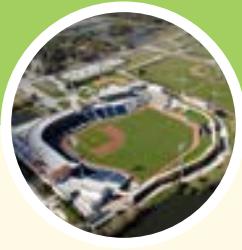


SUNSHINE LINES

April 2020

Beautiful News From Bay to Beach



HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF DISEASE



It's up to all of us to help stop the spread of disease. Follow the Centers for Disease Control guidelines to take steps to help prevent the spread of disease.

Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds, or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. Avoid close contact with people who are sick, and put distance between yourself and other people. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily, such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets and sinks. If surfaces are dirty, clean them.



Visit floridahealthcovid19.gov for more ways to protect yourself and others. For Clearwater community updates, visit myclearwater.com/covid19.

WATER MAINTENANCE PROGRAM TO BEGIN

Each year, Pinellas County's drinking water distribution system undergoes a maintenance program in which the disinfectant is temporarily switched from chloramines to chlorine. Clearwater customers are affected by this switch, because the city buys some of its water from Pinellas County. The maintenance program occurs in two different segments each year. This year's first segment is May 17 to June 5. The second will take place Sept. 20 to Oct. 9. (At the time this publication went to press, the program was still planned. It is subject to change.)

Some residents may notice a slight difference in the taste or odor of their drinking water. Although the disinfectant is slightly more noticeable, the water is safe to drink. Residents and businesses with kidney dialysis machines and tropical aquatic life tanks should not be affected but should contact their respective industries with questions about this temporary change. This routine maintenance is required to ensure the drinking water provided to Clearwater utility customers continues to be of the highest quality. The annual process continues to run smoothly every year. Thank you for your patience.



LEAKS & YOUR HOME

April is Water Conservation Month. One important way you can conserve water in your home is to watch for and repair leaks as soon as they start. Here are some examples of items in your home that can leak and their impact:

- A water hose that is three-quarter-inch in diameter and 100 feet long can create a leak of 13.1 gallons per minute, or 786 gallons per hour.
- A toilet leak with a chain under the flapper can create a leak of 1.6 gallons per minute, or 96 gallons per hour.
- A toilet leak with the flapper removed can create a leak of 6.8 gallons per minute, or 408 gallons per hour.
- A dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day or more.

If there is a leak after the water runs through the meter, the charge will appear on the bill and must be paid by the account holder. Paying careful attention to leaks will not only help conserve water, but it also will keep consumer costs low. For more information, call the Utility Customer Service Department at (727) 562-4600.



Clearwater Happenings

CLEARWATER BEACH TASTE FEST

Friday, May 1
6 to 9 p.m.
Pier 60 Park
clearwaterbeachtastefest.com

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Monday, May 25
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Crest Lake Park

DIG SAFELY & CALL 811

If your plans include planting a tree this summer, be sure to call 811 first to have underground utilities properly marked. Anyone who digs for any reason is required by Florida law to contact 811 at least two full working days in advance so underground utilities can be located and marked for free. Call between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, or go to call811.com and use the online tool at any time. When a utility-location request precedes digging, damage is avoided 99 percent of the time. For more information, visit sunshine811.com.

FLORIDA ORCHESTRA

Saturday, May 9
7:30 to 10 p.m.
Coachman Park
floridaorchestra.org

BLAST FRIDAY

Friday, May 29
5 to 10 p.m.
Downtown Clearwater
rutherfordhall.com/blastfriday

FESTIVAL OF CHARIOTS

Saturday, May 9
1 to 9 p.m.
Pier 60 Park
festivalofchariots.org/events

As of the time this publication went to press, these special events were planned. All events are subject to change.

HOPE EXPO IS HERE TO HELP HOME BUYERS

HOPE Expo 2020 can help people interested in buying a home. HOPE (Home Ownership for People Everywhere) Expo 2020 will be held Saturday, May 9, 2020, from 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Raymond James Financial Center, 880 Carillon Parkway Tower 4, St. Petersburg. Event is subject to change.

There will be more than 30 professional exhibitors with experience in home buying, including lenders, real estate agents, credit counselors, down

payment assistance specialists and local government agencies that offer programs to assist in home buying. A home buyer workshop will also be held at the event in both English and Spanish.

The event, which is celebrating its 29th year, is sponsored by dozens of local organizations and government agencies, including the city of Clearwater. Register and learn more by visiting hopeexpo.org. For more information, contact Terry Malcolm-Smith, the city of Clearwater's housing coordinator, at (727) 562-4036 or terry.malcolm-smith@myclearwater.com.



SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

BALLOON RELEASES HURT OUR BEACHES

Whether intentional or accidental, balloons released into the air can be lethal to animals. A single balloon can kill a sea turtle, dolphin or whale if ingested, and balloon strings can strangle birds. Sadly, these deaths happen all the time, and experts rank balloons as one of the major threats to marine animals.

According to Florida State Statute 379.233, large balloon releases are illegal in the Sunshine State. Consider a more ocean-friendly option at your next celebration, such as bubbles, paper-based confetti or a memorial tree planting. To learn more about how to keep Clearwater clean and green, visit myclearwater.com/sustainability.

WHAT CAN COMPOST DO FOR YOU?

Find out how compost can help grow food, improve water quality, reduce emissions and promote a business. You are invited to learn all about compost from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 2 at the Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail Lane. Event is subject to change.

Join local composting experts as they discuss the benefits of composting. Following the discussion, join a tour of the beautiful Moccasin Lake Nature Park and learn more about Florida's native plants and wildlife. To learn more about how to keep Clearwater clean and green, visit myclearwater.com/sustainability.

SUMMER CAMPS

As of the time this publication went to press, summer camps are slated to begin June 1 for first through eighth grades. Campers enjoy days full of activities such as sports, games, field trips, crafts and more. For \$100 or less per week, campers receive all supplies, a T-shirt, field trips and more.

Camp registration is under way, and scholarships are available to those who qualify. For a list of camps or to register, visit myclearwater.com/camps.



myclearwater.com



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

EVERYONE COUNTS!

While you are social distancing, visit my2020census.gov and fill out the 2020 census. You can fill it out online by computer or mobile phone, or you can call (844) 330-2020 (English) or (844) 468-2020 (Spanish). The census is central to our democracy and to the Clearwater community. It ensures everyone is equally represented, and it determines funding for critical programs that support education, housing, health and transportation services in Clearwater. Everyone who is living in the United States should be counted.