

SUNSHINE LINES

JUNE 2019

Beautiful News From Bay to Beach



DRINKING WATER WILL NOW HAVE FLUORIDE

Starting June 10, the city of Clearwater and Clearwater Public Utilities will begin adding fluoride to the drinking water supply. Community water fluoridation is the process of adjusting the amount of fluoride found in water to achieve optimal prevention of tooth decay. Clearwater Public Utilities will be fluoridating its drinking water to the recommended level of 0.7 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water.

The city of Clearwater's first priority is the protection of public health. The fluoride level of 0.7 ppm is well below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's maximum contaminant level of 4.0 parts per million (ppm) and EPA's secondary maximum contaminant level of 2.0 ppm, which was set to protect against cosmetic dental effects that may occur when people consume too much fluoride. The fluoride systems will be monitored continuously and controlled by the city's 14 licensed water treatment plant operators.



Since 1945, hundreds of cities have started community water fluoridation. In 2012, nearly 75 percent of the United States served by community water systems had access to fluoridated water. Because of its contribution to the dramatic decline in tooth decay over the past 70 years, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention named community water fluoridation as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.

Residents who want to know more about the safety of community water fluoridation can visit cdc.gov/fluoridation/index.html, or call Clearwater Public Utilities at (727) 562-4960.



FLOOD MAPS ARE CHANGING

COMMUNITIES & RESIDENTS HAVE 90 DAYS TO APPEAL THE CHANGES

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has made changes to flood maps that may affect some properties and residents in Clearwater and Pinellas County. These new maps are based on revised coastal flood modeling and may affect owners of properties susceptible to flooding from the Gulf of Mexico, Tampa Bay and inland areas near connected waterways. Some areas are now designated at higher risk of flooding than before, and other areas are now zoned for lower risk than before. To look up your current and preliminary flood risk, visit pinellascounty.org/flooding to see if and how that risk has changed.

FEMA has advised that a 90-day appeal period began May 2 and ends July 31. During this period, Pinellas County, the city of Clearwater, municipalities and citizens may appeal or comment on the proposed flood hazard information shown on the preliminary flood map. To support an appeal, scientific or technical data that proves the flood hazard information is shown in error must be submitted. To learn more, review the Criteria for Appeals of Flood Insurance Rate Maps: pinellascounty.org/flooding/pdf/FIRM_Appeals.pdf.

Contact the city's Engineering Department at (727) 562-4750 with questions or concerns.

CITY OFFERS FLOOD PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

Hurricane season and the summer rainy season are here. Tropical storms, hurricanes and seasonal rains can flood homes with heavy rains that accompany such storms. Protect your property by elevating your appliances (an example is by raising a water heater or air conditioning unit) and implementing flood-proofing techniques.

The city of Clearwater's Stormwater Engineering staff provides site visits, one-on-one consultations and advice to homeowners about property protection measures, such as retrofitting and drainage improvements.

Other actions you can take to protect yourself and your property include purchasing flood insurance and knowing your flood zone. Call (727) 562-4750 for a city of Clearwater property protection consultation or site visit to evaluate drainage or retrofitting options.

\$2
OFF



Clearwater Threshers

July 2nd 6:30 P.M.

Bring this ad to Spectrum Field to receive \$2 off a field box ticket for the July 2 Independence Day fireworks game. Quantities are limited. ThreshersBaseball.com

HUNGRY KIDS GET FREE MEALS THIS SUMMER

The city of Clearwater is continuing its partnership with the Summer BreakSpot program, a USDA-sponsored effort that provides free, nutritious meals to children and teens, age 18 and younger, during their summer break. City sites that offer this program include the Clearwater Main Library (100 N. Osceola Ave.), the North Greenwood Recreation Center (900 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.) and Ross Norton Recreation & Aquatic Center (1426 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.). The program runs Monday through Friday through the summer and helps fill the nutritional gap so students can return to school healthy, happy and ready to learn.



CONSTRUCTION STARTS IN NORTH MARINA AREA

The city of Clearwater has begun construction on the Seminole Street boat ramp and North Marina Improvements project. Construction is anticipated to be complete by early 2020. Boaters should expect construction delays and limited parking availability at the Seminole Street boat ramp. The city’s intention is to keep the boat ramp open during normal hours of operation. However, the number of functioning launch ramps may be limited or could all be closed intermittently throughout the project. When possible, plan arrivals during daylight hours. The lights are currently inoperable.

The city asks anyone using the Seminole boat ramp area to respect posted signs and barricades and not to move or remove them. Residents with questions can call the city of Clearwater’s Engineering Department at (727) 562-4762.

HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

Hurricane season began June 1 and goes through Nov. 30. The city is working on its emergency plan, and you should be, too. City staff has been working hard all year coming up with ways the city can be prepared to respond during tropical storms and hurricanes.

Now is the time to make sure you know what you would do in the event a hurricane or tropical storm affects Clearwater. Check evacuation maps to see if you live in a zone where residents would have to leave their homes. Know where you would go in the event of an evacuation. A friend’s or relative’s place would be best; hurricane shelters are meant as last resorts for people who have nowhere else to go. Remember, hurricane season lasts for six months. Don’t wait until we have a hurricane knocking on our coastal door to come up with your plan. By then, it’s too late.

GET INVOLVED: APPLY FOR CITIZENS ACADEMY

If you’d like to learn more about how your city government works, apply for Clearwater’s Citizens Academy. This 10-week program begins in September, and classes are held once per week, on Tuesday evenings, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Clearwater residents who are selected for this free program meet at different locations each week to learn how different city departments function. Participants interact with city councilmembers and staff. Previous graduates now serve on city boards and volunteer at events. Applications for the program will be available beginning Monday, July 1, at myclearwater.com, or by calling (727) 562-4708 to receive an application by mail.



CLEARWATER CELEBRATES AMERICA

Celebrate America’s independence with a patriotic concert and a huge 9:30 p.m. fireworks display at Coachman Park. There will also be vendors, food and drink concessions and a children’s play area. The event runs 6 to 10 p.m. Thursday, July 4.

LAST CHANCE FOR THE DALÍ EXPERIENCE

June 30 is your last chance to catch the free temporary installation of The Dalí Museum’s award-winning Dreams of Dalí Virtual Reality Experience at Second Century Studios, 331 Cleveland St. in Downtown Clearwater. Experience Salvador Dalí’s surrealist painting Archaeological Reminiscence of Millet’s “Angelus.” Exhibition hours and drop-in arts programs are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, noon to 9 p.m. Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Visit downtownclearwater.com to learn about special events happening at Second Century Studios.

CLEARWATER GAS SAFETY REMINDERS

Every month, Clearwater Gas System technicians routinely service residential and commercial gas meters. To do so safely and accurately, they need your help:

- Keep your gas meter area clutter-free. An uncluttered meter location allows for meter repairs and access to the disconnect stop in case of emergency.
- Please restrain pets. We know Fluffy and Fido are just doing their jobs. Please help us do ours by allowing animal-free access near gas meters.

Thank you for helping Clearwater Gas System to better serve you. Visit clearwatergas.com for more gas safety tips.



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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