

# SUNSHINE MAY 2025 LINES

BEAUTIFUL NEWS FROM BAY TO BEACH

## HURRICANE SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING

Hurricane season begins June 1, and now is the best time to prepare for summer storms. From coming up with a plan, to preparing your home and yard, acting now can make a big difference later. Here are some tips:

- Trim trees now, don't wait until the storm, and make sure you can secure or store loose items around your property.
- Stock up on enough essential supplies to last three to seven days per family members—items such as water, batteries, and non-perishable food (including pet food).
- Make evacuation plans, including where you will go, what you need to bring with you, and make a checklist for leaving your home.

If you do evacuate, make sure you turn off the main water line to your home, and turn off your water heater. This may reduce damage if a water line breaks inside your home.



## SAFELY DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE FOR FREE

Every year, residents hurry to get rid of old gasoline and hazardous chemicals before an incoming hurricane. This often overwhelms drop-off centers, causing long lines and quickly filling bulk fuel tanks, which forces staff to turn people away. To avoid delays and ensure safe disposal, officials encourage residents to drop off these chemicals now, before a named storm threatens the area.

Pinellas County offers two free drop-off sites for household hazardous waste such as gasoline, oil, paint and rechargeable batteries:

- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Center, 2855 109th Ave. N., St. Petersburg; open Tuesday through Friday, and the first and third Saturdays of each month from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- HHW North, 29582 U.S. 19 N, Clearwater; open select Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

You must provide proof of residence in Pinellas County.

Full event calendar and details can be found at [Pinellas.gov/hhw](https://pinellas.gov/hhw)

## JOIN US FOR THE 2025 HOPE EXPO!

The 2025 HOPE Expo is happening June 28, at the Raymond James Financial Center in St. Petersburg, located at 800 Carillon Parkway, Tower 2, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a free event for anyone interested in buying a home. Free lunch will be provided for all attendees.

At the expo, you can join a workshop and visit the exhibit hall with more than 30 exhibitors spanning the entire home-buying process. You'll get helpful information about buying a home, with workshops held in English and Spanish. Workshop topics will include answers to many questions you may have about buying a home.

After completing the workshop, attendees will receive a certificate that can assist with requirements needed for affordable housing loans, and down payment assistance programs for qualifying homebuyers. Registration opens May 16, and closes June 20. Don't miss out! Learn more at [HopeExpo.org](https://HopeExpo.org).



## COLOR OUR WORLD SUMMER READING PROGRAM, JUNE 2 TO AUG. 1, 2025

The Clearwater Public Library invites you to join our community for an all-ages summer reading program. "Color Our World" is our summer theme, and our free programs will focus on kindness, friendship, unity and, of course, reading.

To help track your reading and earn prizes in the process, the library is offering a summer reading challenge to children, teens, and adults. The program can be accessed on the library's website through Beanstack, a free online service that offers unique and fun ways to connect everyone with books, activities, and challenges. Track your reading using the Beanstack website or mobile app and earn online badges and prizes. Learn more at [MyClearwaterLibrary.com](https://MyClearwaterLibrary.com), or call (727) 562-4970.



## REMINDERS ABOUT SHORT-TERM RENTAL PROPERTIES

Any property that is located within a residentially-zoned area is restricted from advertising or renting their property as a short-term rental. The minimum duration allowed would be periods of 31 days or one calendar month, whichever is less.

If you are thinking about purchasing a new property or using an existing property as a short-term rental, contact the city's Code Compliance division at (727) 562-4720 to discuss prior to moving forward.



CLEARWATER HAPPENINGS

- Market Marie**  
June 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Shop local at The Market Marie with over 85 small business owners every second Saturday in Coachman Park. Enjoy live music, delicious food, art, clothing, jewelry, henna, handmade candles, soap, pet treats, home goods and more.
- Clearwater Celebrates America**  
July 4  
Celebrate Independence Day in Coachman Park with breathtaking fireworks over Clearwater Harbor. Event is first come, first served this year, and tickets are not needed.

- Fitness Classes**  
Saturdays, 8 to 9 a.m.  
Mondays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays, Yoga/TaijiFit 6 to 7 p.m.  
Participate in free fitness classes hosted by the YMCA Suncoast at Coachman Park. Location is on The Green, the large grassy field in Coachman Park.
- BayCare Sound Concerts**
  - June 7 **Old Dominion**
  - June 15 **Nikki Glaser**
  - June 18 **Rainbow Kitten Surprise**
  - June 21 **Ringo Starr & His All-Starr Band**
  - June 27 **Slightly Stoopid**



WATER MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

May 19 through June 7, 2025

Each year, Pinellas County’s drinking water distribution system temporarily switches its water treatment method from chloramines to chlorine. Clearwater customers are affected because the city buys some of its water from Pinellas County.

People who are sensitive to chlorine may notice a stronger smell or taste during this temporary change in our water disinfecting process. Users of kidney dialysis machines and owners of aquatic life should contact their respective service providers for additional guidance.

These simple steps may minimize chlorine odor or taste.

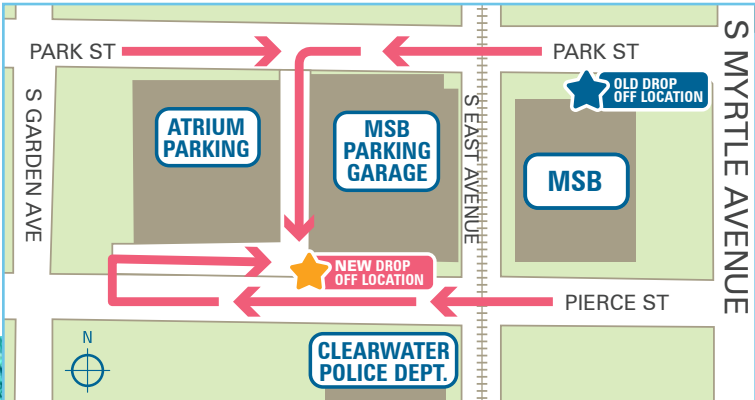
- Run the tap for a few minutes before using.
- Fill a pitcher of water and let it sit for several hours to allow any residual chlorine to dissipate.
- Consider installing a carbon filter on kitchen/bathroom faucets or shower heads or replacing existing filters with new ones.

Your water is safe to drink and meets all federal and state drinking water standards. Call Clearwater Public Utilities at (727) 562-4960 with questions.

WAYS TO PAY YOUR UTILITY BILL

We have multiple options for you to pay your utility bill. Whether it is water or gas, we have you covered. Here is how we are working to streamline the choices for you to pay.

- Pay in person at 777 Maple St. with cash, check or credit cards, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- The drop box has been moved to 620 Pierce St., next to the parking garage. Cash is not accepted.
- Pay online, at MyClearwater.com/Pay-My-Bill or scan the QR code below.



CALL 811 FIRST

Before you dig, call 811. Clearwater Gas System shares a safety reminder informing homeowners that Florida law requires property owners and excavators to call 811 at least two full business days prior to digging. This free service connects you to local utility operators who mark the location of buried lines prior to all excavation projects. Remember, every dig calls for 811. Learn more at Sunshine811.com.



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