

For Your Information

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
November 20, 2020

Dates to Remember

November 26-27, 2020 - Thanksgiving Holiday – City Offices Closed
December 17, 2020 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting
December 21, 2020 – City Commission Meeting
December 24-25, 2020 – Christmas Holiday – City Offices Closed

Office of the City Manager:

Citizens, Business Owners & Other Interested Parties:

As I reported in this space last month, consistent improvement in local COVID-19 infectious disease data began in September. This trend continued throughout much of the month of October. Daily confirmed cases averaged in the single digits at a pace of slightly over 3 cases per day in September, but crept up to over 5 cases a day throughout October. For perspective, this was much improved from July numbers showing an average increase of over 20 cases per day and August when new daily cases averaged over 10. Unfortunately, in similar vein to statewide trends of late, the daily confirmed positive cases are again rising in November at a pace of just under 9 per day as of this writing.

I do not intend to prematurely sound the alarm, but I have communicated my concerns to the City Commissioners and staff this week that I believe it is important that everyone remain diligent in efforts to collectively adhere to Center for Disease Control (CDC) updated guidance in both our professional and personal lives to protect all citizens, ourselves and our shared local common interests. The facts are that our nation, state, county and city remain under a state of emergency directly related to the pandemic challenges we collectively face. The most recent update from the FDOH shows Hendry County with 2,401 confirmed cases accumulated over the past 8 months. There have been 45 deaths and 220 people hospitalized in the County to date.

Hendry County has maintained a high positivity rate of COVID-19 among those tested for the virus, and available testing efforts continue to be provided by the Florida Department of Health (FDOH). Everyone should utilize these resources when needed especially until an approved vaccine is readily available to citizens which will hopefully start a trend toward minimizing the threat this virus continues to pose. It is encouraging that local FDOH efforts have in recent months effectively controlled many of the sources of spikes in cases which were identified early

in the spring and summer as related to institutional facilities such as assisted living and other public facilities and private industry particularly some ag related which relied heavily on migrant workers. It is further encouraging that local schools have been able to continue to offer an in-person option for students that has not thus far resulted in any major outbreaks or forced the schools to revert back to online options only. It appears cases are rising primarily due to household spread and gatherings which makes it even more challenging considering the upcoming holiday season. With this in mind, the FDOH has recently published their “Tips For A Safe And Healthy Holiday Season” which is copied below for your information. Be Safe and follow CDC guidance.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2020

Contact:

Communications Office

NewsMedia@flhealth.gov

[\(850\) 245-4111](tel:(850)245-4111)

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OFFERS TIPS FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON

TALLAHASSEE— As Floridians prepare to celebrate the holidays with family and friends, it's important for residents and visitors to take precautions to keep everyone safe. The Florida Department of Health (Department) is actively planning for the distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine, making it more important than ever for Floridians to take precautions in their everyday life to mitigate the spread of the virus. This holiday season, the Department offers these health and safety recommendations.

Protecting Yourself from COVID-19 During Gatherings and Celebrations

- All individuals should wash their hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer frequently.
- If someone feels ill during the holiday season, get tested for COVID-19 and avoid going out in public or being around at-risk individuals.
- Older adults or persons with certain medical conditions who are at [increased risk of severe illness](#) from COVID-19, or live or work with someone at increased risk of severe illness, should avoid in-person gatherings with people who do not live in their household.
- Consider hosting an outdoor gathering rather than an indoor gathering.
- Guests who have traveled from other areas or towns should distance themselves from people who are 65 or older and people of any age who have underlying health issues such as lung or heart disease.
- Hosts entertaining at home should make sure frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected before and after gatherings.

Flu Vaccination

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that everyone six months and older get a flu vaccine every year. For more information: [FluFreeFlorida.com](https://www.flufreeflorida.com).
- People should be vaccinated at least two weeks before traveling because it can take a few weeks for vaccine immunity to develop.
- Flu vaccines are offered at health care providers' offices, clinics, county health departments, pharmacies, schools and college health centers: [VaccineFinder.org](https://www.vaccinefinder.org).

Holiday Travel

- People who are sick should not travel—even if symptoms are mild, infection can spread to others.
- Everyone traveling by car should wear seat belts and adults should check that infant and child car seats are properly installed.
- If you are traveling from Florida to another state on a commercial flight, wear a mask and social distance as much as possible. If you feel ill upon return, get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible.

Food Safety

- Handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds (or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol) before and after preparing, serving and eating food is key to food safety.
- Frozen turkeys can defrost at a safe temperature using one of these methods: in a leak-proof container in the refrigerator; in a leak-proof plastic bag in a sink of cold water (water should be changed every 30 minutes), or in the microwave, following the microwave manufacturer's instructions. Never defrost meat at room temperature.
- Cross contamination of foods causes illness—separate utensils, cutting boards and plates used for raw meats from other foods.
- Food thermometers are the best way to confirm that a food is cooked to a safe temperature.
- Hot foods should be kept hot and cold foods cold.
- Leftovers should be refrigerated within two hours of eating.

Fire Prevention

- Fireplaces, space heaters, candles and food cooking on stoves or ovens should not be left unattended.
- A clearance of 3 feet kept around heat sources—fireplaces, air vents, space heaters—is safer.
- The manufacturers' instructions for connecting Christmas light strands should be followed.
- Christmas trees should be watered daily—dry pine needles are fire hazards.

Injury Prevention

- Carbon monoxide poisoning is 100% preventable—generators, grills or other gasoline or charcoal-burning devices should not be used inside the home or garage.
- Step stools or ladders that are locked and placed on a level surface should be used when hanging decorations.
- Fireworks are safety hazards that can burn people and houses, and terrify pets—the safer choice is to exclude fireworks from celebrations.
- Bicycle or skateboarding helmets help prevent the most serious types of head and brain injuries.

Healthy Habits for the Holidays

- Smaller servings of favorite foods that are high in fat, salt and sugar can be balanced with healthier options like lean meats, whole grains, vegetables and fruits.
- Physical activity helps keep weight in check during the holidays: adults should be active for at least 2½ hours a week, and at least 1 hour a day is ideal for children and teens.

About the Florida Department of Health

The Florida Department of Health, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#). For more information please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.

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

Randy Martin

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- A trend has been emerging among the citizens of Clewiston. New pools, new roofs, and new solar panel installations seem to be on the rise in the past few weeks. Our department has had 6 new pool permits, many new roof permits, and three new solar panel installations in the last two weeks.
- A new exciting restaurant will be open in the next month. Staghorn Kitchen will be located in the old Dixie Fried Chicken/Jalapeno's 2 building on the corner of Francisco and Sugarland Hwy. The Owner and Building Department have been working closely together to get Staghorn Kitchen up and cooking.

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- *Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be **no solid waste service offered on Thursday, November 26th**. This service will be provided on Friday, November 27th. Please remember to place your carts out early Friday morning and please only offer what will fit in the can.*
- Construction work on the Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) project authorized and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues. Progress recently allowed the contractor to authorize the city to restore public access to the "inside" boat ramp. City crews in recent days have been preparing this area for limited public access and use. The entire lakefront area continues to have construction traffic, so visitors are encouraged to exercise caution when entering and exiting the area. HHD levee access to the picnic table recreation area remains closed until further notice while ongoing construction activities continue to occur. The dike wall project contractor expects to release the picnic area to the city for public access in December, 2020.
- The Pool and Splash Pad are closed until further notice.

- Mosquito Control Trap Counts:

	10/2	10/7	10/14	10/21	10/27
Okeechobee Blvd.	1200	900	900	148	700
Public Works	30	200	118	100	100
Saginaw	500	300	400	200	300
Golf Course	1200	500	700	1000	500
Sports Complex	100	185	155	30	200

Ground Missions: October 2, October 15 and October 30

Air Missions: October 10, October 21 and October 23

- **Grant & Project Updates:**

- Clewiston has been awarded a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant for new sidewalks on Laurel, DeSoto, Deane Duff and El Paso.
- New sidewalk projects from Wendy’s to San Luiz, San Luiz to Alverde & McDonalds to Berner Road funded by FDOT are being planned with projected construction start dates of FY 2022/2023.
- The Ventura Avenue Rebuild Project is scheduled for 2021 construction. All reviews have been done and 100% plans are ready. We are currently working on the bid documents.

- **Parks Department Activities:**

- New player benches and sun protection at the Trinidad Soccer Field are complete.
- The basketball half court at Olympia and El Paso has been overlaid with asphalt. After one month of curing time, it will be painted in Tiger colors.
- Activity in the Sports Complex is starting to pick up as we get ready for high school soccer and little league baseball and softball seasons.
- DAVCO Lighting did an inspection of the lighting systems and submitted a quote to replace several lamps and ballasts, straighten two poles and adjust all fixtures that are out of place. The work will be begin soon.
- Staff relocated the high school soccer field to the football stadium.
- The Elks are having their annual Turkey Shoot at the property just south of the railroad tracks on Francisco.
- A fence contractor is installing a 12 foot gate in the north fence of the Sports Complex as part of the preparations to address some ADA issues.
- Ridgill & Son sent equipment and an operator into the Sports Complex to cut down the build-up between the infield and outfield along the base paths at select locations.

- **Street Division Activities:**

- Pot holes were addressed several times over the past few weeks. They keep popping up with all the rain. Please call 863-983-1471 if you see any so that we can fix them quickly.
- The Clewiston Drainage District pulled down the canals so the City’s engineer could inspect the culverts under the streets. Twenty-two of thirty culverts were inspected. A report on their condition is being prepared. The Clewiston Drainage District also removed build-up material 100 feet back from culvert openings.
- New sod was installed around the new golf course sign. This completes the last element of this project.

- Staff will be dedicated to decorating Clewiston for the Holidays. The target date for lighting is the day before Thanksgiving.
- I'm happy to report that our street sweeper is back in service. The first stop was the boat basin where we picked up eight tons of sand and debris.
- Staff cleaned up, painted and removed water vegetation from the boat ramp on the lake side of the levee.
- **Facility Maintenance:**
 - Staff fashioned “sneeze guards” for use between Commissioners on the dais in the chambers.
 - Staff has made contact with a gutter contractor about installing rain gutters along the roof line on the west wall of the Utilities building and across the front of the Community Development building.
 - The High School Art Club is ready to start the new mural on the east wall of the pool in the Splash Pad area. Winnie the Pooh is the theme this time around.
 - Two water fountains were replaced in the Sports Complex with new ones.
- **Special Events:**
 - The City cosponsored with U.S. Sugar a “Drive Through Trick-or-Treat” candy give-away event on Saturday, October 31st between 5:00p and 7:00p in front of the John Boy Auditorium. Members of the Police Explorers and the High School Public Service Academy were on hand helping in every way. 900 bags of candy were given away that night. Thank you to all that helped make this event a success.
 - Staff set up the route for the Clewiston Tiger Homecoming Parade on Friday, October 30th. Barricades were set out, the judge's stage was set in place and the route was policed for litter and debris.

Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:

- The Clewiston Public Library is open for regular business and recreational needs. Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty of the pandemic our hours of operation and opening procedures remains follows.
 - Open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. daily. This will allow staff the opportunity to empty the drop box, sanitize returned items, and open branch safely in the morning while allowing an hour in the afternoon to provide an in-depth cleaning of the facility of our high touched surfaces and opportunity to empty the return bin again.
 - Phone assistance for reference questions and help with placing holds for materials is available Monday through Friday from 9a.m- 5p.m.
 - Masks required for entry
 - No in-person or group meetings/programs at this time
 - Practice social distancing at all times
 - Return of all materials will occur at the book drop box outside
 - All materials will be quarantined for three days prior to being checked in and returned to shelves
 - All library fines that have accrued during the pandemic time period will be waived until further notice
 - Study rooms, newspapers, and magazines are currently unavailable (duplicate newspapers are available for keeping on a first come, first served basis)

- Staff is continuing to do an amazing job with creating the libraries digital arts and crafts programs as well as keeping our Facebook page updated and full of fun things to do and read. This week, the digital craft was “Paper Crafting Club”. All materials for the event were provided by the library in the form of a small kit. Patrons pick up the kits on a designated day and time to ensure contactless transactions. Patrons then created the craft on their own.
- Staff is doing a wonderful job with bringing stories live through our virtual storytimes. All events are listed on our Facebook page.
- 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.
- On Thursday, October 29th, the Library Advisory Board met.
- Patrons can join in on our virtual LEGO Club each Thursday at 4:30p.m.
- Patrons can continue to join in on our virtual storytime each weekday at 10:30a.m. & at 2:30p.m.
- Our upcoming virtual events for the month of November are "The Origami Club" Wednesday Nov.10th at 4pm, "The Sewing Club" Wednesday Nov. 18th at 4pm, and "Virtual Craft and Chat" Wednesday Nov 25th at 4pm. Each event is full of fun and excitement for our patrons.

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush reports:

- Get all information of what’s going on at Clewiston Golf Course Facebook.
- Get on our E-mail list by going to the City of Clewiston Website. Go to the golf course division and at the bottom of the page you can sign-up on Constant Contact and get all Clewiston Golf Course information.
- Golf Shop Hours are 7:15am-5:00pm. The first tee time is 7:30am.
- Golf Carts have to be in at 5:45pm.
- Walking play is permitted all day at the golf course now.
- Clewiston Golf Course has a driving range. The driving range has lights which means you can hit golf balls after (Night Time) hours. Tokens for the range ball machine can be purchased in the golf shop or at the Clewiston Police Department after hours.
- Golf lessons are available at the club from PGA Professional Robbie Rush. Contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- The Clewiston Golf Course offers very competitive pricing on all golf gear the golfer needs.
- **For more information, call the golf shop at 863-983-1448.**

Code Enforcement Officer Debbie Clay reports:



**ACCESSORY
STRUCTURES**



Sec. 18-245. - General requirements for the exterior and interior of structures.

(q) Accessory structures. Garages, storage buildings, and all other accessory structures shall be maintained and kept in good repair and sound structural condition.

(Code 1982, § 6-397; Code 1999, § 18-589; Ord. No. 93-01, pt. 1, 3-15-1993)

If you have any questions you may contact the Community Improvement Division at:
141 Central Avenue, Clewiston Utilities Building.

The public is encouraged to report code violations by contacting us at the above address, calling 983-1454 extension 309 or online at:

<https://www.clewiston-fl.gov/egov/apps/action/center.egov>

Utilities Director Danny Williams reports:

Preventative maintenance work at the Electric Distribution Substation is scheduled for the week of November 30th. During this time, temporary interruptions of service may occur between the hours of midnight and 5:00 am. The work will be performed at night to minimize the inconvenience to our customers.

Clewiston Utilities strives to provide safe, reliable power to our customers. This maintenance work will help to ensure that our system is resilient, and to prevent unplanned outages that can be far more disruptive and costly.

- **Electric Crew Activities**
 - Removed old lighting arresters on 138kV Transformer and installed new ones,
 - installed three phase transformer for new restaurant on Sugarland Highway,
 - installed new service at 924 Virginia Ave.,
 - repaired underground service to lights at John Boy Auditorium,
 - disconnected service at 835 E Alverde Avenue and 325 E Pasadena for contractor repair,
 - restored service at 900 block of Sawgrass Avenue,
 - removed vegetation from power lines,
 - repaired street lights,
 - replaced flag pole rope at new police headquarters,
 - tightened and installed distribution pole “guy guards”,
 - replaced pole damaged by car crash,
 - changed three cross arms and straightened two poles near fairgrounds,
 - repaired tennis court lights
- **Water Sewer Crew Activities**
 - Repaired three water breaks;

- Repaired pumps at three lift stations- failures caused by a combination of heavy rainfall and non-flushable material in the collection system;

Installation of emergency diesel bypass pumps at two of our critical sewer collection lift stations is underway. The project is designed to prevent spills during power outages, as well as comply with Florida Department of Environmental Protection Rules. \$108,460 of the project cost will be funded with the city's State Revolving Fund loan and grant funds.

- **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>.
- The public Utilities building drive-through service will remain open to customers during normal office hours.
- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom of the City's website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.
- *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.