

For Your Information

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

November 7, 2022

Dates to Remember

November 11, 2022 – Veterans Day – City Offices Closed

November 15, 2022 – Special Magistrate Hearing

November 17, 2022 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

November 21, 2022 - City Commission Meeting

Office of the City Manager

Citizens, Business Owners & Other Interested Parties:

November, 2022 is in full seasonal swing with the traditional moderation of the temperatures, this past weekend's end of daylight savings time, the end of the World Series, the meat of the college and professional football seasons taking shape, the upcoming holiday schedule of Veterans Day and the Thanksgiving Holiday break and most importantly the national, state and local election cycle wrapping up on November 8th. With the local election cycle coming to an end, the city will see the impact of the outcomes on the makeup of the City Commission for the next two years and beyond. All citizens are encouraged to participate and exercise your right to vote.

Local tourism activities and community events are also on the rise this time of year and vehicular traffic already reflects the impacts. The city is beginning to see an uptick in economic development activity as well that will be impactful on the community for years to come. This is an area of high interest and a long time stated priority for local officials. On a smaller scale in this regard, a higher than normal number of real property transactions are or soon will be occurring that have the potential to positively impact on quality of life considerations by expanding the tax base, creating additional job opportunities and providing new and expanded housing, businesses and services to locals. A highlight of this category of development is long vacant buildings and underdeveloped sites are getting much welcomed upgrades, tenants and renewed interest. Additional details on some of these transactions will be forthcoming in future updates.

On a grander scale, the city has already approved or is currently evaluating applications for much needed expansion of housing opportunities for the Clewiston community. The city previously approved a planned unit development (PUD) for Clewiston South located north of the golf course and south of U.S. 27. This project is in the state permitting and engineering phase and is approved for a projected 182 rental apartments, 156 townhomes and 242 single family workforce

level housing units. In a recently requested new permit application, the city is reviewing another PUD project request referenced as Clewiston North & Marina for undeveloped property north of the U.S. 27 right-of-way adjacent to the Walmart site and existing housing to the north back to the canal. This project as proposed would allow for up to 77 rental apartments, 212 townhomes and 561 single family homes. The site includes 67 acres designated for commercial development along U.S. 27 and designates a hotel and marina site adjacent to the canal waterway which would connect back to the lakefront area by boat.

In another important development, the city is currently reviewing an annexation application for property located adjacent to the western boundary of the city north of U.S. 27 adjacent to the railroad right-of-way. The property owners desire to be located in the city and access city utility services. This project is planned for industrial/commercial type development. With the current very limited availability of vacant property within the existing city limits for this type of development, this is another welcome development to provide for future economic development benefits as well.

Although realistically these larger scale projects would likely be developed in phases and take time to realize impacts, it is encouraging that the level of interest has evolved to the point plans are being pursued. This is not coincidental with the city's focus for the past several years to prepare our infrastructure to be able to accommodate this level of development activities. If not, development interest would be tempered with the reality that the city was not prepared to handle growth.

Thank you for your continued interest in the City of Clewiston,

Randy Martin

Staff Reports

Recreation & Leisure Services Director Lauren McGinnis reports:

- We would like to thank everyone who has come out to visit and use the Youth Center since it reopened. We have loved getting to know the students who have enjoyed the new games and electronics.
- Our hours are 2:30 PM – 6:00 PM Monday – Thursday and 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM on Friday. We invited all of our youth to come and check out the brand new board games, books, xbox game systems, and 3D printer at the Youth Center after school.
- We will be partnering with our local high schools to offer free homework help and tutoring throughout the week. If you or your student would like to volunteer please contact us to find out how you can (863) 983-1492.
- We have brand new books, including test prep books for anyone to use and a large selection of board games for teens to enjoy.
- 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.
- Our gaming lounge has a great selection of games on the Xbox game consoles for teens to come check out while enjoying our new couches and bean bags.

- Be sure to follow us on Facebook for up to date information on all events and activities going on at the Youth Center.
- 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 to find out how you can get involved.

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.
- 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.
- Clewiston Golf Course has a driving range. The driving range has lights so you can hit golf balls after (Night Time) hours. Tokens for the range ball machine can be purchased in the golf shop or the Clewiston Police Department after hours.
- 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.

Community Development Director/Fire Chief Travis Reese reports:

- Copart and IAA on SR 835 now have approximately 45,000 flood damaged vehicles at their facility.
- Repairs continue at the Sugarland Plaza, the Seacoast Bank is still running on a generator.
- MCM Paint & Hardware at 321 E. Sugarland Hwy is preparing for demolition.
- Big Lots contractor is continuing their work at the old U Save, including a new fire suppression system.

Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:

- Library staff provided ready reference/computer assistance, circulation activities, and patron programming to 1,322 patrons this month.
- This month's programming activities have included:
 - The Library's Graphic Novel & Manga collections were recently updated with 55+ new titles. New series include The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess, My Hero Academia, Studio Ghibli and the million-copy bestselling Spy x Family. Check out these recently ordered manga series and find something new to read. Place a hold on materials on www.hendrylibraries.org to pick up at the circulation desk!
 - You asked for another Snack Decorating event.... and it was another hit! Snack Decorating was held on Wednesday, October 5th. There were a total of 25 participants.



- There were 29 participants who completed October's scavenger hunt challenge. Be sure to try out our all new autumn themed scavenger hunt!
- Crafternoon: Pumpkin Door Hangers were created on Thursday, October 13th with a total of 17 participants.



- A HUGE thank you to Ms. Mary Thomas for another great painting program. Participants had so much fun painting a "Fall Landscape." Well done painters!



- The library staff would like to thank everyone who came to Mobility Week last Monday, October 24th and thank you to FDOT for teaming up with the Clewiston library and for leading this event!
- We had a blast at our first meeting of the Video Game Club. Make sure to swing by the library if you missed us last week. Congrats to Alex, Roselyn, and Madai for being the top 3 in this month's Mario Kart challenge.
- LEGO Club was held on Thursday, October 27th with a total of 26 builders. This month's challenge was to build a spaceship. Stop by and check out the library's LEGO bricks display. We will have them on display to admire at the library over the next couple of weeks.
 - Thank you to the community and to all of those who have contributed/donated to our Lego collection.
- The Adult Book Club met on October 24th to discuss "Sanibel Flats" written by Randy Wayne White. There were a total of 14 participants.

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

- **Art Club:** Join us on November 1st, November 15th, and November 29th at 3:30 p.m. to paint a 16x20 canvas moon tree landscape! Open to ages 8 and up. Suggested donation of \$5 to help cover cost of supplies. Please register by calling 863-983-1493 or emailing library@clewiston-fl.gov
- **Crafternoon:** Join the fun on Thursday, November 3rd at 3:45 p.m. for Autumn Diamond Painting. Registration is required. Only 12 spaces will be available. Children ages 6+ All materials will be provided. This is a FREE program open to all families.
- **New Library Hours:** The library operating hours will change starting on Wednesday, November 16th to the following schedule:
 - 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.
- **Anime Club**
 - **In-Person (Open to 6th-12th graders):** Anime Club meets every Friday from 3:30 - 4:15 p.m. 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.
- **Scavenger Hunt:** Stop by the library anytime from 3:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. starting Wednesday, November 9th until Wednesday, November 30th for the scavenger hunt around the library!
- **LEGO Builders Club:** LEGO Club meets again on Thursday, November 17th at 3:45 p.m. The library staff continues to bring in additional LEGO kits and building supplies.
- **Video Game Club:** Join us in-person for Super Smash Bro's challenge, a Mario Kart race, or see who can survive the longest in Minecraft! Open to all skill levels. Children ages 8 and up. Please be advised that space is limited. Please call the library for more information.
- **Book Club:** Our Friends of the library has decided on two different books for our December 5th discussion. The 2:00 p.m. group will read the "*Smallest Tadpole's War in the Land of Mysterious Waters*" by Diane Swearingen The 5:15 p.m. group will read "*One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd*" by Jim Fergus.
- 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.
- 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.

Recap of Upcoming Events:

- **Art Club** – Tuesday, November 1st at 3:30 p.m.
- **Crafternoon: Autumn Diamond Painting** – Thursday, November 3rd at 3:45 p.m.
- **Anime Club (In-Person)** – Every Friday at 3:30 p.m.

- **Anime Club Via Zoom** – Every Monday at 3:30 p.m.
- **Medicare 101** – Tuesday, November 8th at 12:00 p.m.
- **Video Game Club (children ages 8 and up)** – Tuesday, November 8th at 3:30 p.m.
- **Scavenger Hunt** – Wednesday, November 9th until Wednesday, November 30th
- **Library Closed** – The library will be CLOSED Friday, November 11th in observance of Veteran’s Day
- **Art Club** – Tuesday, November 15th at 3:30 p.m.
- **Medicare Open Enrollment** – Thursday, November 17th at 10:00 a.m.
- **LEGO Builders Club** – Thursday, November 17th at 3:45 p.m.
- **Video Game Club (children ages 8 and up)** – Tuesday, November 22nd at 3:30 p.m.
- **Library Closed** – The library will be CLOSED on November 24th & 25th for the Thanksgiving Day
- **Medicare Part D** – Tuesday, November 29th at 12:00 p.m.

Code Enforcement Officer Debbie Clay reports:

Prohibited Accessory Structures in all Zoning Districts



City of Clewiston Ordinance

Sec. 110-526. - Accessory structures.

(g) Prohibited accessory buildings and structures

The following are prohibited in all zoning districts for use as accessory structures:

- (1) Tents (when used longer than a two-week period) and frame-type structures covered with tarps or canopies.
- (2) No trucks of any type, truck trailer, or mobile homes.
- (3) Railroad cars, truck vans, converted mobile homes, trailers, recreational vehicles, bus bodies, vehicles and similar prefabricated items and structures originally built for purposes other than the storage of goods and materials.
- (4) Use of accessory storage buildings, structures or cargo containers for living purposes.
- (5) Shipping containers (except on a temporary basis on an active construction site).
- (6) A shipping container may be approved by the planning board for use in the Industrial District and Public District that otherwise meet all requirements of the district regulations, and:
 - a. Building permit required if over 200 square feet;
 - b. Cannot be stacked;
 - c. Cannot contain advertising on exterior;
 - d. Must be maintained in good repair, painted a solid neutral color that blends with surrounding buildings;
 - e. The planning board may require screening from abutting properties and impose such other conditions that protect the character and aesthetics of the surrounding area;
 - f. The fire marshal shall have access to all containers to review contents for hazardous conditions.

(7)Violations—Time to comply. All owners of property within the city shall have 120 days from the effective date of the ordinance from which this section is derived to bring the properties which currently contain accessory storage buildings that are in violation of the terms of section 110-526(g) into full compliance with section 110-526(g).

Our Code Enforcement personnel will begin focused enforcement in December 2022 on this ordinance as well as continued enforcement of all City of Clewiston Ordinance.

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

Police Chief Tom Lewis reports: Police Department

On October 10, 2022, Officer Garza was presented with an award from the state liaison program for efforts in the latest Click-It or Ticket campaign.



On Monday, October 17, 2022, the City Commission approved an agreement with the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. This agreement starts the process of the Clewiston Police Department becoming an accredited agency – ensuring the members of this community that every facet of the department is operating according to best practices and industry standards.



On Saturday, October 22, 2022, the department was proud to provide safety along the Pink Warriors Walk event. The event was a tremendous success.

On October 25, 2022, Chief Lewis, Officer Mixon, and Officer Rodriguez spoke to the 4th graders at Central Elementary School as part of their ‘Government in Action’ where students work hard to gain knowledge on the different levels of government and how they work together to solve community problems.



On October 29, 2022, the department held our annual Trunk or Treat event at Sweetest Town Playground. It was a huge success with attendance numbers higher than before. We would love to give a shout out to our City Manager, City Commissioners, and all of our community supporters that make the event what it is!



Animal Services

In the month of October 2022, Animal Services reported the intake of 2 rabbits, 49 cats, and 71 dogs.

On October 19, 2022, the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine, completed a two-day on-site assessment of Clewiston Animal Shelter. The assessment was voluntary, free of charge, and requested by Chief Lewis to provide an outside, objective assessment of our policies, our facility, our staff, and entire operation.



Highlighted Training

During the week of October 17, 2022, our partners at Hendry County Emergency Management providing training to our entire department on first aid, CPR, AED, PPE and pathogens exposure, and Stop the Bleed trauma response.



Beginning October 17, 2022, Sergeant Willie Roberts attended an 80-hour Line Supervision class hosted at the Treasure Coast Public Safety Academy. This class prepares the new supervisor to motivate employees, create a professional work environment and handle issues related to employees.

During the week of October 24, 2022, Sergeant Tom Levins attended the first of three weeks of the FBI-LEEDA Command Leadership Institute. Topics are based on credibility, command discipline and liability, dealing with problem employees, and leading change within an organization.



During the week of October 24, 2022, Animal Control Officer Anthony (TJ) Coppler attended the Florida Animal Control Association's Animal Control Officer Certification class hosted in Orlando, Florida. This certification is mandated by Florida law and will prepare TJ for his new role.

General Services Director Williams reports:

Grease that is poured down your kitchen sink can cling to the inside of your household plumbing and the pipes that make up our Sewer System. Over time, the grease can build up so much that it clogs pipes completely. When wastewater can't move freely through the sewer system due to a blockage, it can cause flooding and even a Sewer Backup into your home! By disposing of household grease properly, you can help avoid expensive repairs and unnecessary disruptions to residences and businesses.

- **Electric Crew Activities:**
 - removed old conductor wires and a transformer at the Sugarland Plaza , replaced old cross arm on pole
 - removed unneeded service poles behind local business,
 - installed transformer on new pole located on W.C. Owen Avenue
 - cleared vegetation from power easement at golf course
 - assisted water/sewer crew to install two pumps
 - replaced underground service at customer’s residence,
 - repaired street lights
 - straightened three poles on feeder line
 - expanded underground electric service at Civic Park.

- **Water Sewer Crew Activities:**
 - Repaired or replaced lift station pumps,
 - repaired numerous water line breaks,
 - monitored 51 lift stations to prevent any sanitary spills.

- **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:**
 - Completed damage assessments to city facilities in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.
 - Repaired four air conditioners.
 - Assisted Ball Field crew to prepare the Soccer fields for the upcoming High School soccer season and the AYSO league.
 - Completed minor roof repairs to the Clewiston Performing Arts Center building.
 - Repaired a broken water pipe at the Fire Department and made sprinkler repairs at City Hall.
 - Touched up the paint for the Electric Superintendent’s new office.

- Repaired the back door buzzer in the Central Warehouse.
 - Repaired a water fountain at the Pro Shop, replaced a broken window in the ladies' locker room, and made minor plumbing repairs at the golf course.
 - Pumped out the lift station and separator and made electrical repairs to the Animal Services facility.
- **Street Division:**
 - Hurricane Ian debris has been removed from our streets and disposed of by the contractor.
 - Installed two trees in the front of Animal Services facility.
 - Maintained grounds keeping of our City properties, including the substation and mosquito control stations.
 - Maintained our neighborhood street signs.
 - Installed the fall banners along Bond Street, constructed and removed the stage for the Homecoming Parade.
 - Assisted the set up for the Police Departments Trunk or Treat event.
- **Solid Waste:**
 - Solid waste collection has returned to normal collection routes, but hauling to the Belle Glade transfer station continues, while our local transfer station is repaired. Some waste is temporarily being stored at the public works compound. Continued running our collection routes,
- **Ball Fields:**
 - Fields are being readied for the upcoming High School soccer season.
- **Recreation:**
 - The Sweetest Town Playground sign has been restored and returned to the park for display.
 - Local students volunteered to mulch Civic Park.
 - All City parks, including the Splash Pad and the John B. Boyd Auditorium are maintained for your safe recreational enjoyment.
- **Central Garage:**
 - Fleet vehicles are kept operational, despite current supply chain difficulties.
 - Performed emergency generator maintenance on all city units to ensure proper operation as needed.