

SUNSHINE LINES

Beautiful News From Bay to Beach

JULY 2019



SADLY, RECYCLING FIRES ARE TOO COMMON

In late May of this year, the city experienced a fire at its recycling yard at the Solid Waste Complex. Luckily, no solid waste, police or fire employees were injured, and there was no property damage. This is the city's third fire that has occurred in one year. Clearwater's fires took place in a recycling truck, at the storage yard, and at the facility that sorts the city's recycling.

Unfortunately, these kinds of fires are too common and happen when people either mistakenly or irresponsibly place the following items in recycling carts: hazardous items, electronics that contain heavy metals (such as lithium batteries) or volatile chemicals. None of these items are recyclable; some of them can't even be thrown into the trash.

Knowing what can and can't be recycled in Clearwater's recycling program helps combat recycling contamination, which could lead to dangerous fires like this one. If you're not sure if something can be recycled or not, visit myclearwater.com/recycling, or call the Solid Waste operations line at (727) 562-4720.

KEEP THE SUMMER SAFE FOR OUR WATERWAYS

Summer rains wash fertilizer into our lakes and waterways, spoiling our water and ruining the summer fun. That's why it's illegal in Pinellas County to fertilize lawns during the rainy season, and it's also the reason slow-release products are required the rest of the year.

Now through September, skip the fertilizer. Fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus cannot be applied to lawns or landscape plants, according to Pinellas County ordinance.

Incorrect use of fertilizer can allow nutrients to leach into the groundwater and wash into storm drains that flow to creeks, lakes, Tampa Bay or the Gulf of Mexico. Excess nutrients can cause harmful algae blooms, which lower oxygen levels and lead to fish kills. The treatment to remove these nutrients costs taxpayers millions of dollars each year. Nutrient pollutions can be controlled with your help.



LEARN ABOUT GOVERNMENT FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Applications are currently available for the 18th annual Clearwater Citizens Academy. This interactive program meets for 10 sessions beginning Sept. 10, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., on Tuesday evenings through November. The academy focuses on educating residents about local government processes.

Elected officials, department directors and other city staff will host unique and informative sessions designed to give citizens hands-on experience in city government operations. Applications must be received no later than Aug. 1. Those who attend eight of the 10 sessions will graduate at a city council meeting in November. Visit myclearwater.com/citizensacademy to apply online, or call (727) 562-4708 with questions.



HOME REHABILITATION LOANS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CITY OF CLEARWATER

The city of Clearwater's Economic Development and Housing Department may help homeowners who qualify with code-related repairs. A Clearwater homeowner can receive up to \$40,000 in a home rehabilitation loan through Clearwater's Housing and Rehabilitation Loan Program.

Examples of home improvements:

- Roof replacement
- Electrical repairs
- Plumbing repairs

- Air conditioner installation
- Door and window replacement
- American with Disabilities Act modifications

To qualify:

- Applicant must own and occupy a single-family home, townhome or villa
- Applicant must have current homeowners insurance
- Household income must be 80 percent or less of the area median income

- Funds may be available to assist clients at or below 120 percent of the area median income
- Other qualifications may apply

For more information, contact Terry Malcolm-Smith, the city's housing coordinator, at terry.malcolm-smith@myclearwater.com or (727) 562-4036.



LOOKING TO START OR GROW YOUR BUSINESS?

Clearwater Business SPARK can help.

Launched in 2016, Clearwater Business SPARK is a network of partners that supports local small businesses and entrepreneurs looking to start or expand their business.

Clearwater Business SPARK provides business programs and services including business coaching, business incentives, networking opportunities, bilingual business resources and importing and exporting guidance. It also offers access to databases and market research tools, a variety of meeting and training spaces and hands-on tools and activities through the unique Maker Studios located at the Clearwater Main Library and Countryside Library.

The Clearwater Business SPARK partners are the city of Clearwater's Economic Development and Housing Department, St. Petersburg College, Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corporation, Pinellas County SCORE, Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce, Clearwater Public Library System, Prospera and Florida Small Business Development Center at Pinellas County Economic Development.

For more information, call (727) 443-0217 or email info@ClearwaterBusinessSPARK.com. Visit ClearwaterBusinessSPARK.com or follow Clearwater Business SPARK on Facebook.

WATER REPORT NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Each year, the city of Clearwater's Public Utilities Department presents residents with important information about the city's drinking water quality in an annual consumer confidence report. The Water Quality Report for reporting year 2018 is now available electronically at myclearwater.com/waterreport.

The report contains pertinent water quality information of interest to Clearwater residents. Printed copies are available upon request, and the report is also available in Spanish. If you'd like one mailed to you, call Public Utilities at (727) 562-4960.

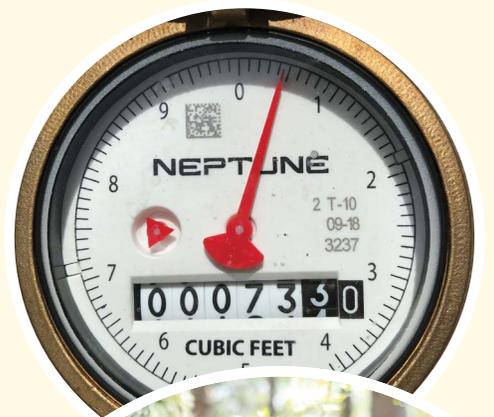
ALERT PINELLAS

Receive alerts about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for Alert Pinellas, an emergency notification service for Pinellas County. Alert Pinellas allows you to sign up to receive urgent messages on a variety of situations, such as severe weather, boil-water notices, missing persons or evacuations. This service is free to residents.

When you sign up, you choose how to receive alerts. This could be a cell phone, landline, text, email – you can enter multiple methods. Receive alerts for up to five locations. Register at pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas.

SAVE MONEY WHILE AWAY FROM HOME

Going away for two or more months this summer? You can place your residential water account on vacation status. Save money and protect your home from water leaks while you're away. The water meter will be turned off, and you will be charged only for wastewater/sewer, solid waste and stormwater at the dormant rates. For more information, call Utility Customer Service at (727) 562-4600.



myclearwater.com



Para información en español, llame al (727) 562-4664. Sunshine Lines is produced by the city of Clearwater Public Communications Department

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