

The Newsletter for Clearwater's
Bright and Beautiful Employees and Retirees



Clearwater Employee Takes Third Place at International Solid Waste Driving Competition

By Heather Parsons

The city's **Solid Waste Department** drove all over the competition at this year's Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) international road-e-o competition, held Oct. 14, in Denver. The event featured the finest drivers in the industry.



Clearwater Solid Waste Equipment Operator **Joe Marshall** finished in third place in the tractor-trailer category. Congratulations also go to **Darius Bryant, John Garakop, Rick Palmer, Arnie Retzer, and Javan Thomas**, all of Clearwater Solid Waste and Recycling, for competing at the international level and for representing the city of Clearwater.

"I am very proud of our team," said **Kervin St. Aimie**, Clearwater's solid waste and recycling director. "These professionals work hard every day, and this competition gave them the opportunity to shine in the spotlight while showing what they do for the Clearwater community."

The competition consists of an obstacle course where drivers perform a right-hand turn through cones, parallel park their truck, back into an alley, drive through a serpentine course forward and backward, put their passenger side tires through two rows of tennis balls set 30 inches apart, and finish on a stop line without going over. Congratulations!



Employee Spotlight: Djuna Myrick, Payroll Manager

By Heather Parsons

When she's not behind a desk managing the city's payroll processing, **Djuna Myrick** can be found on the court, serving as a volleyball or basketball referee. This is her 24th year, and she loves it.

Myrick referees games at all levels – little leagues, middle school, high school, and college – and at games for all age groups. She is a member of the Pinellas Area Referees, Sunshine Volleyball Officials Association and Ultimate Officials for college games.

"They pay me to exercise," she jokes.

Keeping up is just part of the game. Myrick finds herself all over the court, back and forth during games. Middle school games last 45 minutes, high school games around about 90 minutes, and competitive volleyball can keep her busy all day.



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Employee Spotlight (continued from page 1)

She got into refereeing simply enough. She worked for Lealman Intermediate School as the school's assistant, and an attendance specialist brought her a \$2,000 check and said, "Wouldn't you like this for a weekend's work?" Myrick started slow and now is in high demand.

She's busiest during basketball and club volleyball season, which is November to the end of June. Out of season, she referees one or two weekends per month. During her free time, Myrick spends it with her husband, who also referees, and her granddaughter.

How Do You Make Clearwater Thrive?



The "I Make Clearwater Thrive" movement is an internal campaign that is geared toward getting employees engaged with the city's new strategic direction.

The city's vision statement describes where we are heading:

To be a community that thrives from bay to beach. Clearwater employees are the foundation of the vision statement and strategic plan.

It's time to tell your story. How do you make Clearwater thrive? By sharing your story, you'll not only inspire others but also have a chance to be recognized and celebrated by your peers.

Outstanding stories will be selected and awarded weekly through Feb. 29, 2024. Weekly winners will be entered for a \$500 grand prize to be awarded in March 2024.

Visit MyClearwater.info/MakeClearwaterThriveContest and share your story.

Public Works Department Celebrated GIS Day

By Ishika Patel

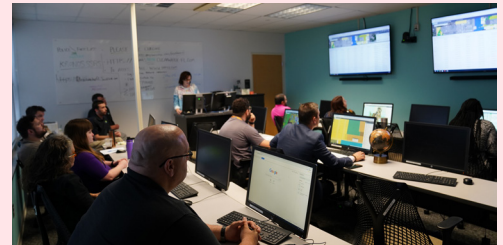
This year's GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Day was celebrated Nov. 15, with a program held at the Municipal Services Building, and presented by the **Public Works Department**. Thirty-six employees from various departments participated in at least one of the four sessions that were offered. Joining the event were two esteemed voices of wisdom, **Tom Mahony** and **Pawel Dembinski**, along with dynamic presenters, **Kevin Flynn**, **Nick Bauman**, **TJ Campbell**, and **Wioletta Dabrowski**.

The primary goal of the day was to show city staff essential insights on effectively navigating and using GIS resources available on the Launchpad.

These resources play a pivotal role in streamlining the department's operations, ensuring the seamless distribution of crucial data, exhibits and maps to city staff.

The sessions delved into key aspects of the Launchpad, emphasizing the proper procedure for submitting work requests. By sharing this knowledge, the department aimed to enhance collaboration and facilitate smoother workflows within the team. Additionally, the event served as a platform to educate attendees about the intricacies of engineering atlases, the engineering and planning viewer and the mail merge tool.

GIS Day not only fostered a deeper understanding of the technological resources but also promoted a collaborative spirit among employees. It was a day dedicated to sharing expertise, building connections and strengthening the collective capabilities in the field of Geographic Information Systems.



Annual Diversity Poster Contest

By Krystie Epperson

Each summer, **Clearwater's Parks & Recreation Department's** summer campers learn about diversity as part of the camp curriculum. The campers are then given the opportunity to participate in the annual diversity poster contest, which is coordinated by the city's **Diversity Leadership Council**. The goal is to give participants the chance to demonstrate their understanding of diversity and to celebrate it in their lives and community.

The contest winners were celebrated with a party and were also recognized at a city council meeting in August.



New Clearwater Beach Fire Station Opens

By Rob Shaw

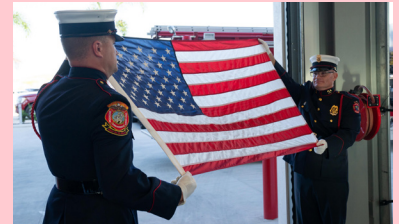
The northern part of Clearwater Beach has a new fire station to serve the area.

Crew members moved into the new Station 46 at 546 Mandalay Ave. during the first week of September and have been responding to calls from there since. The station houses one engine and one rescue unit; five personnel work out of there each shift.

The new station was built on the same site as the old Station 46, which opened in 1964. The two-story structure has nearly 11,000 square feet of space, and houses some equipment from the city's Parks and Recreation Department. It has the original fire poles from the previous station, as well as part of the original facade when it was formerly known as Station 2.

City council members, along with the city manager and representatives of the builder and architect, were present for the opening. They also participated in the fire service version of a ribbon-cutting – the ceremonial uncoupling of a hose.

After the grand opening, the building was open for tours. Beach residents, business owners and tourists were among those checking out the new fire house.



Practice Green Computing

By Cassie Cordova

Did you know that emails have a carbon footprint, dark themes use less energy and your computer still uses energy when your screen turns off?



Green computing is the practice of implementing eco-friendly tactics into the use of computers and related devices to develop greater sustainability. Because of the energy consumption of computers, electronic devices and data servers, there are several strategies to help reduce the city's carbon footprint.

Additionally, because the production of paper is energy- and resource-intensive, reducing printing and recycling lessens our carbon emissions.

Follow these best practices to help the city be more sustainable:

- Consider closing unnecessary apps and programs running in the background.
- Consider using sleep mode or turning off completely when not using for longer than 20 minutes.

- Consider using a dark theme for the operating system to save energy if it still allows for comfortable usage.
- Avoid printing items for ease of reading, unless deemed necessary.
- When possible, share printed materials for annotations.
- Black-and-white (grayscale) printing should be used for draft documents.
- Reuse paper with non-sensitive printing on one side as scrap paper.
- Paper that has been used on both sides and is no longer needed should be recycled, or shredded if appropriate.
- Send links to documents, rather than attaching them. This helps lessen the carbon load on your emails.
- Only copy relevant contributors to the conversation; then loop in others when necessary.
- Unsubscribe from newsletters and listservs that are no longer relevant to you.
- Consider adding this statement to your email signature: "Please consider the environment before printing this email."

Pie in the Face United Way Fundraiser

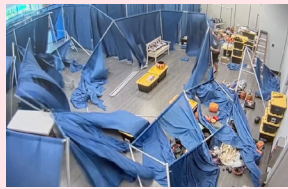
Several city leaders volunteered for the "Pie in the Face" fundraiser to benefit the United Way. Over about a month, employees purchased tickets to vote for the bosses they wanted to see get pied, and the 19 winning leaders took a pie to the face in November, including the city manager, multiple directors, assistant directors and managers. The city raised \$2,085 for the United Way and had a ton of fun in the process!



Surprise Appearance on Jimmy Kimmel

By Allie Chandler-Baier

Recreation Center Manager **David Wilson** recently found himself in the Hollywood spotlight after a surprise appearance on national television.



Wilson was busy preparing for Morningside's much-anticipated Halloween JuBOOlee event, where he had invested a substantial amount of time and effort into creating an intricate and spooky maze. However, in a surprising, almost eerily coincidental turn-of-events, the maze began to take on a life of its own and slowly started to tumble. The incident was caught on camera and turned viral overnight, leading to a feature on the Halloween episode for the "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" show.



The video is a great reminder that

there's always room for a little humor in the face of unforeseen challenges. And yes, the maze was built again and secured in place before the event began.

Best of the Bay Awards 2023

The city of Clearwater earned two 2023 Best of the Bay Awards from Creative Loafing, which were given out at an event in September:

- "Best Music Makeover: Coachman Park, The Sound"
- "Best Library to Watch Soundcheck: Clearwater Main Library"



CREW Tampa Bay Award

The city of Clearwater, alongside Skanska and Stantec, was honored with awards from CREW Tampa Bay for our reimagining of Coachman Park.

The awards were in the categories of "Industry Excellence in Design" and "Industry Excellence for Community Impact." The awards were determined through real-time audience voting, and they highlight the innovative design, construction and united effort of the city council, stakeholders, city staff, Skanska and Stantec.



The grand opening of this amazing destination park is one of the city's biggest accomplishments, and it has something for everyone to enjoy.

New MSB Parking Garage Murals Being Installed Soon

By Amber Brice

As some of you may have noticed, the Municipal Services Building parking garage bird murals have flown away. They will soon be replaced with some vibrant new art from a local artist.

Thank you to the staff who attended the employee appreciation ice cream social and voted for their favorite artist/art to replace the bird murals.

Out of 371 responses, Taylor Smith, also known as DreamWeaver Designs, was the favorite, earning 61.2 percent of the vote. Check out her work on her website, weavindreams.com.

Check out a sample of her artwork to the right and a mock up of the new garage artwork by Taylor Smith below.



Originally, the MSB parking garage panels were painted by artist Roger Bansemmer in 1997. For being outside for 26 years, the bird murals held up well. Bansemmer and his wife, Sarah, hosted their own painting show called "Paint and Travel" on PBS from 2011 to 2018. Bansemmer was made aware that the murals were coming down and shared that he is very gracious and thankful for the opportunity to be part of some of the first murals in Clearwater.



Wastewater Treatment is a Science

By Heather Parsons

Most people don't think about where their wastewater goes once it leaves their sight. The city's Public Utilities team treats roughly 12 to 15 million gallons of wastewater each day at three water reclamation facilities from Clearwater's 120,000 residents. That's enough to fill about 1,000 backyard swimming pools each day with wastewater – or to continually fill up one backyard pool in less than two minutes.

Ryan Alexander is the chief operator of the Marshall Street Water Reclamation Facility, which handles about half of the city's wastewater. And like most people, his dream was not a career in wastewater treatment.



"My dad worked in the water industry as a drinking water manager with another utility," he said. "I applied for a job there, too, but couldn't work in the same section as my father, so I had to work on the wastewater side."

Twenty-two years after starting his career in the industry, Alexander loves the work. He came to **Clearwater Public Utilities** seven years ago, and today he's running the Marshall Street facility.

"I like the science behind it," he said. "In simple terms, what we do (in wastewater treatment) is like what your body does. Micro-organisms do all the work. We create the conditions for them to get the job done."

It's a 24-hour operation. Crews work morning, afternoon and night shifts – business days, weekends and holidays. They are constantly monitoring water levels, looking at readings, and making adjustments based on samples.

"Ultimately, our role is to protect the environment and Stevenson Creek," he said.

So how does it all happen? It's a little complicated.

Physical Removal

The first step of Clearwater's wastewater treatment process is physical removal. Wastewater comes into the Marshall Street Water Reclamation Facility from homes and businesses into what is called the headworks.

This is the worst-smelling part of the facility. Here, it goes through three processes:

1. Bar screens remove sewer garbage and particles larger than half an inch.
2. A grit removal system removes things like sand, eggshells and coffee grounds, which would clog up pumps.
3. Then, two primary filters separate the solids from the water.

Micro-Organisms Do the Work

There are different types of wastewater treatment processes. The Marshall Street plant, which went online in 1930 and was upgraded in the 1990s, treats wastewater using the Bardenpho® process. This process is a biological nutrient removal system that cleans wastewater using only micro-organisms and very few chemicals.

During this process, the water goes through several different zones of the plant to break down the solids, harmful nutrients, pathogens, bacteria, and everything else that we don't want in the water.

"Basically, what we are doing here is providing an environment for micro-organisms to grow," said Alexander. "We give them air when needed, and then we reduce their air to starve them during the process. They do all the work."

The water then flows to one of four clarifier tanks, where the water is starting to look clear. Each tank is 15 feet deep and can hold up to one million gallons. The micro-organisms settle to the bottom and some go back through the Bardenpho® process to get treated again. Sometimes, there may be too many microbes, so some of those are wasted and later become biosolids for fertilizer.

Water is clear at the top and goes on to 12 sand filters for polishing, then it is chlorinated with bleach to disinfect any pathogens that may have made it through the biological process.

Creating Reclaimed Water

When the finished water meets stringent state and federal requirements, the water officially becomes reclaimed water. It is then distributed to reclaimed water customers all over Clearwater and north Pinellas County, where it is used on lawns and landscaping. Any water that is released to Stevenson Creek or Old Tampa Bay is dechlorinated to protect marine life.



The Future of Wastewater

Clearwater is in the early stages of designing one centralized wastewater treatment plant at the Northeast Water Reclamation Facility near State Road 580 and McMullen Booth Road. This facility will accommodate the city's future growth and will also eliminate two city wastewater plants from flood zones.

"If Hurricane Ian had hit us," said **Rich Gardner**, Clearwater Public Utilities director, "the Marshall Street and East plants would be 100 percent out of service. Our sewer would not function."



Join us for our Mad Scientist Tours!

If you like science or just want to know more about what Public Utilities does, come to the Marshall Street Water Reclamation Facility, 1605 Harbor Drive, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 17, and celebrate National Public Science Day.

Personnel Corner

June 25 through Nov. 17, 2023

NEW HIRES.....

Lillian Acevedo, Accounting Technician, Public Utilities

Zachary Adkisson, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

Sierra Anthony, Division Controller, Public Utilities

Konstantinos Apergis, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Tracy Ashley, Customer Service Representative, Utility Customer Service

Alyssa Atwell, Police Telecommunicator, Police

Sandra Aungst, Senior Staff Assistant, Finance

Homero Baeza, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

James Baker, Planner, Planning & Development

Julia Baltas, Community Redevelopment Specialist, Community Redevelopment Agency

Nickolas Bauman, CAD & GIS Technician, Public Works

Jaycob Bergeron, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Justin Blocker, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Michael Bradley, Recreation Leader, Parks & Recreation

Daniel Braniff, Police Cadet, Police

Nicole Brodil, Customer Service Representative, Utility Customer Service

Adrian Brown, Water Distribution Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Lisa Byington, Code Enforcement Inspector, Planning & Development

Jaquez Byrd, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Jatayious Byrd, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Thomas Campbell, CAD & GIS Technician, Public Works

Matthew Carstensen, Recreation Coordinator, Parks & Recreation

Kenneth Casey, Police Officer, Police

Angel Castro, Street Sweeper Operator, Public Works

Darlene Ceron-Granjeno, Library Assistant, Library

Jacob Chellew, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

Jessica Chueka, Customer Service Representative, Clearwater Gas

Bernard Cleveland, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Justin Colen, Multi-Media Specialist, Public Communications

Cassie Cordova, Sustainability Division Manager, Office of Innovation

Clifford Cotton, Solid Waste Worker, Solid Waste

Scott Cullen, Parking Enforcement Specialist, Public Works

Willie Culver, Gas Technician Apprentice, Clearwater Gas

Zachary Cyr, Police Officer, Police

Dayna Diskin, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Carter Duerkop, Lead Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Camilo Espinal, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

Keyon Evans, Police Cadet, Police

Joshua Felix, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Alyssa Feller, Business Systems Analyst, Information Technology

Mitchell Flanger, Police Cadet, Police

Justin Fritz, Police Officer, Police

Mallory Fuchs, Development Review Technician, Planning & Development

Jaclyn Gaither, Librarian, Library

Victor George, Solid Waste Worker, Solid Waste

Mychal Gibson-Wynn, Solid Waste Worker, Solid Waste

Michael Girton, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

Dominic Glenn, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Christopher Goble, Library Assistant, Library

Arlene Gomez-Rosario, Police Records Specialist, Police

Reginald Grigley, Meter Reader, Utility Customer Service

Tasha Hadley, Community Redevelopment Specialist, Community Redevelopment Agency

Nathaniel Hampton, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Eric Hartell, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Jason Haynie, Utility Dispatcher, Clearwater Gas

Saviron Higgs, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Donald Holcomb, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Danny Horne, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Donald Hudenburg, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Joshua Ice, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Alan Isidro, Development Review Technician, Planning & Development

Delbert Jackson, Solid Waste Worker, Solid Waste

Henry Jeffrey, Marine Facility Operator, Parks & Recreation

Kelsy Johnson, Recreation Specialist, Parks & Recreation

Jason Jones, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

Michael Kelchner, Police Officer, Police

Cody Kerr, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

Elizabeth Khan, Senior Accountant, Solid Waste

Karen Kruse, Accounting Technician, Police

Nemanja Kuzmanovic, Customer Service Administrator, Utility Customer Service

Sarah Lamb, Development Review Technician, Planning & Development

Peter Lebel, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Nicholas Leggiere, Utilities Mechanic, Public Utilities

Diego Lozada, Customer Service Representative, Utility Customer Service

NEW HIRES (cont.)

Donald Macintyre, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Susan Maloney, Police Service Technician, Police

Michelle Marshall, Administrative Support Division Manager, Solid Waste

Andrew Martin, Police Cadet, Police

Brian Maske, Traffic Signal Technician, Public Works

Trevon Mathews, Police Cadet, Police

Cedric McBride, Stormwater Technician, Public Works

Michael Meurant, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Cameron Mills, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

Malik Morrell, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Eric Morrison, Stormwater Technician, Public Works

Edvin Muratovic, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Jon Nardin, Building Inspector Technician, Planning & Development

Jesse Ornduff, Solid Waste Worker, Solid Waste

Joseph Ortiz, Utilities Mechanic, Public Utilities

Matthew Peterson, Police Officer, Police

Jason Raia, Police Officer, Police

Kimberly Rivera-Dilan, Customer Service Representative, Utility Customer Service

Courtney Roberts, Human Resources Analyst, Human Resources

Terrance Robinson, Solid Waste Worker, Solid Waste

Zavion Rogers, Stormwater Technician, Public Works

Balou Ross, Customer Service Representative, Utility Customer Service

Amanda Royal, Police Telecommunicator, Police

Matthew Ruskey, Parking Enforcement Specialist, Public Works

Abyi Santiago, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Alex Sexton, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

Kathryn Sharp-Hautajarvi, Parking, Facility & Security Aide, Public Works

Ricky Shaw, Stormwater Technician, Public Works

Robert Simon, Utility Dispatcher, Clearwater Gas

Keith Simpkins, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Kamrhen Simpkins, Solid Waste Worker, Solid Waste

Cameron Snyder, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

Savon Stevenson, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Stephen Sudu, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

Tara Swonger, Recreation Supervisor, Parks & Recreation

Bryce Talley, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Maria Teles, Police Officer, Police

Daniel Tobin, Police Cadet, Police

Jarrel Wade, Recreation Center Manager, Parks & Recreation

Holly Ward, Police Cadet, Police

Christopher Wiggins, Water Distribution Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Jamar Williams, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

David Williams, Parking Enforcement Specialist, Public Works

Paul Williams, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Marcus Williamson, Public Works Director, Public Works

Jeanette Wooten, Recreation Leader, Parks & Recreation

Dorothy Xanos, Customer Service Representative, Utility Customer Service

Kelly Yesair, Parking Citation Assistant, Public Works

Sebastian Young, Recreation Leader, Parks & Recreation

Harrison Zabaleta-Baker, Community Redevelopment Specialist, Community Redevelopment Agency

Adrian Zeqiri, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

PROMOTIONS

Matthew Anderson, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation

Sara Bayly, Business Systems Analyst, Utility Customer Service

Devin Bickel, Lead Gas Technician, Clearwater Gas

Michael Bird, Parks Service Foreman, Parks & Recreation

Andrew Biscardi, Gas Operations Supervisor, Clearwater Gas

Marcus Blackwell, Gas Technician, Clearwater Gas

Aaron Braley, Division Controller, Marine & Aviation

Jeremy Brown, Deputy City Engineer, Public Works

Margaux Bugansky, Senior Customer Service Representative, Utility Customer Service

Michael Campagna, Solid Waste Service Foreman, Solid Waste

Lucy Cantrell, Meter Reader, Utility Customer Service

Donald Cembrale, Senior Development Review Technician, Planning & Development

Adrian Christian, Senior Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Jason Coole, Lead Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Aaron Cowan, Parks Service Foreman, Parks & Recreation

Timothy Dallaire, Senior Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Dustin Dean, Water Distribution Operator, Public Utilities

Robert DeVore, Senior Customer Service Representative, Utility Customer Service

Robbie Edwards, Public Works Assistant Director, Public Works

Christopher Elliott, Police Officer, Police

PROMOTIONS (cont.)

Tyre Faison, Solid Waste Accounts Coordinator, Solid Waste

Joseph Farrar, Solid Waste Assistant Manager, Solid Waste

Dwayne Floyd, Gas Technician, Clearwater Gas

Eric Gandy, Police Chief, Police

James Goldener, Police Service Technician, Police

Leslie Greve, Procurement Analyst, Finance

Nathaniel Hampton, Lead Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Rhett Havenstein, Lead Gas Technician, Gas

Maleah Hinkle, Recreation Manager, Parks & Recreation

William Hodgson, Marine & Aviation Operations Division Manager, Marine & Aviation

Michelle Holzhauser, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Courtney Holzwarth, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office

Corey Hunter, Senior Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Nicholas Jackson, Senior Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Julian Johnson, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Brian Klinefelter, Water Distribution Operator, Public Utilities

Jeremy Kotter, Solid Waste Supervisor, Solid Waste

Alejandro Leon, Gas System Assistant Director, Gas

Andrew Lowe, Lead Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

David Lutz, Traffic Engineering Division Manager, Public Works

Michael MacDonald, Marine & Aviation Director, Marine & Aviation

Erin Marks, Senior Librarian, Library

Vincent Mattioli, Senior Meter Reader, Utility Customer Service

Kelsey McCray, Senior Recreation Coordinator, Parks & Recreation

Jeffrey McManus, Lead Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

William Mock, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator B, Public Utilities

Efrem Only, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Mark Parry, Program Senior Division Manager, Parks & Recreation

Cristian Perez, Lead Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Kaylynn Price, Lead Engineering Specialist, Public Utilities

Terrence Priester, Fleet Mechanic, General Services

Austin Repko, Senior Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Rocco Russo, Police Officer, Police

Javante Scott, Neighborhoods Coordinator, Office of Innovation

Michael Smith, Lead Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, Public Utilities

Alison Smith, Gas Technician Apprentice, Clearwater Gas

Kervin St. Aimie, Solid Waste Director, Solid Waste

Jason Stransky, Lead Wastewater Collections Technician, Public Utilities

Anthony Sylvester, Lead Gas Technician, Clearwater Gas

Nicholas Tatem, Fleet Mechanic Supervisor, General Services

Macie Tripple, Recreation Center Manager, Parks & Recreation

Kaitlin Wade, Library Assistant, Library

Robert Waite, Solid Waste Service Foreman, Solid Waste

Jared Walker, Parks Service Foreman, Parks & Recreation

Willie Watts, Lead Wastewater Collections Technician, Public Utilities

Ruth Willis, Marine Facility Operator, Parks & Recreation

Alexander Woods, Senior Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Thomas Young, Lead Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

RETIREMENTS

Carol Barden, Senior Staff Assistant, Finance

Paula Chaplinsky, Administrative Assistant, Library

Laura Dann, Senior Librarian, Library

Bradley Hamilton, Senior Engineering Specialist, Public Works

Joseph Hill, Solid Waste Supervisor, Solid Waste

Melanie Kindred, Police Office Specialist, Police

Vince Kirkland, Senior Wastewater Collections Technician, Public Utilities

Todd Kuhnel, Lead Engineering Specialist, Public Utilities

Martin Lindemann, Solid Waste Worker, Solid Waste

John Murray, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Ian Prior, Multi-Media Specialist, Public Communications

Elliot Shoberg, Deputy City Engineer, Public Works

Sam Swinton, Housing Inspector, Planning & Development

William Taggart, Police Service Technician, Police

WELCOME BACK

Ricky Allison, Parks Manager, Parks & Recreation

Gregory Art, Parking Attendant, Public Works

Lindsey DiCicco, Accounting Technician, Public Utilities

Jalen Jamison, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

Todd Kuhnel, Public Utilities Assistant Manager, Public Utilities

Nat Medlin, Police Safety Officer, Police

Bethany Nin, Police Cadet, Police

Nicole Warder, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

TRANSFERS.....

Scott Burrows, Documents & Records Specialist, City Clerk

Eric Climes, Wastewater Collections Technician, Public Utilities

Krissie Cook, Procurement Analyst, Finance

Jovontee Frazier, Water Distribution Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Gregg Kunz, Water Distribution Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Thomas Lucas, Parks Heavy Equipment Operator, Parks & Recreation

Tony Magganas, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Dezmond Whiting, Wastewater Collections Technician, Public Utilities

Births.....

To **Melissa Isabel**, Assistant City Attorney, a daughter named Kora, born Dec. 8.

To Officer **Jerome Lascko**, a daughter named Autumn, born Aug. 29.

To **Jill Paul**, Human Resources Division Manager, a granddaughter named Eden Ray, born Aug. 19, weighing 7 lbs. 14 oz. and 20" long.

To **Alvin Pinero**, Police Telecommunicator, a son named Alvin, weighing 5 lbs. 12 oz. and a daughter named Marie, weighing 5 lbs. 1.5 oz. born Dec. 11.

To **Stephanie Pochowicz**, Parking Operations Supervisor, a son named Thomas, born Nov. 30, weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz., 20.5" long.

To **Cherise Sarnoff**, Lead Parks Service Technician, a granddaughter named Evelyn Reese, born March 20, weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz.

To **Mike Shuster**, Firefighter, a daughter named Brooks, born Aug. 2

To Officer **Zachary Zarra**, a son named Hayden Christian; and to Sergeant **Christian Zarra**, a grandson, born Sept. 22.

Service Awards.....

20 YEARS.....

David Blow, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Joel Conklin, Lead Gas Technician, Clearwater Gas

Freda Dixon, Recreation Coordinator, Parks & Recreation

Gerard Grace, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Vincent Jones, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Gabe Parra, Community Development Coordinator, Economic Development & Housing

John Stone, Fleet Buying Coordinator, General Services

Terry Swatzell, Senior Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Jason Wallace, Lead Stormwater Technician, Public Works

Willie Watts, Lead Wastewater Collections Technician, Public Utilities

25 YEARS.....

Tyrone Floyd, Streets & Sidewalks Supervisor, Public Works

Timothy Kurtz, Engineering Construction Division Manager, Public Works

Gerald Theisen, Lead Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Bernadette Weiers, Library Assistant, Library

Jade Wepler, Gas Operations Supervisor, Clearwater Gas

30 YEARS.....

Eric Hannah, Solid Waste Supervisor, Solid Waste

John Murray, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Susan Pease, Police Telecommunicator, Police

35 YEARS.....

James McCulley, Gas Sales Division Manager, Clearwater Gas

Sympathies.....

To the family, friends and colleagues of these retired city employees who recently passed:

- **Steve Bigley**, retired Recreation Supervisor I, on Sept. 9
- **Darrell Goodin**, retired Parks & Recreation Arborist, on July 28
- **Michael Holmes**, retired Housing Manager on July 30
- **Charles Hughes**, retired Police Officer, on Aug. 29
- **Patricia Phillips**, retired Staff Assistant, on July 26
- **Richard Trombly**, retired Police Officer, on July 26
- **Richard Valentine**, retired Police Officer, on Nov. 10
- **Frederick Woodard**, retired Firefighter, on Oct. 11

To **Jeremy Alleshouse**, Parking Manager, on the loss of his wife

To Detective **Rob Beruvides** on the loss of his mother, and to **Stephanie Beruvides**, Paralegal, on the loss of her mother-in-law

To **Jeremy Brown**, Deputy City Engineer, on the loss of his niece

To **Nate Brown**, City Courier, on the loss of his brother and sister

To **Bill Buzzell**, retired Solid Waste Manager, on the loss of his dad, and to **Brandon Buzzell**, Parking Citation Assistant, on the loss of his grandfather

To **Dave Deas**, Solid Waste Accounts Coordinator, on the loss of his aunt

To **Robert Napper**, Public Information Coordinator, on the loss of his wife

Police Department Awards

The **Clearwater Police Department's** Awards Selection Committee recently met to review nominations. These nominees each received a letter of commendation:

Letter of Commendation

- Sergeant **Michael Beaver**
- Sergeant **Christian Zarra**
- Detective **Michael Diaz**
- Detective **Selena Hyppolite**
- Detective **Josh Gibson**
- Detective **Elliott Lightfoot**
- Detective **Matthew Richmond**
- Detective **Joseph Ruhlin**
- Detective **Tyler Rydlewski**
- Detective **Kevin Vigh**
- Officer **Benjamin Bieber**
- Officer **Jarrett Forstell**
- Officer **Robert Jessup**
- Officer **Adrian Kwiatkowski**
- Officer **Antony Mills**
- Officer **Cole VanDeusen**
- CID Police Service Technician **Frank Figueroa**
- Senior Crime Analyst **Hannah Hodges**
- Crime Analyst **Jordan Potter**



Clearwater Civitan Club Officer of the Year

- Officer **Matthew Bremis**

These employees were recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty. Congratulations to the following award winners:

2022 Chief's Unit Citation

- **Mental Health Unit**
 - Officer **Carissa Costello**
 - Officer **Cheryl Wood**
 - PCSO Senior Crisis Response Specialist **Kara Pellin**
 - PCSO Crisis Response Specialist **Christopher Jainandan**
- **Real-Time Operations Center**
 - Lieutenant **Steven Baginski**
 - Senior Crime Analyst **Hannah Hodges**
 - Crime Analyst **Evan Chadwick**
 - Crime Analyst **Janice Klein**
 - Crime Analyst **Jordan Potter**

Award of Excellence

- Property Supervisor **Lakiesha Sims**
- Property Clerk **Marcus Bullock**
- Former Property Clerk **JoAnna Gamble**



Employees of the Month

AUGUST 2023

Jillian Sparks
Aquatics Coordinator
Parks & Recreation

NOVEMBER 2023

Richard Phillips
Fleet Mechanic
General Services

SEPTEMBER 2023

Kris Koch
Downtown Core/Venue General Division Manager
Parks & Recreation

OCTOBER 2023

Louis Marquez
Traffic Signal Technician
Public Works

DECEMBER 2023

Sean Maxfield
Recreation Facilities Support Custodian
Parks & Recreation

Bi-Monthly Team Award

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

The Cleaning Up the City Team - Public Works

The team members include:

Kaylynn Price, Lisa Bayly, Myra James and Wioletta Dabrowski

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

Volunteer Firefighters Team - Wastewater Collection

The team members include:

Kevin Poole and James Deluca



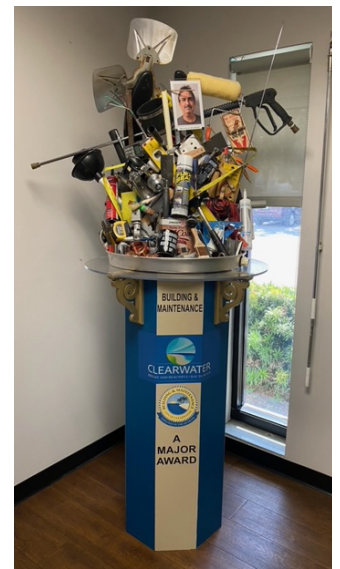
A Major Award Created by Building and Maintenance

By **Bret Mershon**

The **Building and Maintenance Department** has created a "Major Award" to recognize an employee quarterly for performance, consistency and integrity on a high level.

Building & Maintenance Division Head **Tom Wojtkiw** asked supervisor **John Memmer** to make an award. Countless members of the team including tradesworkers, HVAC, electric and plumbing contributed components from their respective fields. Memmer glued it all into one giant heap of "art."

Bret Mershon made a stand and just like that, a tangible, "A Major Award," was created. **Ioannis Kourmoulakis** was the inaugural winner of A Major Award, and his photo is now on display in the award.



New Coachman Park Murals

Some new murals have been painted at Coachman Park, 300 Cleveland St. in downtown Clearwater. Learn more about them below and then stop by the park to see them in person.

"Butterfly Wings" is by Alyssa Marie. She is originally from Littleton, Colo., and moved to St. Petersburg in 2017. She received a BFA in Communication Design with an emphasis on Fine Art at Metropolitan University of Denver, Colorado.



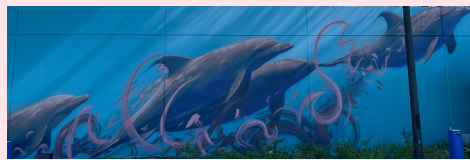
Learn more: AlyssaMarieGallery.com



"Osprey" is by Ernesto Maranje. He is a Cuban-American artist born in Chicago, in 1983 and was raised in Miami. He discovered his interest in art at 27 while serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. His work explores flora and fauna, biological evolution, and plant and animal relationships.

Learn more: [Instagram.com/ErnestoMaranje](https://www.instagram.com/ErnestoMaranje)

"Dolphin Mural Overlook Wall" is by Sonny Sundancer. Sonny Behan, also known as Sonny Sundancer, is an acclaimed artist renowned for his magnificent large-scale wildlife murals and intricately detailed oil paintings. His art, which seamlessly blends realism with abstraction, can be found in galleries and on streets worldwide from South Africa to New York.



Learn more: [Instagram.com/SonnySundancer](https://www.instagram.com/SonnySundancer)

The Big Cleanup Clearwater

The third annual Big Cleanup Clearwater took place in October at various locations throughout Clearwater and Clearwater Beach. Partners for the event included Keep Pinellas Beautiful, Amplify Clearwater, Visit St. Pete/Clearwater and Ocean Allies.



Cause For Applause

Solid Waste Director **Kervin St. Aimie** and Public Utilities Assistant Manager **Travis Teuber** recently completed the Florida Certified Public Manager program, or CPM. The program is a nationally recognized leadership development program that aims to develop more effective public managers, improving services to all Florida taxpayers.



Seven beach lifeguards competed in the 2023 James P. "Mac" McCarthy Surf Lifesaving Championships in Delray Beach. The team put in a strong showing and finished seventh out of 19 teams. Individually, **Brooke Bennett** finished ninth overall among men and women.

Beach Lifeguards **Brooke Bennett** and **Tim Hancock** also put in a strong showing recently at the 10th Anniversary Alligator Reef Lighthouse 8-mile swim in Islamorada. Bennett was second overall and the top female competitor with a time of 3:09:06. Hancock was fifth overall and the fourth male finisher with a time of 3:34:57.



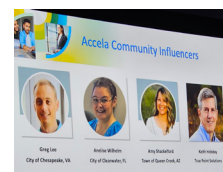
Fire Medic **Isaac Humphreys** was selected as a SWAT Team Tactical Paramedic



The Clearwater Housing Authority awarded Assistant Director of Economic Development and Housing **Chuck Lane** the "Everyday Hero Award" at its annual awards breakfast.

Members of the city's **Public Works team** led a GIS presentation at the Manufacturing, Engineering, Construction and Architecture Expo at St. Petersburg College. **Tom Mahony**, **Wioletta Dabrowski**, and **Nick Bauman** led this presentation for students who are interested in GIS maps and layers.

The city's **Traffic Operations Signal Team** were presented with a TRAC STAR Award, given by PSTA and its Transit Riders Advisory Committee. This award recognizes the efforts of public and private organizations that have made significant efforts to provide safe and better access for public transit riders in Pinellas County. Left to right: **Theodore Mellis**, **Rob Fahey**, **Eric Goehringer**, **Charlie Sheldon**, and resident Gloria Lepik-Corrigan.



Senior Systems Programmer **Anelise Wilhelm** was recognized at Accelate 2023, an Accela conference. Accela is the software the **Planning & Development Department** uses to manage its permitting processes.



CONNECTION

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Brian J. Aungst Sr., Mayor
David Allbritton, Councilmember
Kathleen Beckman, Councilmember
Mark Bunker, Councilmember
Lina Teixeira, Councilmember
Jennifer Poirrier, City Manager

MyClearwater.com



Employee Faces in Familiar Places

The city's Achievement Awards Committee has been keeping busy hosting events for city staff throughout the fall. The events have included bowling, deep-sea fishing, Festival of Trees, visits from the Kona Ice truck and cook-outs for various departments.

Employees have also been staying busy helping at the annual health fair, washing cars for the United Way fundraiser, participating in Halloween events, hosting Sister City exchange students, teaching kids as part of the Great American Teach-In, distributing composting bins, participating in the Winter Walk and attending department holiday parties.



REMINDER
 City offices will be closed Mon., Dec. 25 for Christmas Day and Mon., Jan. 1 for New Years Day.

Connection

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If you have a story idea, article, personnel news, or photos to share, please email them to the Editor at krystal.epperson@myclearwater.com or call (727) 444-7562. Let us know what you'd like to see in the next Connection!