

# City Contacts

- Building Department 850-248-0634
- Community Services
  - Parks & Grounds 850-248-0551
  - Sports & Recreation 850-248-0171
  - Animal Ctrl./Shelter 850-265-4699
- Customer Service Center 850-265-2121
  - Utility Billing Ext. 2109
- Development & Planning 850-248-0708
- Economic Development 850-248-0701
- Facility Maintenance 850-248-0636
- Fire Department 850-265-7335
- Human Resources 850-248-0507
  - Risk Management 850-248-0507

- Police (non-emergency) 850-265-4111
  - Code Enforcement 850-265-4111
- Public Works 850-265-5989
  - Garbage Pickup 850-265-2121
  - Ext. 2507
- Cemeteries 850-265-5989
- Utilities Department 850-265-0087

## Upcoming Bid Openings

\*Please visit [CityofLynnHaven.com/Bids.aspx](http://CityofLynnHaven.com/Bids.aspx) for more information.

# OUR CITY COMMISSIONERS



**Jamie Warrick**  
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**Sam Peebles**  
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**Vickie Gainer**  
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“Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere who bravely bears his country’s cause.”

- Abraham Lincoln

## Coast Guard Community



The City of Lynn Haven was honored to celebrate the designation of Bay County as the 31st Coast Guard Community on Oct. 27, 2023. Lynn Haven City Commissioner Jamie Warrick presented a key to the city to the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Admiral Linda Fagan. The community of Bay County, FL shares a special and unique history with the Coast Guard and has provided a home for our members and their families since 1933. The City of Lynn Haven is grateful to continue to support our heroes as a Coast Guard Community!



Progressively enriching our community’s quality of life by providing consistent and transparent customer service to our residents.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL RECAP
- MAYOR’S MESSAGE
- CITY UPDATES
- BUSINESS COLUMN
- LH RECREATION
- BOARD VACANCIES
- COAST GUARD COMMUNITY
- CITY CONTACTS
- BID OPENINGS
- OUR CITY COMMISSIONERS

### MEETING SCHEDULE

Planning Commission Meeting

Dec. 5th, 2023 @ 5:30 PM

City Commission Meeting

Dec. 12th, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

All meetings are open and available to the public to attend at the Lynn Haven City Hall Meeting Chambers located at 825 Ohio Ave., Lynn Haven, FL 32444. Times, locations, & dates are subject to change. Visit the city website for the most current information, meeting locations, and agendas.

## DECEMBER 2023 VOL. 1, ISSUE 11

# 2023 Halloween Carnival and Trunk or Treat Recap



Our Annual Halloween Carnival and Trunk or Treat was a huge success! We had a great turnout of patrons from around Bay County that joined the City of Lynn Haven to celebrate Halloween at Sharon Sheffield Park.

The Halloween Carnival is a family-friendly event and is always free to the public. Nearly 40 trunks from around



Bay County lined up on the outskirts of Sharon Sheffield Park to offer kids and families a safe place to trick-or-treat on Halloween while enjoying carnival games from local businesses and organizations. In addition, there were food trucks, face painting, balloon artists, stilt walkers, axe-throwing, photo opportunities and lots of candy – for everyone to enjoy!

We thank everyone who participated in the Halloween activities and dressed up to help create a festive environment around Sheffield Park! With a growing number of attendees each year, about 8,000 people were in attendance.

Lynn Haven City Manager Vickie Gainer shares that the Halloween Carnival symbolizes the strong community in Lynn Haven. After Hurricane Michael, this event brought many residents together who had lost so much to celebrate and thrive in the face of hardship. Gainer states, “Our Halloween Carnival is always a family-fun night for children, friends, and neighbors of Lynn Haven to enjoy. We are excited to provide an event that highlights our

community and the wonderful families who live here.”

The city is proud to continue to host the annual Halloween Carnival and Trunk or Treat. Shout out to our event sponsors: Dewberry Engineers, Panhandle Engineering, and Dog Academy.



Thank you to everyone who joined us, we hope you all enjoyed your Halloween!



- 12/2 Christmas Parade
- 12/16 Art in the Park
- 12/22 Christmas Eve Observed (City Offices Closed)
- 12/25 Christmas Day (City Offices Closed)
- 12/26 Day after Christmas (City Offices Closed)
- 1/1 New Year’s Day (City Offices Closed)



**“We are greater, together”**

## Mayor Nelson’s Message

Hello Lynn Haven,

I’m sure we will hear our favorite Christmas songs blasting over the speaker systems as we complete our Christmas shopping. Unfortunately, because of our climate in Northwest Florida, we probably will not see much or any snow this Christmas. However, the absence of snow does not dampen the Christmas spirit in my home because we know Christmas is not about snow but the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

This is a short story of Christ’s birth. His mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, but before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly, but an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said,

“do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. When the baby was born, Joseph named him Jesus. That’s the Christmas Story: Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit to save us from our sins.

Celebrating Christmas may be different for other families; however, Christmas should be a season of caring and sharing. We should be caring for those that cannot care for themselves. Of course, we should do this throughout the year, but Christmas cannot be the most wonderful time of the year if we are not caring for those that cannot care for themselves. This group includes children and seniors. So how can you care for a child or senior this Christmas? Our

community offers numerous caring and sharing opportunities. For example, you can care and share through toy drives, Angel Trees, Anchorage Children’s Home, the Salvation Army, and assisted living and nursing home facilities. For the past couple of years, I have organized Santa for Seniors which provides Christmas gifts for Seniors in the community. I look forward to sharing the joy of Christmas by caring for Seniors in our community. I hope you will be an elf this year and help with Santa for Seniors. You can text me or email me for more information on donating to Santa for Seniors. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sharing the Joy of Christmas,

Mayor Jesse L. Nelson

mayor\_jnelson@cityoflynnhaven.com

850-774-4883



## BUSINESS COLUMN

The Lynn Haven Corners Shopping Center sits at 2310 Highway 77; this shopping center features many options whether it’s eating a nice lunch, picking up groceries, or handling business. Check out all the shops included in Lynn Haven Corners!

- 1 Publix**  
(850) 271-6180
- 2 H&R Block**  
(850) 271-9037
- 3 Beef O’ Brady’s**  
(850) 271-0064
- 4 Firehouse Subs**  
(850) 271-3330
- 5 Tacos Way**  
(850) 277-0337
- 6 Super Cuts**  
(850) 277-0055
- 7 Florida Nail Spa**  
(850) 271-9433
- 8 OneMain Financial**  
(850) 265-3011
- 9 The UPS Store**  
(850) 271-6180
- 10 China Wok**  
(850) 265-0888
- 11 Cher’s Hallmark Shop**  
(850) 265-2824



# LYNN HAVEN RECREATION

Don’t forget! The next Art in the Park is scheduled for Saturday, December 16th featuring canvas painting in the park. If you are interested in participating in this FREE event, come out to Sharon Sheffield Park on December 16th from 9-12PM. There will be food trucks, yard games, and music and all supplies will be provided while they last. Be sure to follow our Facebook Page or website for announcements with additional details.

It’s been a productive fall season for Lynn Haven Sports & Recreation! We’ve been fortunate to partner with many local and regional baseball and softball programs to help our youth athletes enhance their playerskills. A big shout out to Gulf Coast State College Athletics, USA Baseball, 5 Star Mafia Gulf Coast Baseball and Softball, and the Gulf Coast Riptides for helping host our fall baseball and softball camps.

In other news, the Lynn Haven sports department is preparing for several upcoming winter leagues: Youth Flag Football, Adult Co-ed Softball, Youth Volleyball, and Adult Volleyball. For flag football, games will begin in early January on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at A.L. Kinsaul Park. For Adult Co-ed Softball, the season begins in early December and runs through late January. For Youth Volleyball, the league runs from Jan. 8 through Feb. 16th, and for Adult Volleyball the season will begin in later January. Be sure to get your teams together if you are interested in competing this season and follow registration announcements on all leagues through our Facebook page or www.LynnHavenSports.com.

Swing into sports & recreation with the City of Lynn Haven!



Gulf Coast State College Athletics held a baseball and softball skills camp on Oct. 16 & 17th at the City of Lynn Haven Ballparks

## CITY UPDATES

### Dizzy Dean Names Florida State Director



Our very own Sports & Recreation Director Justin Ward was named Florida State Director of Dizzy Dean Baseball and Softball on Nov. 7, 2023. As Florida State Director of Dizzy Dean, Ward will be responsible for coordinating sites for state tournaments while working alongside Dizzy Dean board members from across the state to determine where franchised leagues can bid for tournaments. The City of Lynn Haven is extremely proud that Justin has earned this honor and cannot wait to see what he has in store as the newest Florida State Director of Dizzy Dean Baseball and Softball!

### Top 10 Safest Cities in Florida

According to an article on MovingWaldo.com, Lynn Haven takes the #6 spot on the list of safest cities to live in Florida. There is an incredibly low crime rate in this city. The violent crime rate is 11.50 per 1,000 people, which is 47.07% lower than the average violent crime rate in Florida. Lynn Haven is great for families as they can spend their day fishing, swimming, water skiing, and surfing. If you’re not into water sports, there are plenty of golfing, hiking, and biking opportunities. Shout out to the Lynn Haven Police Department for their hard work and keeping our community one of the safest in the State of Florida!!

### Now Open in Lynn Haven

There’s a new burger joint in town! That’s right, Checkers is now open in Lynn Haven, offering a wide variety of burgers, hot dogs, milkshakes and much more at this new drive-in diner. The new location held its grand opening celebration



and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 7, 2023. Checkers in Lynn Haven sits at 2803 Highway 77 and operates seven days a week from 10AM to 1AM. Be sure to stop by for lunch or dinner and to check out their classic menu.



## Board Vacancies:

### Beautification & CRA Advisory Board

**Beautification Board (x3)**  
The city beautification board studies, investigates, and recommends to the city commission plans for:

- (1) Improving the beauty and cleanliness of the city;
- (2) Encouraging the planting and preservation of trees, shrubs, plants, flowers and other foliage by the city;
- (3) Protecting songbirds and their habitat;
- (4) Meeting with and recommending plans to organizations and groups

in the city interested in the beautification of the city.

All studies, plans and recommendations of the board shall be made to the city manager-clerk for consideration and presentation to the city commission.

**CRA Advisory Board (x1)**  
The CRA Advisory Board was created to draft, rank, and recommend a list of CRA specific projects for each fiscal year to the CRA Board, along with any

other tasks that the board may assign from time to time. Members of the advisory board shall reside within the city, be a business owner within the CRA area, or be a representative of an organization that is located within the CRA area. The board typically meets every three months or as needed by the CRA Board.

For more information or questions, contact Ben Janke at [bjanke@cityoflynnhaven.com](mailto:bjanke@cityoflynnhaven.com)

## SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

Have feedback on this issue of Lynn Haven Living? We would love to hear from you, email [communications@cityoflynnhaven.com](mailto:communications@cityoflynnhaven.com).