

SUNSHINE LINES

AUGUST 2019

Beautiful News From Bay to Beach



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY

It's almost back-to-school time, and that means it's time to keep an eye out for students, crossing guards and school buses.

Drivers should be aware of lower speeds in school zones before and after school, and always be cognizant of crossing guards whose job is to keep children safe. In addition, be sure to stop for school buses that have stopped to pick up or let off students.

The Clearwater Police Department is always looking for qualified crossing guard candidates. The first day of classes is Aug. 14 in Clearwater and the rest of Pinellas County. For more information, call (727) 224-7192.



RECYCLING CONTAMINATION TAKES MANY FORMS

Clearwater Solid Waste/Recycling crews recently found a propane tank with gas still in it that had been improperly thrown into a Clearwater blue recycling bin. In addition to the propane tank, crews found many other non-recyclable items, such as paint cans, a television, a lawn chair, an office chair and a metal umbrella frame. None of these are recyclable; they contaminate the recycling stream, ruining true recyclables. Clearwater Solid Waste and Recycling drivers can't see through the blue recycling barrels, so they must trust that residents are placing proper recyclables into the barrels. The Solid Waste team could have had a serious issue – either a fire, injury or possibly lost a life or two – if the propane tank that was thrown into the recycling had ruptured or exploded during the transport or recycling process.

Knowing what can and can't be thrown in the trash or recycled in Clearwater's Solid Waste/Recycling program helps combat recycling contamination, which could lead to fires, injuries or death of solid waste workers. Visit myclearwater.com/recycling, or call the Solid Waste operations line at (727) 562-4720 to learn more.



WATER MAINTENANCE PROGRAM RESUMES

The city of Clearwater and Pinellas County will conduct routine maintenance on the water system from Sept. 23 to Oct. 12. The method of water treatment will be temporarily changed from chloramines to chlorine disinfection in order to optimize water quality.

Some residents may notice a slight difference in the taste or odor of their drinking water. Although the disinfectant is slightly more noticeable, the water is perfectly safe to drink. Residents and businesses with kidney dialysis machines and tropical aquatic life tanks should not be affected, but should contact their respective industries with questions about this temporary change. Call Clearwater Public Utilities at (727) 562-4960 with questions.



City Offices Closed Labor Day

City of Clearwater offices, libraries and recreation facilities will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day. The city's Solid Waste Department will be working, and there will be no changes to the collection schedule. For police or fire emergencies, dial 911.

City Budget Discussions Open to the Public

The city manager's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019/20 has been released. These budget meetings have been scheduled:

- A special council meeting to discuss the budget will be Aug. 22 at 3 p.m.

- First public hearing to adopt the tentative budget and millage rate is Sept. 5 at 6 p.m.
- Second public hearing to adopt the tentative budget and millage rate is Sept. 19 at 6 p.m.

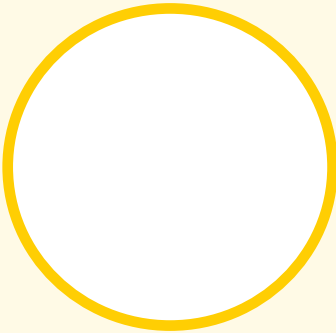
All meetings will be in Council Chambers at the Clearwater Main Library, 100 N. Osceola Ave. The budget document is posted on myclearwater.com under "Government," then "City Departments" then "Finance & Budget."

What's That Smell?

For your safety and protection, Clearwater Gas System adds the chemical, ethyl mercaptan, which smells like rotten eggs to the natural gas to help detect gas leaks.

In the event that you smell gas, remain calm. Refrain from using a cell phone, lighting a match, candle or cigarette. Do not turn electrical appliances or lights on or off. Get to a safe location, and call Clearwater Gas System's 24/7 emergency hotline at (727) 462-6633 or dial 911.

Visit clearwatergas.com for more gas safety tips.



Choose Reusable and Recyclable for Back to School

A few simple switches can revolutionize your children's lunch box as they return back to school. Choosing to use a reusable water bottle and lunch bag instead of a disposable one is an easy way to make a big difference for the planet. If you do choose disposable items, try to select containers that are recyclable.

Did you know you can recycle clean milk and juice cartons in Clearwater? You can. Choosing reusable and recyclable containers is good for the planet, and it helps teach children about environmental stewardship. Learn more at myclearwater.com/recycling.

SAFE STORAGE DURING STORM SEASON

As temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico heat up, be sure to properly safeguard chemicals in your home and storage spaces during hurricane season. During tropical storm events, water can flow into garages, sheds, kitchens and bathrooms where families store chemicals, such as fertilizers, paints, automotive fluids, pesticides and cleaners. Elevating such dangerous chemicals onto shelves, for example, can keep them from leaking into the environment.

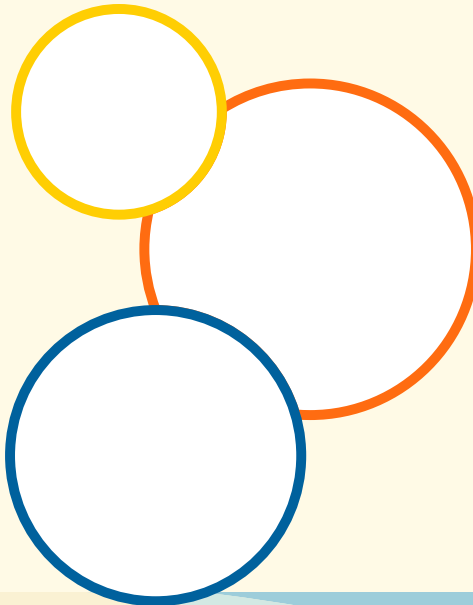
Rid your home of chemicals you no longer use. Residents can take them to the Household Electronics and Chemical Collection Center, operated by Pinellas County Utilities, 2990 110th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Don't mix chemicals, and be sure to transport them in cardboard boxes in your trunk.

The Household Electronics and Chemical Collection Center cannot accept automotive/marine batteries, biological/infectious waste, empty paint cans, explosives, fire extinguishers, propane tanks, radioactive waste or smoke detectors. For more information, call (727) 464-7500.

DOING BUSINESS IN CLEARWATER

Clearwater Business SPARK and SCORE Mentors of Pinellas County are thrilled to announce Marketing Mondays at the Clearwater Business SPARK office at The Ring, 600 Cleveland St. in Downtown Clearwater.

Schedule a free personal marketing consultation for your business by contacting Sheila Neisler, who is with Catalyst - A Marketing Company and is a SCORE volunteer. Email her at Sheila.Neisler@scorevolunteer.org, or text her at (704) 965-4249.



KEEP LAWNS NEAT AND CLEAN

During the summer months, grass and weeds grow quickly, so it's important to maintain a regular lawn maintenance routine to avoid an overgrown yard. Clearwater has citywide ordinances for overgrown yards that apply to all properties in the city, including residential, commercial and industrial. The public nuisance codes under city ordinances define overgrowth or excessive growth as when weeds, grass, undergrowth or similar plants reach a height of more than 12 inches.

The property owner is also responsible for maintaining the property's corresponding right of way. Please help maintain yards with a regular lawn maintenance routine. Please don't throw grass clippings into the storm sewers, as they contribute to destructive algae blooms. Also, pitch in and help a neighbor whose yard is overgrown. Neighbors who are elderly, for instance, need a hand with their yard work. Contact the city's Code Compliance Division at (727) 562-4720 with questions or if you see a property with an overgrown yard.



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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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