hoover Dike and Lake Okeechobee recreation area has progressed to the point it has already been opened up for public use. A most obvious improvement is the panoramic lake view it offers as visitors reach the crest of the bridge. Even more importantly, the safety enhancements this new facility provides are numerous and obvious as all forms of users including vehicles both large and small, bicycles, golf carts and most importantly pedestrians are significantly benefitted. The situation will continue to improve as remaining details of the project are completed in the coming weeks including upgrades to street lighting, necessary revisions to parking areas resulting from the new access alignment, removal of the old S-169 structures along the canal, remaining miscellaneous aesthetic and safety enhancements, as well as, additional

adjustments to bike lanes and pedestrian walkway connections or extensions. The other good news is the completed improvements will not only improve boat launch area parking ingress and egress conditions, but it will also result in a net gain of both boat trailer and vehicle available parking at the facility. Hopefully, early in the new calendar year, the city will be able to plan a celebration of this major infrastructure achievement during which proper recognition of the supporters who helped make it happen can occur. In the meantime, now that the tourism season has begun, the city will continue efforts to work with the marina and other stakeholders and beneficiaries to coordinate and support planned fishing tournaments and related events in Clewiston which will give us the opportunity to showcase progress to date.

Utilizing other major grant funds the city has been successful in receiving this past year, engineers and staff are actively pursuing design, approvals and permits to complete the planned and now funded extension of upgraded water utility lines along the highway 27 corridor to the Airglades Airport site. This project combined with the Hendry County administered grant funded utility project already underway to construct a wastewater force main connected to the city wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and extended along the same corridor route will incent private investment and facilitate economic development in the affected area. Simultaneously with these important utility improvements, the city is now funded sufficiently with additional federal and state grant dollars to proceed with the essential long awaited comprehensive upgrade and expansion of the circa 1980's WWTP facility. The city is already in the process of moving forward with design, permitting and contracting of this most important facility improvement which is key to the Clewiston community's long term future.

These utility projects are currently funded with a combined total of \$24 million in the form of federal and state grants already approved. The city and county are also actively pursuing additional federal and state grant funding of approximately \$16 million to further expand the WWTP as future planned growth from private investment demands over the next several years and to also extend a wastewater force main southeast of the Clewiston city limits to the Hookers Point community and to upgrade aged water utility lines in portions of the Harlem community which the city already serves.

As for other smaller scale projects: the city is nearing completion of the first of several planned grant and donation funded neighborhood playground equipment upgrades; the design is underway for the next phase of the grant funded Royal Palm tree landscape enhancement project along the highway 27 corridor throughout the city limits; and, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the city is pursuing several projects including installation of sidewalk and other safety improvements along and adjacent to portions of the highway 27 corridor within the city and specifically in the vicinity around the Civic Park complex. Other FDOT grant funded major improvements to the streetscape along the high profile "downtown" section of Ventura Avenue from Deane Duff to W. C. Owen are in the planning and design phase with the expectation to be under construction in 2024. Likewise, the city has received a future grant commitment for streetscape improvements along North Francisco Street which will provide enhanced access to the new bridge and lakefront area. The city expects to be able to pursue design and permitting of that project later next year when the approved funding is released. To address the unfunded street

segment between the new C-21 bridge and the future improved section of North Francisco, the city has filed another grant application with FDOT to improve and upgrade that portion of Hoover Dike Road.

Considering these impactful infrastructure improvements, the next couple of years and beyond hold great promise for significantly improved quality of life for the Clewiston community. When combined with already approved and expected private sector development plans and investment in expanded residential, commercial and industrial/warehousing type projects in and around the city, it is truly a bright outlook from my view for this fine community and its deserving citizens and stakeholders.

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 hold our Fall Festival at the Youth Center and in the Sugar Festival Field. We had over 3,000 community residents come out to enjoy the Fall Festival that was held on Saturday, October 7, 2023. Residents who attended enjoyed our largest community event so far! We were thrilled to be able to offer so many free activities for everyone to enjoy. The Fall Festival included a petting zoo, pumpkin patch, inflatables, family games, food trucks, and multiple local organizations and vendors.





Now that school is back in session the Youth Center is back open daily! The hours of operation for students to enjoy our building are 2:30 PM – 6:00 PM Monday – Thursday and 2:30 PM – 5:00 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 at the Youth Center every day after school. Be sure to follow us on Facebook as we have some fun and exciting new clubs starting next month!

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.

Our sports complex team is already beginning the process to prepare the fields for baseball season. While AYSO is still enjoying our beautiful complex we will begin working on the areas that are not being used for practice or games. We are thrilled to see so many families joining the sport and enjoying our field. **If you would like to use the fields or batting cages but have found the gates locked please call the Youth Center to find out how you can gain access.**

We are currently working on renovating our parks! We have begun removing old equipment from parks that are being renovated. Please use caution if you see that your neighborhood park is missing pieces, and visit another one of our playgrounds. We are working as quickly as possible to get all the fun new pieces installed.

We have upgraded our facility rental process to make it a 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.

On top of our wonderful events this past month, our recreation support, maintenance, and sports complex staff has been very busy all across the city! Some things you may have seen and some you may not have, here is what we have been up to this month:

### **Youth Center**

- 120 students enjoyed the Youth Center game room X-boxes, Mac Books, and 3-D Printers throughout the month.
- We have starting offering new freshly cooked snacks for our students!
  - Monday - Pop into the week with fresh popcorn
  - Thursday - Warm your heart with fresh baked cookies
  - Friday - Butter be happy it's Friday and you can enjoy fresh popped popcorn
- The Youth Center and Sugar Festival Field hosted the annual Community Fall Festival for more than 3000 of our residents!
- The Youth Center hosted a pumpkin patch for the entire month for our citizens to enjoy taking family pictures at.
- The Youth Center back room hosted 5 private events this month.
- The Youth Center back room hosted 1 meeting this month.
- The Youth Center back room hosted 1 corporate retirement luncheon this month.
- The Youth Center front room hosted a Little League Board Meeting and vote.
- Daily afternoon Youth Activity Groups continue to meet with new groups being added every month. If you are interested in any of the classes stop by the Youth Center to get more information on how to sign up.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month – 4H hosts cooking classes
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month – DIME mentoring is held
  - Tuesday - Sugar Dolls
  - Wednesday & Thursday - DIME Dance Class
  - Thursday - Boy Scouts
  - Monday, Wednesday, & Friday - Taekwondo classes
- 20 Facility Rental Requests were processed this month.
- Staff landscaped around the facility.
- Staff deep cleaned the outside of the facility including windows and doors.
- Staff assembled popcorn machine for festivals.

- Staff reset the water fountain computer system.
- Staff reset the kitchen breakers.
- Staff cleaned the p-traps in the kitchen.
- Staff installed new lighting in the men’s restroom.
- Staff addressed a leak in the back restroom.
- Staff addressed a plumbing issue in the women’s restroom.
- Staff loaded and delivered 4 pallets of pumpkins for the community pumpkin patch.
- Staff assisted with the placement and setup of hay bales and pumpkins for the pumpkin patch and festival area.
- Staff set up festival area with games, activities, seating, tables, and trash bins for Fall Festival.
- Staff marked and labeled each booth space needed for all festival vendors.
- Staff maintained building, restrooms, and fields during Fall Festival.



**John Boy Auditorium and Beardsley Room**

- The John Boy Auditorium hosted 1 private event this month.
- The John Boy Auditorium hosted 1 political event.
- The John Boy Auditorium hosted 3 corporate events this month.
- The John Boy Auditorium hosted 2 mobile food pantries this month.
- Beardsley Room hosted AYSO for team selection and coaches meeting.
- Staff treated, planted, and maintained the plants and green areas around the building and parking areas.
- Staff trimmed and weeded planters and green areas around the facility.
- Staff cleaned the tile and grout in all areas throughout the building.
- Staff touched up paint throughout the building.
- Staff continues to keep facility ready for upcoming events.

**Parks**

- Sugar Festival Field hosted the Fall Festival, there were more than 3000 attendees.
- Sweetest Town Playground hosted Trunk-or-Treat.
- Sweetest Town Playground and Pavilions hosted 1 private event this month.
- Sweetest Town Playground and Pavilions hosted 2 field trips this month.
- Civic Park hosted 1 private event this month.
- Trinidad Park hosted 5 Sunday Soccer matches.
- Work continued on the new playground at Esperanza Park!
- Staff removed the old playground equipment from Esperanza Park Playground.
- Staff installed the 5 brand new pieces of playground equipment for Esperanza Park Playground.

- Staff painted and repaired the merry-go-round at Esperanza Park Playground.
- Staff painted and repaired the see-saw at Esperanza Park Playground.
- Staff delivered multiple truck loads of sand to the new Esperanza Park Playground area.
- Staff leveled new sand around the new playground equipment at Esperanza Park Playground.
- Staff repaired cracks in the court flooring on Central Park East courts.
- Staff lined and painted 2 pickle ball courts on Central Park East courts.
- Staff replaced tennis nets on both Central Park tennis courts.
- Staff repaired tennis net anchor rings on Central Park West court.
- Staff prepared Sugar Festival Field for the Pink Warriors Run.
- Staff prepared Sugar Festival field for the Fall Festival.
- Staff prepared the Sweetest Town Playground for the Trunk or Treat event.
- Staff continues to inspect all parks, playgrounds, and public areas daily picking up debris and litter so that residents can continue to enjoy a clean and beautiful space.
- Staff trimmed, edged, and weeded to maintain the landscape in Civic Park.
- Staff prepared Civic Park for both CCS and CHS homecoming pictures.
- Staff landscaped the Sweetest Town Playground entrance.
- Staff installed and secured fun bounce at Sweetest Town Playground.
- Staff addressed safety concerns at Civic Park.
- Staff made repairs to sprinkler heads at the boat ramp.
- Staff installed lighting to the front of the Youth Center.
- Staff cleaned and sanitized outdoor restrooms at: Youth Center, Lake Okeechobee Boat Ramp, Sugarland Sports Complex, and Trinidad Park.

#### **Sugarland Sports Complex and Park Pavilion**

- Sugarland Park Pavilion hosted 4 private events this month.
- Staff spent 45 hours removing trash and litter from fields.
- Staff spent 94 hours mowing.
- Staff spent 44 hours weeding.
- Staff spent 24 hours painting the fields.
- Staff spent 12 hours adding and raking clay to baseball fields.
- Staff repaired fencing and soccer nets damaged this month.
- Staff performed maintenance on hydraulic line on the ground master.
- Staff sprayed round up to kill weeds around fencing perimeter and playground area.
- Staff treated grounds for ants.
- Ballfields maintenance crew has been diligently working to maintain the grass and paint field lines for the AYSO season.
- High School girls and boys soccer teams practices have begun at the Sugarland Sports Complex.
- Multiple traveling ball teams have been utilizing the baseball fields for practice.
- Staff cleaned and sanitized all restrooms throughout the park.

#### **C.S. Mott Pool and Splash Pad**

- Both pool pumps were removed to be serviced and replaced.
- 2 new pool pumps were installed.
- The pool was completely drained.
- Pool walls, floor, and filters were acid washed and cleaned thoroughly.
- Staff refilled pool with fresh water.

- Staff deep cleaned the pool deck, locker rooms, and office areas.
- Staff performed maintenance on chemical delivery systems.
- Staff measured and monitored chemical levels of pool water.
- Staff adjusted camera solar panels to keep cameras charged and working properly.
- Staff adjusted cameras on pool deck and splash pad area.
- Staff removed debris from Splash Pad drains.
- Staff cleaned Splash Pad base of dirt and debris.

We are working on organizing more family fun community events, and we would love to know what you would like to see. No idea is too big or small, we want it all from video game tournaments to movies in the park and everything in between. Please send any ideas or recommendations to [lauren.mcginis@clewiston-fl.gov](mailto:lauren.mcginis@clewiston-fl.gov). If you are willing to donate and/or sponsor an event or activity please reach out. We would love to hear from you!

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](mailto:lauren.mcginis@clewiston-fl.gov). We love to see our community enjoying the many spaces we have to offer.

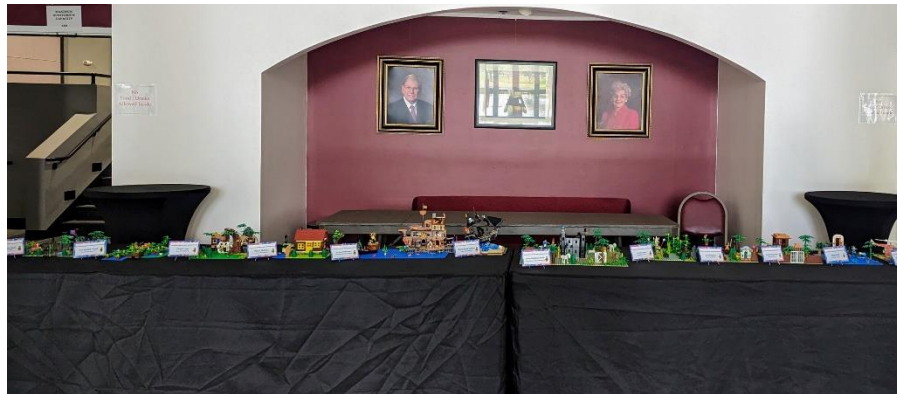
**Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:**

- Library staff provided ready reference/computer assistance, circulation activities, and patron programming to 1, 513 patrons this month.
- This month’s programming activities have included:
  - September was Library Card Sign-up Month and we welcomed 26 new patrons to the Clewiston Library. We cannot wait to see where their imagination and joy of reading takes them. There is nothing more empowering than getting your own library card.
  - The Robotic Mini Golf STEM programs were held on September 13th and September 27<sup>th</sup> with a total of 29 participants.





- Mrs. Mary Thomas, Secretary for the Friends of the Clewiston Library, along with Mrs. Natasha Hayes, Library Director, were able to spend time at the Clewiston High School on September 29<sup>th</sup> in order to relay what services, programs, and help that the library provides to the community. Each student also heard about how the library can help them with their volunteer hours needed for their scholarship applications. Mrs. Hayes also participated at the *Parents University* at the Clewiston Middle School on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Both events were well received and successful as volunteer applications were received in the days that followed along with new patrons signing up for new library cards.
- ***Invited to display our LEGO collection at DOLLY HAND.....??????*** That's correct. We had a great LEGO Bricks Exhibition. The LEGO Brick Builders Club creations were displayed at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center from October 9<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. A big THANK YOU to those who participated.





- The STEM Lab Fossil Dig was held on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Participants learned about how fossils form, as well as how to identify fossil shark teeth by species.



- The Craft Corner: Paint by number programs were held on October 18<sup>th</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup> with a total of 23 participants.




- Thank you to all who attended the Perler Beads program last week. We had so much fun creating spooky designs!
- There were 57 participants who completed the scavenger hunt challenge. Be sure to check out the new theme and solve the missing DINO puzzle.
- The AWE Learning Stations were accessed and used by a total of 77 children. Be sure to stop by and let the kids try the Early Literacy Station. It is designed specifically for youngest patrons ages 2-8 and features over 4,000 localized learning activities.

**HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:**

- **Native American Heritage Month:** The Hendry County Library Cooperative is proud to honor Native American Heritage Month by presenting Mr. Lewis Gopher’s Seminole Indian Presentation. Be sure to visit the Clewiston Library on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**HENDRY COUNTY LIBRARY COOPERATIVE**  
*is proud to honor*  
**Native American Heritage Month**  
*By presenting*  
**Lewis Gopher’s Seminole Indian Presentation**



**Be Sure to visit one of our libraries listed below to enjoy an evening filled with:**

- Facts of the Seminole Indian culture and customs
- Mr. Gopher’s personal life experiences and first-hand account of events
- Historical timeline and stories of the Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Sample a couple traditional, Seminole Indian foods.

**All Ages Welcome! No Sign-ups REQUIRED.**

[www.hendrylibraries.org](http://www.hendrylibraries.org)

**CLEWISTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH  
6:00 PM

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**FLORIDA B. THOMAS LIBRARY**  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH  
6:00 PM

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**BARRON LIBRARY**  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST  
5:30 PM








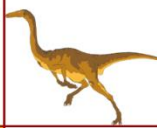







**Clewiston Public Library**  
120 W. Osceola Ave. Clewiston, FL 33440  
Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Florida B. Thomas Library**  
1010 J Harlem Academy Ave. Clewiston, FL 33440  
Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Barron Library**  
461 N. Main St. Labelle, FL 33935  
Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

- **It’s DINOvember!:** Check out our calendar for lots of new programs and events. During the month of November, we will have dinosaur crafts and games, plus a dino hunt, and excavation!

# November 2023 Library Happenings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><b>DINOVEMBER</b> DINOSAURS ARE TAKING OVER THE LIBRARY!</p> <p>Programs and events are subject to change.</p>			1 <b>Book Club</b> 2:00 & 5:15 pm	2 <b>Virtual DINO Photo Contest</b> Submit a dinosaur themed photo for entry in to a drawing for a children's prize. Please send to library@clewiston-fl.gov	3 <b>DINO Egg Hunt</b> 4:00-4:30 pm Ages 3-12	4
5 	6 <b>MANGA Club</b> via Zoom @ 3:30 pm Ages 11-16 Registration Required  <b>Mini Family Photo Session</b> 3:00 - 4:30 pm	7 <b>GAMING Club</b> 3:30 pm Ages 7 & up Please RSVP  <b>Adult LEGO Club</b> 3:30pm  <b>Mini Family Photo Session</b> 3:00 - 4:30 pm	8 <b>STEM: OSMO Learning Games</b> 10:30 am & 3:30 pm Ages 3-10  <b>Mini Family Photo Session</b> 3:00 - 5:00 pm	9 <b>STEAM: Strawbees Dino-mite</b> 3:30 pm Ages 6-12  <b>Mini Family Photo Session</b> 2:00 - 3:00 pm	10  <b>CLOSED</b>	11
12 	13 <b>MANGA Club</b> via Zoom @ 3:30 pm Ages 11-16 Registration Required  <b>Missing Dinosaur Puzzle</b> Ages 6-12	14 <b>GAMING Club</b> 3:30 pm Ages 7 & up Please RSVP   <b>Native American Heritage w/ Mr. Gopher</b> 6:00 pm	15 <b>STEM: OSMO Learning Games</b> 10:30 am & 1:30 pm Ages 3-10  <b>Diamond Painting</b> 3:30 p.m. & 5:00 pm Ages 6 & up	16 <b>LEGOSAURUS Brick Club</b> 3:30 pm  	17 <b>ANIME Club</b> 3:30 pm Ages 11-16  	18 
19	20 <b>Dinosaur Coloring Contest</b> Ages 5-11 1:30 pm  	21 <b>Dinosaur Scavenger Hunt</b> Ages 3-11  	22 <b>Build a Dinosaur</b> Air-dry Clay 10:30 am Ages 4-11 Please RSVP	23  <b>LIBRARY CLOSED</b>	24  <b>LIBRARY CLOSED</b>	25
26	27 <b>MANGA Club</b> via Zoom @ 3:30 pm Ages 11-16 Registration Required  	28 <b>GAMING Club</b> 3:30 pm Ages 7 & up Registration Required  	29 <b>Dinosaur Sleepover</b> 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm  	30 <b>Dinosaur Stomp</b> 3:30-4:45 pm Ages 5-11	<p>For more information or to RSVP, please contact the library at 863-983-1493.</p> <p>Programs provided by Local &amp; State Aid Funding, SWFLN &amp; the Friends of the Clewiston Library.</p>	

- Anime and Manga Club**
  - In-Person (Open to 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.
- Book Club:** Come join the fun our next TWO meetings: Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. to discuss the newest book club title, "A Most Agreeable Murder" by Julia Seales. With lively discussions, this group truly enjoys their meetings as they exchange their thoughts about each new title. New readers are always welcome.
- Gaming & VR Club:** You don't want to miss this! Stop in at 3:30 p.m. every Tuesday for video games. We have Beat Saber, Roller Coaster Ride, 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.
- 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](mailto:library@clewiston-fl.gov) or call 863-983-1493.
- 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.

**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 to Winter Rates. Non-members \$45.00 Plus Tax 18 Holes and \$22.52 Plus Tax for 9 Holes.
- Monday, November 20, 2023, the golf course will be open on Monday's for the season.
- Monday Special 18 holes after 12:00pm \$33.00 plus tax.
- Golf Shop Hours are 7:15am to 5:00pm. The first tee time is 7:30am. Carts are due in at 5:45pm daily.
- 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.
- Central County Water Control District Tournament was October 27, 2023. They had 116 players compete. They raised funds for Montura Youth Camp.
- Sugarland Masonic Lodge Tournament is scheduled for November 4, 2023.
- Clewiston Rotary Tournament is scheduled for November 11, 2023.
- His Vision Our Hands Tournament is scheduled for December 2, 2023.
- Starting in November 15, 2023, work will start on a new irrigation system. The golf course will be open and play will not be interfered with during the irrigation project. The project will last 90 to 120 days.

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

**Community Development Director/Fire Chief Travis Reese reports:**

- Alan Jay Dealership received their Temporary Certificate of Occupancy, which allows them to open their doors to the public very soon.
- Two new triplex developments have received permit approval and will be breaking ground soon. This will bring 6 new apartments to Clewiston.
- Clewiston Fire Department will be making an appearance in the Annual Homecoming Parade with three firetrucks in the procession.
- Clewiston Fire Department was proud to participate in the Annual Trunk or Treat.

Code Compliance Supervisor Debbie Clay reports:

# CITY OF CLEWISTON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

## TEN COMMON CODE VIOLATIONS



## COMMON CODE VIOLATIONS

### 1. YARD MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Maintenance of yards and swales/rights-of-way abutting property are the responsibility of the property owner. The right-of-way must be free of obstructions caused by trees, vegetation, or other objects.

### 2. INOPERATIVE MOTOR VEHICLES

Inoperative and/or derelict vehicles are not permitted. A vehicle is considered inoperative if a current tag isn't displayed and/or it is not fully equipped to legally and safely operate on public streets.

### 3. JUNK, TRASH AND DEBRIS

Junk, auto parts, furniture, trash, tires, building materials, tree trimmings, and any other debris cannot be left in the yard and must be properly disposed of.

### 4. PARKING

Parking is permitted for passenger cars and motorcycles in residential properties only on a legal driveway or in a garage.

### 5. COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT

Commercial equipment and vehicles cannot be parked or stored in a residential area unless they are in a fully enclosed structure.

### 6. MAINTENANCE OF STRUCTURES

Exterior building structures and walls shall be maintained in a secure and attractive manner.

### 7. CONDITION OF STRUCTURES

Any wood, siding, shingles, roof covering, railings, fences, walls, ceilings, porches, doors, windows, screens, and other exterior parts of a structure must be maintained in weather tight, rodent proof, sound condition and in good repair.

### 8. OUTDOOR STORAGE

Outdoor storage is prohibited. You may not keep indoor furniture, household appliances, auto parts, building materials, or any other similar items outside.

### 9. ILLEGAL DWELLING UNITS

Dwelling units added to interior/exterior of a structure without proper permits are illegal regardless of how long they have existed.

### 10. HOME OCCUPATIONS

Home occupations like all businesses shall be licensed and pay applicable business taxes pursuant to Chapter 66 Article III of the City of Clewiston Florida.

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](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](mailto:debbie.mcneil@clewiston-fl.gov)

Debra Clay  
Community Improvement Division

**Police Chief Tom Lewis reports:  
Police Department**

**NEW EMPLOYEE:** Please help us in welcoming our newest Reserve Officer, Mark Lanning. Mark, currently working for Pike Electric as a Lineman, comes to us with previous law enforcement experience and is going to make a great addition to our team while saving the taxpayers money!



**Seeking Neighborhood Watch Participants** – the Police Department is moving forward with starting a neighborhood watch program. There are many benefits to neighborhood watch such as building stronger relationships between the police and the community we serve, residents becoming more educated about police operations, getting help in reducing the risk of crime for you and your neighbors, working together for disaster preparedness, etc. If you are interested in joining our program or learning more, please email Chief Tom Lewis at [Thomas.lewis@clewiston-fl.gov](mailto:Thomas.lewis@clewiston-fl.gov).



October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual campaign to raise awareness about the impact of breast cancer. In an effort to support those in our community who have been affected by this disease or have loved ones who have been affected, we joined the effort to raise awareness by wearing pink badges on our Clewiston Police uniform.



**ACCREDITATION** – Over the last 26 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 report that three subject matter experts from around the state provided our agency with a multi-day mock assessment to better prepare us for the official state assessment. That mock assessment went very well. The dates of December 12-14, 2023 are our official accreditation assessment dates. During this time, the

Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFLA) will send a team of subject matter experts to the Clewiston Police Department for a three-day on-site assessment. 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.



On October 26, 2023, Chief Lewis attended West Side Elementary School's Community Leadership Day. Joined by parents and many other community leaders, the school showcased the students' leadership with presentations, tours of the school, and many student speakers.



On October 27, 2023, Chief Lewis joined Mooreski in the Morning on WAFC Radio to talk about the happenings at the police department as well as upcoming events.

On October 28, 2023, the police department held its annual Trunk or Treat event at Sweetest Town Playground. The well-attended event drew hundreds of kids with food, games, and music. We appreciate all of the vendors, sponsors, donors, and everyone that came out to make the event happen. Next year, we are looking to expand into the park and give more trunks the opportunity to participate.



We would like to wish everyone a very safe Halloween.

## Animal Services

In the month of October 2023, Animal Services reported the intake of more than 52 cats and 38 dogs.

During the past few weeks, Chief Lewis, Commander Brophy, and Commander Levins have been making more improvements to the shelter. Being over-capacity means some pups stay in temporary kennels until they get adopted or rescued. Although we put them in the shade, the concrete can still get hot. So, we treated the entire area with a product that reduces the temperature 20 degrees! In addition, the guillotine door replacement project has been started with about half already replaced. That project is anticipated to be completed in the next two weeks.



We're hiring a Shelter Manager. This newly created position will be directly responsible for the animal shelter operations, supervising the animal control officers, and our kennel tech. For more information, you can visit the city website or call Commander Dan Brophy at (863) 983-1474. If you are interested in the position, you can pick-up an application at City Hall, 115 West Ventura Avenue.



## **Highlighted Training**

During the week of October 2, 2023, Commander Tom Levins attended a first aid instructor course. The course was grant-funded and hosted in Fort Myers at the Southwest Florida Public Safety Academy. This training will prepare the agency to provide first aid/CPR instruction to our employees.

During the week of October 2, 2023, Accreditation Manager Ashley Smith attended the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement's training conference. Chief Lewis also attended portions as the agency prepares to obtain accredited status.

During the week of October 16, 2023, Officer James Estiverne attended Injury and Death Investigations training. The training was hosted in Fort Myers by the Southwest Florida Public Safety Academy and was free to our agency.

On October 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, Fire Medic Adrian Damms and Commander Tom Levins provided training to city staff on CPR, AED, and First Aid.

## **General Services Director Williams reports:**

We're pleased to report our efforts to install smart meters are progressing successfully!

We're deploying new smart electric and water meters as part of our Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) upgrades. These new meters — which are available to our customers at no additional cost and without rate increases — deliver real-time utility usage data to the city. This allows the city to improve response times to get you back online more efficiently. If you would like more information or have any questions about AMI generally, please feel free to call the office at 983-1454.

### **• Electric Crew Activities:**

- replaced bad underground service and transformers for residential customers
- repaired street lights
- repaired timer for lights on tennis courts at Civic Park
- repaired a broken cable at residence
- Disconnected (6) services for contractors to repair meter cans
- Restrung a neutral line on Della Tobias Street
- Installed underground conduit for lighting at new bridge
- Installed underground conduit in Civic Park to rewire park lights

### **• Water Sewer Crew Activities:**

- Repaired numerous (14) valve leaks/water line breaks,
- located buried facilities (9)
- performed Lift Station inspections (50) and made repairs as needed
- staff is working with Hendry County to replace the distribution water line on Della Tobias Avenue
- assisted contractor with the lift station rehabilitation project

- **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](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 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](http://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](http://www.clewiston-fl.gov) or [www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl](http://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl).
  
- **Facility Maintenance:**
  - Installed new playground equipment at Osceola Park
  - Installed memorial plaque at the US 27 flag site
  - Repaired pickle ball courts
  - Air condition repairs (3) and filter replacements in city buildings.
  - Minor plumbing repairs at golf course,
  - Replaced Mott swimming pool pumps and re-plumbed connections.
  - Electrical/Lighting repairs at Civic Park monument area
  - Inspected the city's Christmas decoration wiring and are checking all of the outlets
  - Assisted with set-up for the annual Trunk and Treat event hosted by the Clewiston Police Department.
  
- **Street Division:**
  - Staff spread sand for the new Osceola Park playground
  
  - Ongoing:
    - shopping carts collected and returned to businesses
    - landscape maintenance
    - pot hole repair
    - street signs replaced and guard rails repaired
    - debris removed from streets, catch basins and welcome signs (at east and west terminus of town).
  
- **Solid Waste:**
  - Solid waste and recyclable material collection is ongoing. Solid waste material is transferred to the Ortona transfer station while construction is underway for our local station.

If you'd like to schedule a special pickup service, please call the Public Works Department at 983-1471.

- **Central Garage:**

The City of Clewiston is searching for a qualified Mechanic 1 to perform necessary repairs and routine maintenance of city vehicles. Please visit our website for more information: <https://www.clewiston-fl.gov/>