

SUNSHINE LINES

JULY 2026



STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL SOON

With the new school year starting Aug. 11 in Clearwater, it's time for a reminder about back-to-school safety. Drivers need to be on the lookout for Clearwater Police Department crossing guards helping children make it safely to and from school. And pay attention to those yellow flashing lights that signify school zones. It's also important to watch out for school buses that are stopped to pick up or let off students.

Clearwater Police officers will be conducting enhanced details in and around schools the first few days of the semester, making sure that students and our crossing guards are safe.

Crossing guards are present every morning and afternoon near elementary and middle schools in Clearwater. Interested in becoming a school crossing guard? The police department is always in the market for qualified candidates. Call (727) 224-7192 or visit MyClearwater.com/Jobs



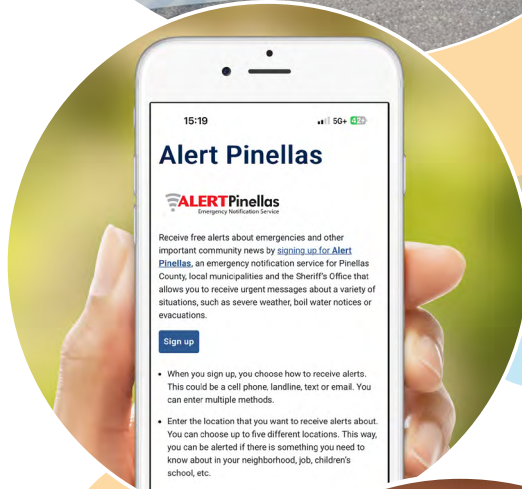
ALERT PINELLAS

Stay informed during emergencies and other important community events by signing up for Alert Pinellas, Pinellas County's emergency notification system.

Alert Pinellas provides timely alerts about severe weather, boil water notices, missing persons, evacuations and other urgent situations. The service is free and available to all residents.

When registering, you can choose how you receive notifications, including by phone call, text message or email. Multiple contact methods may be added, and alerts can be set for up to five locations.

To sign up, visit PinellasCounty.org/AlertPinellas



WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The city of Clearwater's annual Water Quality Report is now available. The report provides information about the quality of the city's drinking water and details how Clearwater continues to meet and exceed all state and federal drinking water standards.

Federal law requires public water systems to publish an annual consumer confidence report to keep customers informed about their drinking water.

To view the full report, visit MyClearwater.com/WaterReport. Printed copies are available upon request, and the report is also available in Spanish. To request a copy by mail, call Clearwater Public Utilities at (727) 562-4960.



MAKE AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE DROPPING OFF COOKING GREASE

The container used to collect cooking grease for the city's fats, oils and grease repurposing program has been relocated inside the Clearwater Solid Waste facility. As a result, residents will now need to schedule an appointment before dropping off used cooking oil and grease for recycling.

This change is being made because the container was being used on a regular basis to improperly dispose of hazardous waste, such as automotive fluids including motor oils, which should instead be taken to the Household Hazardous

Waste facility or to a countywide drop-off event. Properly disposing of cooking grease helps protect our sewer system, prevent costly blockages, and keep fats, oils, and grease out of local waterways. Residents are encouraged to continue recycling used cooking oil rather than pouring it down drains or disposing of it in the trash.

To access the container, residents must make an appointment with Clearwater Solid Waste. Appointments are available from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday by calling (727) 562-4920.



KEEP YOUR METER BOX CLEAR OF DEBRIS

The city of Clearwater reminds utility customers to please maintain the area around your water meter box, so it is clear of leaves, debris and anything else that might make it hard for Clearwater meter readers to locate or access your water meter. You can:

- Keep grass trimmed to the edge of the meter box.
- Keep a two-inch clearance of landscaping rock or shell around the edge of the meter box.

- Keep everything off the meter box, including trash and recycling bins, bulk trash, mulch, sod, and soil.
- Keep the inside of the meter box clean of dirt and debris to keep the meter fully accessible.

Reach out to Clearwater Utility Customer Service at (727) 562-4600 with questions.

KNOW WHAT’S BELOW: CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

As communities observe 811 Day on Aug. 11, residents are reminded to contact 811 before digging to avoid striking underground utility lines, which can cause service disruptions, injuries and costly repairs.

Failing to contact 811 before digging is the leading cause of damage to buried utilities, as shown in the attached images. Damage to utility lines can disrupt essential services and, in some cases, result in serious injuries or fatalities.

Calling 811 is free, fast and the first step in every safe digging project. Before starting any excavation, homeowners and contractors should contact 811 to have underground utility lines marked.



CONSIDERING ROOFTOP SOLAR?

Clearwater residents may be able to save money on rooftop solar through the Switch Together program, a group-buying initiative offered in partnership with the city of Clearwater and the nonprofit Solar United Neighbors. To date, more than 16,600 households have accepted an offer through the program.

Registration is free, and there is no obligation to accept an offer. To learn more, visit SwitchTogether.com/Solar/Clearwater. Registration closes Sept. 2, 2026.



NIGHT AT NORTH WARD

Residents, community stakeholders, developers, investors and preservation advocates are invited to tour the landmark property, learn about its history and explore possibilities for its future redevelopment and reuse. The event will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. July 30, and the evening will include self-guided tours, community conversation, music and refreshments. North Ward School is located at 900 N. Fort Harrison Ave.

Do you have photographs, stories or memories of North Ward School? Share them with us by sending an email to NightAtNorthWard@MyClearwater.com for a chance to be featured during the event and to help honor the school’s legacy.

Learn more about the event at MyClearwater.com/NightAtNorthWard



CLEARWATER HAPPENINGS

Pinellas County Hurricane Preparedness Summit for Faith Based Leaders

July 30, 9 a.m. to noon

Dive In Movie

Aug. 7, 6:30 p.m., Morningside Recreation Center

The Market Marie

Aug. 8, 10 a.m., Coachman Park

Back 2 School Bash

Aug. 8, 1 p.m., Morningside Recreation Center

Deep Purple With Special Guest Kansas

Aug. 8, 6 p.m., The BayCare Sound

Election Day

Aug. 18, find your precinct at VotePinellas.org

Squeeze with Adam Ant and Haircut 100

Aug. 19, 6 p.m., The BayCare Sound

DEVO

Aug. 27, 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.

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