



# SUNSHINE JUNE 2024 LINES

BEAUTIFUL NEWS FROM BAY TO BEACH

## WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Clearwater Public Utilities creates a water quality report every year to help you learn more about:

- The source and quality of your drinking water.
- How we treat your drinking water so it is safe to use for drinking, cooking and other everyday uses.
- How we are complying with federal and state drinking water standards, including the Safe Drinking Water Act.

View it in English or Spanish at [MyClearwater.com/WaterReport](http://MyClearwater.com/WaterReport). To request a printed copy, call (727) 562-4960.



## GET READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane season began June 1 and goes through Nov. 30. The city has its emergency plan in place for hurricanes and tropical storms, and so should you.

- Make sure you know what you would do if a hurricane or tropical storm affects Clearwater.
- Check evacuation maps to see if you live in an evacuation zone.
- 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.
- Sign up for Alert Pinellas to receive emergency and weather alerts via text, cell phone, landline, and/or email at [PinellasCounty.org/AlertPinellas](http://PinellasCounty.org/AlertPinellas).
- Consider purchasing flood insurance to protect yourself and your property.
- Check out hurricane checklists and survival guides at [Pinellas.gov/Disaster](http://Pinellas.gov/Disaster) and [Pinellas.gov/Hurricane](http://Pinellas.gov/Hurricane).



## CITY OFFERS FLOOD-PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

Hurricane season is 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), knowing your flood zone, and implementing flood-proofing techniques.

The city provides site visits, one-on-one consultations and advice to homeowners about property protection measures, such as retrofitting and drainage improvements. Call (727) 562-4750 for a city of Clearwater property protection consultation or site visit to evaluate drainage or retrofitting options.



## CLEARWATER CELEBRATES AMERICA

Celebrate America's birthday at Coachman Park with multiple live music acts, street performers, delicious food and beverages available for purchase, a silent disco and family-friendly activities. A free patriotic performance by the BayCare Sound Symphony will take the stage at 7 p.m. at The BayCare Sound, followed by a sparkling fireworks display over the Clearwater Harbor around 9:30 p.m. Tickets are not required.



## APPLY FOR CLEARWATER'S CITIZENS ACADEMY

Citizens Academy is an interactive experience designed for residents eager to make a positive impact on their community. Throughout the 10-session program, participants get a behind-the-scenes look at the operations of Clearwater city government and have the chance to tour facilities, try hands-on activities and share their concerns about their neighborhoods.

The free program runs September to November and is held Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Applications are due July 21. To apply, visit [MyClearwater.com/CitizensAcademy](http://MyClearwater.com/CitizensAcademy)





**JOIN OUR SUMMER SWEEPSTAKES**

Sign up for paperless billing for your Clearwater utility or gas account between June 1 and July 31, 2024, to be entered into the InvoiceCloud summer sweepstakes. Twelve winners will receive Visa gift card prizes, from \$100 to \$500. Already enrolled in paperless billing? You're automatically entered to win. No purchase or payment is necessary. This incentive is provided through the city's utility billing partner, InvoiceCloud. Sign up at [MyClearwater.com/Paperless](http://MyClearwater.com/Paperless)



**FERTILIZER BAN IS JUNE 1 TO SEPT. 30**

Summer rains wash fertilizer into our lakes, bays, canals and Gulf of Mexico, contaminating our water. It's against code in Pinellas County to fertilize lawns from June 1 to Sept. 30. During this time, fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus cannot be applied to lawns or landscape plants, according to a Pinellas County ordinance that has been in place since 2010.

Incorrect use of fertilizer allows nutrients to leach into the groundwater and wash into storm drains that flow to creeks, lakes, Tampa Bay or the Gulf of Mexico, causing harmful algae blooms and fish kills. Instead of using fertilizers, you can apply Florida-friendly yard products that contain micronutrients to green up your grass. To learn more, visit [BeFloridian.org](http://BeFloridian.org) or [WaterMatters.org](http://WaterMatters.org)



**SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON**

It's sea turtle nesting season, which began April 15 and runs through Oct. 31, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. This is a critical time for sea turtles, which continue their legacy and return to the original beaches from where they were born to lay their eggs. Loggerheads, leatherbacks, green sea turtles, Kemp's ridley and hawksbills – all of which are threatened or endangered – make their nests along Florida beaches.

Last season, Clearwater Marine Aquarium counted 227 nests in its 21-mile stretch of beaches they monitor. Of those, Clearwater alone saw 44 nests and 79 false crawls, or abandoned attempts at laying eggs on the sand. It's important to pick up your trash at the beach, fill in holes before you leave, keep lights low, and don't interact with turtle hatchlings. They are protected by state and federal laws. Visit [CMAquarium.org](http://CMAquarium.org) for details.



**CLEARWATER HOME PRESERVATION PROGRAM EXPANDS**

Effective July 1, eligible Clearwater homeowners may receive up to \$60,000 in a 0% interest home rehabilitation loan. The program covers several code-related home improvements, such as roof replacement, electrical and plumbing repairs, air conditioner installation, and door/window replacement. Eligible homeowners may also receive up to \$15,000 in grant funds for ADA accessibility improvements. To learn more or see if you're eligible, visit [MyClearwater.com/HomeRehab](http://MyClearwater.com/HomeRehab) or call (727) 562-4030.



**HAPPY "100" TO CLEARWATER GAS SYSTEM**

Clearwater Gas System recently celebrated its 100-year anniversary of serving the Clearwater community and beyond. Thank you to our loyal customers and partners for your support over the years, and we would like to acknowledge the hard work and technical skillsets of our gas team, which has been a huge part of our success and legacy.

Clearwater Gas System's mission has always been to provide safe, reliable and affordable gas energy to our customers and the community. Check out our special anniversary video at [ClearwaterGas.com](http://ClearwaterGas.com). We look forward to being your energy provider of choice for many more years to come.

**POOL HEATER SAVINGS ARE BACK**

Now is the perfect time to save on an energy-efficient natural gas pool or spa heater from Clearwater Gas System. For a limited time, get \$250 off an already-low-priced gas pool or spa heater when you purchase it from Clearwater Gas System. Call (727) 562-4980 for details.



**Your Leadership Team**

<b>MAYOR</b> Bruce Rector	<b>CITY MANAGER</b> Jennifer Poirrier	<b>CITY ATTORNEY</b> David Margolis
<b>COUNCILMEMBERS</b> 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  
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 Public Communications Department.  
[MyClearwater.com](http://MyClearwater.com)