

SUNSHINE LINES JUNE 2026

BEAUTIFUL NEWS FROM BAY TO BEACH

CLEARWATER CELEBRATES 250

The city of Clearwater is honoring the 250th anniversary of America's founding by showcasing city and community events leading up to Independence Day. The city's signature event, Clearwater Celebrates America, an expanded two-day festival, will conclude the week of festivities at Coachman Park July 3 and 4, starting at 5 p.m. each evening.

The city has invited organizations to submit their events and be part of Clearwater Celebrates 250 celebration. Events must be patriotic in nature and family friendly.

Learn more or apply at MyClearwater.com/250

CLEARWATER CELEBRATES AMERICA

Clearwater Celebrates America is a two-day festival that will feature a variety of family-friendly events for all ages. Both nights will have a dedicated children's zone, a mix of international and local musical performances, street performers, local food vendors and more.

July 3 will feature a laser light show, and July 4 will have a traditional fireworks show, concluding the Clearwater Celebrates 250 festivities. Activities start at 5 p.m. each night.

Learn more at MyClearwater.com/ClearwaterCelebratesAmerica



IT'S OFFICIALLY HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane season has arrived. And that means now is the time to prepare for anything Mother Nature may throw our way.

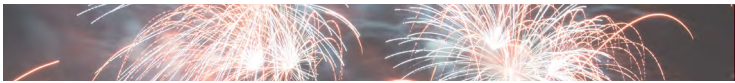
Protect your home by clearing storm drains and gutters, securing outdoor items, and reviewing your flood insurance coverage. If flooding occurs, move to higher ground and follow guidance from local officials.

Find out if you live in an evacuation zone, and plan where you would go if you must evacuate. Staying with a friend or relative in a non-evacuation zone is the best option. A shelter should be a last resort.

If you have a pet, make plans now for your four-legged friend. Have an emergency kit prepared for your pet and yourself.

Hurricane season runs through Nov. 30. Stay connected by signing up for Alert Pinellas and monitoring official city of Clearwater updates for real-time information.





BUILD A RESILIENT LANDSCAPE THIS SUMMER

The summer months in Clearwater bring intense sun, heat, and frequent afternoon showers, making it the perfect time to focus on building resilience from the ground up. On Arbor Day, the city launched the Resilient Clearwater: Plants & Trees campaign, highlighting how thoughtful landscaping can strengthen our community’s infrastructure, protect natural resources and support long-term sustainability. By planting native and Florida-friendly species, residents can take advantage of seasonal rainfall while choosing plants well-suited to Clearwater’s climate to help reduce urban heat, lower outdoor water use, manage stormwater, and support local biodiversity.

Native species provide essential habitat for pollinators and wildlife while requiring less water, fertilizer, and maintenance, which is especially important during the hot summer season. To learn more about how you can contribute to a more resilient Clearwater, visit MyClearwater.com/Plants



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.

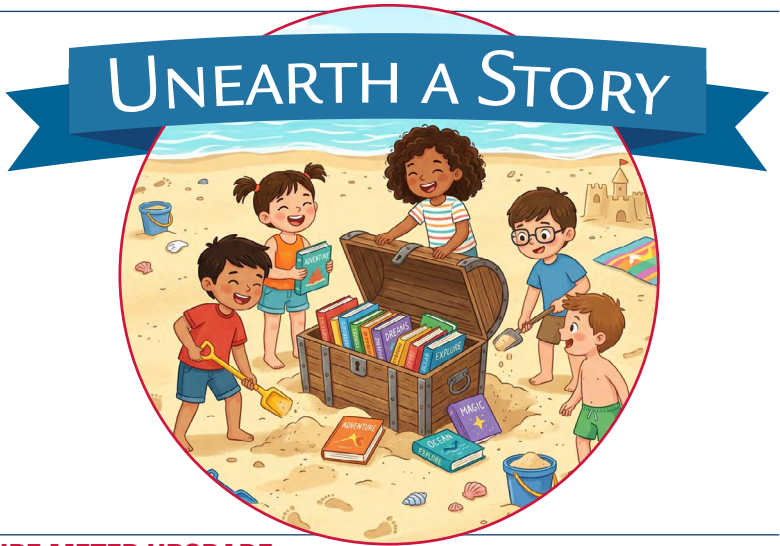
Incorrect use of fertilizer allows nutrients to leach into the groundwater and wash into storm drains that flow to creeks, lakes, Tampa Bay or the Gulf of Mexico, causing harmful algae blooms and fish kills. Instead of using fertilizers, you can apply Florida-friendly yard products that contain micronutrients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

SUMMER READING 2026

The Clearwater Public Library System’s 2026 Summer Reading Program, “Unearth a Story,” is underway and runs through July 31. The program is open to children, teens and adults.

Participants are encouraged to explore new books, discover hidden histories and connect with their community through reading and library events. The program features themed activities, interactive programs and incentives designed to engage readers of all levels.

Registration is available at all Clearwater library locations and online. Participants can track their reading, earn prizes and attend special events throughout the summer. For information or to register, go to MyClearwaterLibrary.com, or stop by your nearest Clearwater library location.



NATURAL GAS GENERATOR INSTALLATIONS MAY REQUIRE METER UPGRADE

Thinking about installing a natural gas generator? Homeowners planning to add a standby generator may need to upgrade their natural gas meter to meet increased demand. Residents are encouraged to contact CGS Energy at (727) 562-4980 to schedule a meter capacity evaluation before beginning installation.



KEEP RECYCLING CLEAN AND DRY

In Clearwater, residents are asked to place only clean and dry items in recycling containers. The city uses a single-stream recycling system, where all recyclable materials are collected. When items such as plastic containers or bottles contain leftover food or liquid, they can contaminate otherwise recyclable materials. Small amounts of water will not affect quality, but food and liquids can soil items in the container and on the collection truck.

Contaminated materials — especially paper and cardboard — often cannot be processed into new products due to reduced quality. Food and drink residue can also lead to mold, odors and pests.

To help ensure materials can be recycled, place only clean and dry items in your blue recycling container.

CLEARWATER HAPPENINGS

H.O.P.E. Expo
(Home Ownership for People Everywhere)
June 27, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Raymond James Financial Center, St. Petersburg

Hurricane Preparedness Expo
The event focuses on supporting the Spanish-speaking community, but all are welcome.
June 27, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., SPC Clearwater Library, 2465 Drew St.

Salsa & Bachata at the District
June 27, 6 to 11 p.m., 400 Cleveland St.

July 3 Independence Day (Observed)
July 3, all city offices are closed

AEW Presents Dynamite Beach Bash
July 8, 7:30 p.m., The BayCare Sound

The Market Marie
July 11, 10 a.m., Coachman Park

Sand Key Hurricane Preparedness
July 16, 1 to 3 p.m., 1716 N. Belcher Road

Men At Work With Toad The Wet Sprocket
July 18, 7 p.m., The BayCare Sound

The Black Keys Peaches ‘N’ Kream World Tour
July 28, 7 p.m., The BayCare Sound

Your Leadership Team

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

For information, call (727) 562-4682.
Sunshine Lines is produced by the city of Clearwater Public Communications Department.
MyClearwater.com