



SUNSHINE FEB 2025 LINES

BEAUTIFUL NEWS FROM BAY TO BEACH

WHERE YOU PAY YOUR UTILITY BILL IN PERSON HAS MOVED

If you pay your Clearwater utility bill in person, please note that you will need to go to a different location. The Municipal Services Building is closed for renovations, and the city's cashier and payment services have moved to the Clearwater Gas System building at 777 Maple St. There is no drive-up option at this location.

The current drop-box location may still be available, depending on construction work. You can also pay your bill online or by phone, text, or Amscot. Visit MyClearwater.com/PayMyBill for details.



SKIP A WEEK OF LAWN WATERING DURING COOLER MONTHS

Lawns need less water during the cooler months, so residents are encouraged to skip a week of lawn irrigation during this time. According to research by the University of Florida, three-quarters of an inch of water every 10 to 14 days is sufficient for a healthy, vibrant lawn. Lawns and landscaping need water when grass blades are folded in half on 30 percent of the lawn, grass blades are blue-gray, and a footprint remains on the lawn for several minutes after walking on it.

Skipping a week of irrigation helps grass blades to root deeper into the ground; it also helps conserve drinking water supplies. To view Clearwater's watering restrictions, visit MyClearwater.com/Watering.



DON'T PLACE YOUR RECYCLING IN PLASTIC BAGS

One of the biggest contaminants in the city's recycling program is plastic bags. Please do not bag up your recycling, and leave all plastic bags out of the recycling stream. Plastic bags, including plastic grocery bags, jam the sorting machinery at the recycling center. Bagged recyclables can also be confused for trash since workers can't see what is inside. Place items loose in your blue recycling bin, and do not bag them. Take plastic bags back to the grocery store, or throw them in the trash. For this and other recycling tips, visit MyClearwater.com/Recycling.



STUDENT-EXCHANGE HOST FAMILIES ARE NEEDED

Clearwater and Nagano, Japan, have proudly shared a sister city relationship for more than 60 years and have hosted several student exchanges over the years. City leaders are excited to welcome a group of middle-school students and two teachers from Nagano this year, and volunteer host families are needed, preferably those with middle-school-aged students.

Host families will provide meals for their guest, with exception of school lunches, and they will arrange transportation to and from Carwise Middle School in Palm Harbor. In addition to passing a criminal background check, host families should treat guests like part of your family, introducing them to the unique sights and experiences our area has to offer. If you are interested in hosting an exchange student, apply at MyClearwater.com/SisterCities



AARP TAX HELP

Get back all the withholding you're due. Volunteers from AARP can help you complete your tax forms and file them with the federal government, now through April. Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. To make an appointment and for details, visit MyClearwaterLibrary.com





CLEARWATER GAS SYSTEM PARTNERS WITH PINELLAS COUNTY URBAN LEAGUE

Clearwater Gas System is partnering with the Pinellas County Urban League to assist low-income households in meeting home-energy costs through the grant-funded Low-Income Energy Assistance Program. Eligible households can obtain assistance with gas bills. The federal funding is primarily used for utility-payment assistance. To apply or for more information, call the Pinellas County Urban League at (727) 327-2081.



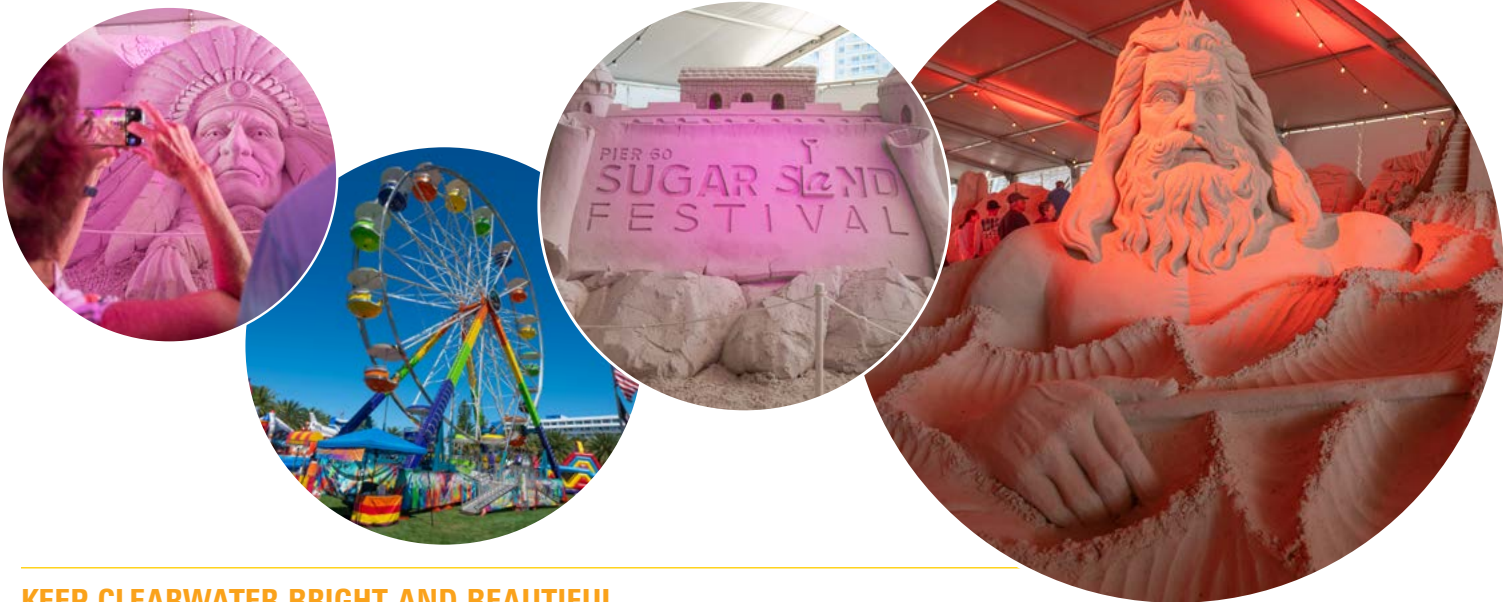
CLEARWATER HAPPENINGS

- Spring Training Baseball is Back!**
The Philadelphia Phillies return to Clearwater for another exciting spring training baseball season. Games begin Feb. 22, and go through March 24, at BayCare Ballpark, 601 Old Coachman Road. Get your tickets at Phillies.com
- Sea-Blues Festival**
Clearwater’s signature waterfront blues event, Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival, takes place Feb. 28 to March 2, at Coachman Park, 300 Cleveland St. The two-day free festival is known for its amazing blues performances, outdoor casual vibes and delicious seafood tastings. Find the lineup and more information at MyClearwaterEvents.com
- The Market Marie**
Shop local from more than 130 small business owners at this unique festival, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at Coachman Park. Enjoy live music, delicious food, art, clothing, jewelry, henna, handmade candles, soap, pet treats and home goods. Visit TheMarketMarie.com for details.
- Clearwater Comic-Con**
This family-friendly event will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at the Countryside Recreation Center, located at 2642 Sabal Springs Drive. Join our Cosplay Showcase, and dress as your favorite superhero. Meet comic-artist special guests, attend various informational panels, enjoy food-truck foods, and check out a variety of vendor booths. For more information, visit MyClearwaterLibrary.com
- Neighborhoods Day**
Mark your calendars for the city’s annual Neighborhoods Day on Saturday, March 22. During this event, city leaders, staff members and Kona Ice Trucks will visit registered neighborhood block parties. Contact your neighborhood or homeowners association to see if they registered and find more information.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE PIER 60 SUGAR SAND FESTIVAL

Do you love Clearwater Beach and appreciate the masterful art of sand sculpting? If so, the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival presented by Visit St. Pete-Clearwater is seeking energetic volunteers to assist with the return of the 11th annual event on Clearwater Beach April 11-27. Be a part of something special and head to Clearwater Beach for fun in the sun! From merchandise sales to greeting guests, there is a volunteer opportunity for you. Volunteers must be 15 years or older.

The perks to volunteering include a complimentary Sand Ambassador t-shirt, free meal (valid only after completion of shift), and free transportation from downtown Clearwater. Gain access to the Sugar Sand Walk Exhibit on your day-of-shift and one free general admission ticket for a return visit. Visit SugarSandFestival.com to sign up to volunteer.



KEEP CLEARWATER BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

It’s easier to do yard work and keep your property neat and clean during the cooler months. Cleaning a driveway, a yard, patio or street gutters of dead leaves can make an enormous impact on how a neighborhood looks to others.

When manicuring your lawn, be sure to properly dispose of grass clippings, leaves and other vegetative debris. Remember that stormwater flows directly into ponds, lakes, rivers and bays. Because water runs off our yards, it is important to reduce the amount of pollutants on site.

Trash, debris and pollutants in yards – such as fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides – can wash into the stormwater system, polluting the environment and causing blockages in storm pipes. Substances such as detergents, motor oil or clippings from chemical-treated grass are dangerous to local waterways.

Your Leadership Team

MAYOR Bruce Rector	CITY MANAGER Jennifer Poirrier	CITY ATTORNEY David Margolis
COUNCILMEMBERS David Allbritton Ryan Cotton	Michael Mannino Lina Teixeira	

For information in English, call (727) 562-4682.
Para información en español, llame al (727) 444-7570

Sunshine Lines is produced by the city of Clearwater Public Communications Department.
MyClearwater.com