

*For Your Information*

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF  
August 18, 2023

**Dates to Remember**

August 21, 2023 – City Commission Meeting and Budget Workshop  
August 28, 2023 - City Commission Budget Workshop  
August 30, 2023 – Clewiston Firefighter Pension Board Meeting  
September 4, 2023 – Labor Day Holiday – City Offices Closed

**Office of the City Manager**

Citizens, business owners & other interested parties:

Work continues to progress on the new C-21 bridge project which will provide a much improved regulatory compliant and safe access to the Herbert Hoover Dike and lakefront recreation areas. The project construction is expected to be entirely complete in December, 2023. At the present time, access to portions of the recreation area have been intermittently disrupted due to the construction activities. Upon completion of asphalt paving and grading elements in the very near future, disruptions should be minimized. Once the new elevated bridge is opened for access, the South Florida Water Management District will undertake the removal of the existing S-169 at grade crossing. This will necessitate additional activities to modify boat ramp access and parking areas as necessary to adjust to the new traffic patterns for the area. In the meantime, as the new fall season nears, fishing tournament activity and other events occurring at the venue will still be occurring and adjust as necessary to accommodate all the activity. The City is excited about the changes and will continue to work with the contractors engaged in the activities to minimize adverse impacts on access until all related activities are completed. In advance, the City appreciates your patience and understanding as the project moves toward completion.

The City Commission and staff are working hard to complete the annual operating and capital budget preparation process. A series of workshops and meetings have been underway since July and will continue through portions of September before the Commission approves the annual budget appropriations for the new fiscal year which begins October 1, 2023 and provides the funding for services and activities of the City through September 30, 2024. Citizen input is encouraged and desired in the budget development process, so be sure to check out the meeting schedule and updates on the proposed budget on the City's website.

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

Randy Martin

**Staff Reports**

**Recreation & Leisure Services Director Lauren McGinnis reports:**

BACK TO SCHOOL 2023 kicked off with a bang! We held our first GLOW SWIM and it was a blast. We had so much fun celebrating back to school with everyone as we made the pool glow. We had over 200 people at the party, even when we hit capacity we appreciated everyone who waited in line to get it. It was a fun night that we are looking forward to doing again!



We have continued to see the community coming out to enjoy the pool. As the school year gets going we are adjusting our hours. We are now offering ADULT ONLY swim times, as well as our normal public swim. If you haven't come out to enjoy the pool, stop by and have some fun.

**POOL HOURS**

**With school back in session our hours are changing!**

<b>Adults Only Swim:</b>	<b>Public Swim:</b>
Monday: Pool Closed	Monday: Pool Closed
Tuesday: Pool Closed	Tuesday: Pool Closed
Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Wednesday: 3:00 - 7:00 PM
Thursday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Thursday: 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Friday: 3:00 PM - 6:00PM
	Saturday: 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
	Sunday: 1:00 PM - 6:00PM

**Pool Admission:**  
\$5 per person  
3 years and younger free

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 – 4:30 PM on Friday. We invite all of our youth to come and enjoy all of the board games, books, Xbox game systems, and 3D printers at the Youth Center every day after school.

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.

We just finished treating Sugarland Sports Complex with weed killer and bug killer to get rid of the ants and beetles, and fertilizing the grounds to bring back the beautiful green grass. If you plan to use the fields do not be alarmed if everything looks dead, it's just part of the process! **If you would like to use the fields 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 will be treating the grounds for unwanted plants, fertilizing what we do want to continue to grow, and treating the insects. Please be cautious if you see that we are treating the grounds. We will be removing some of the old equipment in the next month. If your playground looks empty that means we have some fun new things coming your way! If you see something that needs repairs or replacing please let us know.

We have upgraded our facility rental process to make it fully digital. This includes a new information sheet that will help us prepare a more accurate quote, and help us find the facility that will best serve you for your event.

On top of our wonderful events this past month, our recreation support, maintained, 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**

- We now have a new Art Cart for students to use and enjoy.
- Staff landscaped around the facility and restrooms.
- Staff assembled new office furniture.
- Staff processed 20 Facility Rental Requests.
- Youth Center hosted 3 private rental events this month.
- Chickee hosted 1 private rental this month.

### **John Boy Auditorium and Beardsley Room**

- Staff deep cleaned the grout in all restrooms.
- Staff secured thresholds at the John Boy Auditorium.
- Staff worked on landscaping around the building and front entryway.
- John Boy Auditorium hosted 2 private rental events.

### **Parks**

- Staff continues to check all park equipment in Sugarland Park and Sweetest Town Playground weekly to ensure no equipment is in need of servicing.
- Staff continues to inspect all parks and public areas daily picking up debris and litter so that residents can continue to enjoy a clean and beautiful space.
- Staff maintained the landscape at our beautiful parks by treating weeds and trimming areas that needed attention.
- Staff cleaned and sanitized outdoor restrooms at: Youth Center, Lake Okeechobee Boat Ramp, Sugarland Sports Complex, and Trinidad Park daily.
- Staff sprayed Round-Up to help maintain weed control throughout all parks and public spaces.
- Civic Park hosted a public rosary prayer rental.
- Sweetest Town Playground Pavilions hosted 3 private rentals.
- Trinidad Park hosted 1 private rental this month.

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

- Staff prepared fields for chemical spraying.
- Staff treated fields in the large quad with chemicals for unwanted weeds and bugs.
- Sugarland Park Pavilion hosted 2 private rentals and 1 corporate rental this month.
- Staff spent 56 hours mowing the fields.
- Staff spent 20 hours string trimming fields.
- Staff watered the fields for 50 hours.
- Staff spent 12 hours raking clay on fields.
- Staff sprayed round up on fields to help control weeds.
- Staff spent 10 hours manually removing weeds and invasive grasses from fields.
- Staff checked parks and fields daily to help pick up all litter and debris from any public area.
- Staff spent 12 hours performing maintenance work on machinery; including changing blades on ground master and mowing machines.
- Staff repaired sprinklers on 2 fields.
- Staff repaired fencing around multiple fields for a total of 8 hours.

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

- C.S. Mott Pool hosted a glow swim on Friday, August 11, 2023 from 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM with 200 attendees.
- In the month of July the pool hosted 900 patrons.
- C.S. Mott Pool hosted 2 private group swim events.
- C.S. Mott Pool hosted 2 public swim parties.
- The Splash Pad hosted 1 private rental this month.
- Staff maintained the landscape around the pool by trimming bushes and pulling weeds.
- Staff performed cosmetic maintenance to the pool.
- Staff treated pavilion for ants.
- Staff readjusted the buckets at the splash pad.
- Staff adjusted the Ring solar panel chargers at the Pool and Splash Pad.
- Staff changed batteries on Ring Cameras at pool.

### Additional Areas

- Staff installed new gutters at Sikes Park
- Staff painted the building at Sikes Park.
- Staff took out museum water heater.
- Staff transported tables and chairs for the museum event.

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, 740 patrons this month.
- This month's programming activities have included:
  - **2023 Summer Reading Program Finale**- Thank you to everyone who attended as we had a total of 120 participants. The library would like to once again extend a HUGE thank you to Treasure Coast Wildlife Center, Didgeridoo Down Under, Natalie with Florida Public Archaeology Network, Gerard Tricarico with OutofMyHands, Southwest Florida Library Network, James Chartier with ShowTimeForKids, Hato Potrero Farm/YoGusto Products for their weekly yogurt smoothie donations as well as their ice cream donation for our final program, and U.S. Sugar for their donation of 96 book bags and supplies for the children of Clewiston. A HUGE round of thanks to our Friends of the Library as all of our summer presenters and pizza luncheon was provided by along with additional school supplies for the children's book bags and snacks throughout the summer. Most importantly, Director Hayes, send a "HUGE THANK YOU to my staff who made this summer possible and awesome for all. Our community wouldn't be able to have these events without their dedicated help each week. They are the best team ever!"



- Our **Giant Game Play Event** was an absolute blast with our community this month! This event was so much fun to plan, prep, and present. Children enjoyed it as much as we did!



- Excitement continued as we welcomed **Natalie with Southwest Florida Public Archaeology Network** back to the library this month for fascinating Ancient Graffiti Programs!



- Thank you to everyone that came out to the library for the **DIY Kawaii Squishy** program.



- During the summer, the library provided **twelve educational activities and programs** geared toward **robotics and coding as well as augmented and virtual reality**. Thank you to the Southwest Florida Library Network (SWFLN) for loaning their STEAM kits and gadgets. We would not have been able to present such an incredible lineup of programs without their support.



- **Gaming Club** was held every Tuesday with a total of 62 participants. Tweens and teens learned competitive gaming techniques and socialized with other video game lovers.



- The **AWE Learning Stations** were accessed and used by a total of 110 children. Be sure to stop by and let the kids try the Early Literacy Station. It is designed specifically for our youngest patrons, ages 2-8, and features over 4,000 localized learning activities.
- **The Friends of the Clewiston Library Book Club** met on July 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss "*The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*" written by Taylor Jenkins Reid. There were a total of 16 participants.
- **July's Scavenger Hunt**, which 83 participants completed, was a great success. As children explored the different sections of the library, they not only had fun but also gained valuable knowledge about our collections and services that can help them be successful in school. Be sure to check out the new theme in September and find what's hidden around the library.

**HIGHLIGHTED UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:**

- **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, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. to discuss the newest book club title, "Hang the Moon" by Jeannette Walls. 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 Summer Rates. Non-members \$34.10 Plus Tax 18 Holes and \$17.05 Plus Tax for 9 Holes. Pay for 18 holes and play as many as you want in the same day.
- Golf Shop Hours are 7:45am to 5:30pm. The first tee time is 8:00am. Carts are due in at 7:00pm daily. The golf course is open Tuesday-Sunday and closed Monday.
- 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.

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

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



- As hurricane season kicks off, now is the time to repair and prepare. Repair any damage to your home and property; check your roof, siding, windows and fencing for any loose or damaged spots. Prepare your hurricane supplies by checking batteries and emergency radio, stocking up on non-perishable food, water, medications, and first aid supplies.
- Next Corner is a new locally owned and operated restaurant located at 132 S. WC Owen Avenue.
- Clewiston Nursing Home has been given the green light to start bringing home their residents.
- We also have a new locally owned and operated bakery café in town, La Nueva Bonafide LLC, located at 718 E. Sugarland Hwy.

**Code Compliance Supervisor Debbie Clay reports:**

**Hurricane Season June 1 until November 30**  
**Remove or enclose in a building all Openly Stored Items on Your Property**  
**before a Storm is Named**

### The Importance of House Numbers

When responding to an emergency, minutes matter. House numbers are not only convenient for finding addresses but necessary for emergency responders to locate those in need. So be sure that fire, ambulance, and police personnel can easily and quickly find your address.

The Clewiston Ordinance Section 18-422. – Duty to obtain and display numbers

(b) The owner or occupant of any building or structure, residential or commercial, designated a number shall affix such number in a conspicuous place above, on or at the side of said building or structure, or to a permanent fixture located in the front yard of the property on which the building or structure is located. Whenever any building or structure is situated more than 50 feet from the street line, such number shall be affixed to a permanent fixture located near the front walk, driveway, or common entrance to such building or structure.

(c) The owner or manager of every mobile home park in the city shall cause each lot in the mobile home park to be numbered in accordance with the directions of the city manager and, further, to affix such number in the manner provided in this section.

(d) The number required to be affixed as provided in this section shall be not less than four inches in height in residential districts and six inches in height in all other districts, shall be of a color that contrasts with the color of the part of the building or structure or other fixture to which such number is affixed, and shall be located in a position to be easily discernible from the street fronting the building, structure or mobile home lot. Also, once the numbers are affixed as provided herein, it shall be the duty of the owner or occupant of any building or structure, and the duty of every mobile home park owner or manager, to replace such number if the same is removed therefrom for any reason.

Code Enforcement personnel will begin focused enforcement on these ordinances in September 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](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.

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

SERGEANT PROMOTION - On July 10, 2023, the department held a Sergeant’s promotional testing process. The process started with a written test, consisting of multiple choice questions taken from Florida State Statutes, City Ordinances, and department Standard Operating Procedures. Next, candidates participated in a problem-solving oral board. To ensure an unbiased result, the oral board consisted of a sworn supervisor from another law enforcement agency. We were thankful for the participation of Sergeant Terry Targia from Florida Gulf Coast University Police Department. After all candidates completed the process, the officer that scored the highest, Officer Lionel Conyers was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Please join us in congratulating him on this achievement.



On July 17, 2023, Officers James Estiverne, Eric Williams, and Officer Rebecca Wood receiving Life Saving Awards for their recent efforts saving members of our community. Detective Charles Williams was also recognized. However, he was away on military leave and was unable to be there. We are certainly a proud department. Please join us in congratulating each of them!



**NEW HIRE** – Reserve Officer Kenny Izma was selected to fill a full-time police officer vacancy with the agency. Kenny has been with us for several months and is excited to start his career. He came to us with previous experience with the Department of Juvenile Justice. Please help us in welcoming him on-board.



**EMPLOYEE ACCOMPLISHMENT** - Over the last several months, Administrative Assistant Adelys Valles has taken part of cross training in Dispatch. This cross training resulted in her being able to take and pass the Statewide Exam for Public Safety Telecommunicator. This month, she completed the agency’s Communications Training and Evaluation Program. The agency is proud of her hard work, done only to benefit the agency in time of need. Congratulations Adelys!



On July 26, 2023, the department received 16 pairs of SoundGear Instant Fit



electronic hearing protection devices. These high-end devices are used by officers as hearing protection while on the shooting range. They were supplied to us by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) at no cost to the agency. FDLE purchased the devices through grant funding. At \$399.99 each, that it almost a \$6,400.00 value.

**ACCREDITATION** – Over the last 24 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 have secured three subject matter experts from around the state to provide our agency with a three-day mock assessment in September to better prepare us for the official state assessment. 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.

## Animal Services

In the month of July 2023, Animal Services reported the intake of more than 58 cats and 37 dogs.

On July 11, 2023, Animal Services was invited out to the Montura Summer Camp at the Montura clubhouse by [Hendry County Sheriff's Office](#). We were able to educate over 60 kids on bite prevention. The [OBJ] different types of domestic animals we deal with, and equipment that we use.

Thank you to the Camp Director and the Hendry County Sheriff's Office for having us. We are looking forward to next year's event.



The animal shelter purchased 10 additional dog kennels to address overcrowding issues. These dogs now have a more comfortable environment until they find their forever homes.



Throughout the month of July, Animal Services staff, Police Department Staff, Police Explorers, and volunteers helped beautify the shelter grounds with new landscaping. A generous donor donated hundreds of plants with an estimated value of over \$10,000.00.



[Clewiston Animal Services](#) has many amazing animals, here are a few that have been waiting on their fur-ever home. Cost to visit the shelter.....\$0. Cost to adopt a dog....\$0. Saving an animal from our little shelter..... Priceless!

## Highlighted Training

On July 11, 2023, sworn members of the police department and the Explorer post conducted felony and high-risk traffic stop training at the former police department.

## General Services Director Williams reports:

The deployment phase of our Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) program will begin Monday, August 21. Contractor Utility Partners of America will be in our neighborhoods "swapping" our legacy water and electric meters with the new, smart meters for the remainder of the year. 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:**
  - installed temporary underground service and changed an overhead service to underground on Avenida Del Rio
  - changed transformers (4)
  - repaired terminator on Bayberry Loop
  - installed meter-base surge protector (3)
  - repaired street light at pool and various other locations
  - repaired fiberglass pole at C.S. Mott pool
  - cleared tree at golf course and other areas in town
  - replaced two lighting arresters at the golf course
  - oversaw contractor removing vegetation between Haiti & El Paso Avenues
  - oversaw bore crew contractor install three new underground pipes to replace lines
  - looped out failed underground primary on Ridgeview Drive
  - replaced broken pole top pin on Arkansas Avenue
  - repaired guy attachment and power lines due to vehicle crash on Sonora Street
- **Water Sewer Crew Activities:**
  - Repaired numerous (14) valve leaks/water line breaks,
  - replaced (5) water meters with new AMI meters, replaced meter boxes to accommodate larger meters
  - prepared warehouse for AMI meter deliveries
  - located buried facilities (9)
  - performed Lift Station inspections (50) and made repairs as needed
  - replaced water filter at Della Tobias Avenue (8) and flushed line
  - installed hydrant meter for customer
  - 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:**
  - Air condition repairs (8) and filter replacements in city units;
  - Finished plumbing repairs at C.S. Mott pool;
  - Electrical/Lighting repairs at the Pro Shop;

- Roof repairs (2), John Boy Auditorium and Police Department;
- changed windows and upgraded fascia at Sikes Park;
- repaired exhaust fans in the M. Franklyn Jones Operations Building and Pro Shop;
- and repaired front door at Fire Station.
- **Street Division:**  
Ongoing:
  - shopping carts collected and returned to businesses;
  - landscape maintenance;
  - pot hole repair;
  - street signs replaced and guard rail 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.  
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/>