

SUNSHINE LINES

June 2020

Beautiful News From Bay to Beach



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

During these uncertain times, the Utility Customer Service Department is doing what it can to make sure your utility service stays connected. Please be assured we will continue providing the utility services you need in your home or business. If it becomes difficult for you to make a payment during these uncertain times, please call us at (727) 562-4600 to set up payment arrangements.

PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane season begins 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 in the event a hurricane or tropical storm affects Clearwater. Check evacuation maps to see if you live in a zone where residents would have to leave their homes.

As a reminder, Clearwater Gas System does not sell gas generators. However, customers can purchase gas service to power a homeowner's or business owner's gas generator (restrictions apply). To learn more, contact Clearwater Gas System at (727) 562-4980.

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. Furthermore, public shelters may not be as available as in previous years, because of COVID-19 and distancing guidelines. And if you don't already have flood insurance, now is a good time to buy it. Most plans have a waiting period of 30 or more days before coverage begins.



WE CARE FUND

Because of the need to shelter in place and many people losing their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic, some of your neighbors may be having financial difficulties. The city of Clearwater's We Care Fund was created for times such as these, to give temporary assistance to those in need by helping to pay their utility bills. Residents can sign up to contribute at myclearwater.com/wecare.

Since 1992, Clearwater and its utility customers have helped hundreds of neighbors by contributing to the We Care Fund. Contributions are administered by the local branch of the Salvation Army to provide temporary assistance to eligible city utility customers.

Consider contributing to your community through the We Care Fund. Your continuing gift of just a dollar or two each month can mean so much to a neighbor struggling to get by. To give a gift, cut out the form below and return it with your payment to Clearwater Utility Customer Service, PO Box 4748, Clearwater FL 33758.



Thank You for Caring and Sharing!



CLEARWATER
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL · BAY TO BEACH

YES, I want to contribute to the We Care Fund.

Please check one of the following:

Please add the following amount to my utility bill each month until I notify you to make a change.

\$1 \$2 \$5 \$ _____

I want to make a one-time donation to the We Care Fund in the amount of \$_____. Please add to my next bill.

Your donation may be tax deductible as allowed by law.
Consult your tax adviser.

• **NAME:** _____
• **ADDRESS:** _____
• **CITY:** _____
• **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____
• **ACCOUNT NUMBER:** _____
• **SIGNATURE** _____

• **Your gift means so much to us. Please return with your utility bill payment.**
• **Mail to Clearwater Utility Customer Service,**
• **PO Box 4748, Clearwater FL 33758.**

CLEARWATER CELEBRATES AMERICA

The Clearwater City Council has decided to cancel the annual Clearwater Celebrates America event and fireworks display that was planned for July 4 of this year.

FILL OUT YOUR 2020 CENSUS

Visit my2020census.gov, and fill out the 2020 census. You can fill it out online or mobile phone, or you can call (844) 330-2020 (English) or (844) 468-2020 (Spanish).

The census is central to the Clearwater community, and only half of Clearwater residents have filled it out so far. It ensures everyone is equally represented, and it determines funding for critical programs that support education, housing, healthcare and transportation services in Clearwater. Everyone who is living in the United States should be counted.

PULLING A PERMIT JUST GOT EASIER

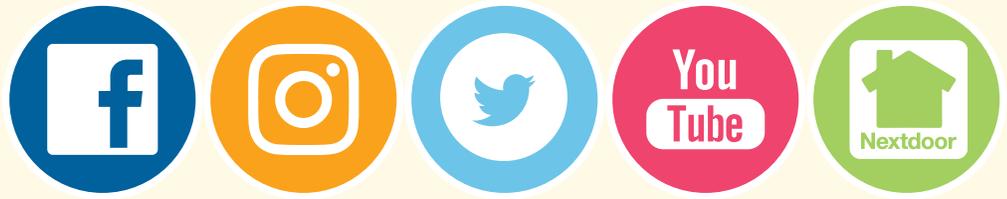
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the city of Clearwater's Planning & Development Department has remained open and accepted both drop-off and online permit applications. Starting June 1, the city will begin requiring licensed professionals to obtain certain permits online. These permits include work for windows, doors, garage doors, mechanical, roofing, electric, plumbing and water heaters.

This change is taking place to better use available technology, save customers and business owners' time and money, and reduce the number of people who need to come into city offices. Visit epermit.myclearwater.com to get started and to view helpful tutorials and videos to help users navigate through the system.

STAY INFORMED

There's a lot happening in our bright and beautiful city, and we want you to know about it. Keep up with city news and happenings by following the city of Clearwater on its social media channels. We're on Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor,

Instagram and YouTube. Get only the news you want, and sign up for one or many categories of email news blasts at myclearwater.com/enotifications. The city is also updating its COVID-19 website regularly at myclearwater.com/covid19.



RECYCLE RIGHT

By recycling, Clearwater residents can conserve natural resources and have a positive impact on the environment. Items that are accepted in Clearwater's recycling program include plastics #1-7, glass bottles and jars, metal and aerosol cans, flattened cardboard and mixed paper. Everything else should go in the trash. When in doubt, throw it out.

Plastic bags and wraps are not accepted in Clearwater's recycling program. This includes plastic wrapping and packaging for paper towels, toilet tissue, dry cleaning, newspaper delivery bags, etc. These materials cannot be processed by the city's recycling processor. They get tangled in the equipment and can lead to equipment failures and fires. Instead, plastic bags should be returned to the grocery store for recycling or thrown in the trash. For more information, visit myclearwater.com/recycling.

TAKE A SUMMER READING CHALLENGE!

Children and teens can participate in the library's annual Summer Reading Program in a variety of ways this summer. Beginning June 8 through July 31, children can download and print or pick up from their library a map of Little Red Riding Hood's path to Grandma's house to participate in the Family Reading Online Challenge.

Kids can participate in a series of five activity challenges of their choosing, based on their interests and receive a prize capsule upon completion. These challenges can be downloaded and printed from the library's website or picked up from any Clearwater branch. Prizes may be picked up throughout the summer or if desired, curbside pickup can be arranged after July 31.

Youth staff will broadcast story times and other exciting virtual programs via the library's social media channels. Children can pick up "Craft-to-Go" packets throughout the summer, while supplies last. Teens may also participate in the "Teen Books Rock" subscription service, and everyone is encouraged to participate in "Reading with the Rays" at mlb.com/rays/community/reading. Visit myclearwaterlibrary.com for details.



Para información en español, llame al (727) 562-4047. Sunshine Lines is produced by the city of Clearwater Public Communications Department

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