

The Newsletter for Clearwater's
Bright and Beautiful Employees and Retirees



20th Annual Employee Health Fair Fall into Healthy Habits

By Michelle Kutch

All city employees and retirees are invited to attend the city's 20th annual Health & Benefits Fair. This year's event will happen Friday, Oct. 28 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ross Norton Recreation Complex, 1426 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. As always, the health fair kicks off annual open enrollment and the city's United Way fundraisers.

Again this year, the fair will offer free flu shots. Health screenings will also be available for sleep assessments, body fat analysis, skin cancer and vision problems. BayCare will provide informational tables on stroke awareness, diabetes, cancer, weight management and stress. There will also be chair massages, entertainment and prizes.

Attendees can meet with vendors for medical, dental and vision benefits, AFLAC programs, the employee assistance program, deferred compensation and life insurance.

As in year's past, employees will use Bentek, the online Employee Benefits Center, to view or make changes to benefit elections for 2017. This is your chance to make benefit changes without a qualifying event.

Cigna will continue as our health insurance provider for 2017.

Due to a new federal ruling, employees are no longer required to complete a personal health assessment in order to be placed in a plan with a better schedule of benefits. Although the PHA is not required, the city highly encourages employees to continue getting a personal health assessment annually and to continue using the Employee Health Center, which were both contributing factors to the low (2 percent) increase for 2017.

Human Resources staff will be available to assist employees at the health fair and throughout open enrollment.

Employees should obtain their supervisor's permission to attend, and departments are encouraged to allow employees to go to the health fair during work hours, if operations permit. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 20th annual Health & Benefits Fair.



Employee Spotlight: Milou Louis, Senior Systems Programmer

By José Patiño

At work, **Jean Milou Louis** sits behind his desk focused on two screens, analyzing the city's software systems. After work hours, he doesn't sit. He's at a local dojo kicking, punching and tossing his opponents over his shoulder.

Milou, a senior systems programmer in the Information Technology Department, has been a martial arts practitioner since he was 14 years old in his native Haiti. Now, Milou, who is over 55 years old, holds a first-degree black belt in Shotokan and Tae Kwon Do. He has also trained in Aikido and other martial arts disciplines. Today, he's training in Eskrima Kali, a Filipino combat style of martial arts. Milou holds a green sash in Eskrima Kali. He is training for a red sash and eventually hopes to obtain a black sash.

The husband of more than 30 years and father of three enjoys martial arts because it keeps him active, focused and disciplined. It builds his strength and fills him with confidence. Martial arts training also helps him to keep fear at bay. "If you go somewhere, you don't get scared," said Milou, who has worked for the city for five years. "You know you can protect yourself if need be." He trains in Eskrima Kali for an hour and a half on Thursday nights and for two and a half hours on Saturday mornings. His instructor is Rick Wiersch, a recreation leader in the city's Parks and Recreation Department. "It keeps me in shape, keeps me motivated," Milou said.

His weekly workout routine includes more than just martial arts. Milou also weight lifts five days a week, and he bikes 32 miles on average every Sunday. "I'm always in the gym because I can't sit still," Milou said. "I always have to be doing something."



In This Issue

- *The Eagle Has Landed*..... 2
- *Tracey's Pick for Favorite Reads*..... 2
- *New Public Art at Main Library*..... 2
- *Police Dept. Employees Awarded*..... 2
- *City Publications Shine in National Light* 3
- *Code Compliance Employees*..... 3
- *Lifeguards Work Hard* 3
- *Personnel Corner and Service Awards*..... 4 & 5
- *Letter from a Retiree*..... 5
- *Clearwater Library Celebrated 100 Years*..... 5
- *Top Ops Winners 2016*..... 6
- *Volunteers Needed for Point-in-Time Count* 6
- *Gas Marketing Star Stands Out* 6
- *Cause for Applause*..... 6
- *Thousands Have Fun at National Night Out*..... 7
- *United Way Day of Caring* 7
- *Team Award and Employees of the Month*..... 7
- *Achievement Awards Committee*..... 8
- *Better Body Bingo* 8

The Eagle Has Landed – In The Middle of a Busy Street

By Rob Shaw

Clearwater police officers and firefighters have helped rescue cats, dogs, goats and even ducklings over the years.

But one recent morning brought a first for all – an injured American bald eagle perched in the middle of Countryside Boulevard and in danger of being further injured.

That was the case Oct. 5 when a motorist noticed the majestic eagle sitting in the middle northbound lane of the busy road, apparently struck and injured by a passing car while trying to dine on a dead animal in the road. Police officers, firefighters and the crossing guard supervisor swooped on to the scene and quickly cordoned off two lanes to keep the eagle from further injury.

A wildlife rescue worker was contacted, and she arrived on scene minutes later. She was able to corral the eagle with a net with the help of police officers and firefighters – to the delight and applause of those who had stopped to watch the drama unfold.

The female adult eagle was rushed to Busch Gardens, where she underwent surgery for a bone chip on a bone in her right wing. After treatment, it is hoped she will be released back into the wild at the same place she first got into trouble.

After all, her mate will be waiting for her return. He was watching the whole scenario that day from high atop a nearby electrical tower.



New Public Art at the Main Library

By Chris Hubbard



The Centennial Oak, created by artist Douwe Blumberg of DeMossville, Ky. was recently dedicated as part of the Clearwater Public Library System's centennial anniversary. The sculpture is composed of braided aluminum cable that forms the trunk of the tree, and a canopy of hundreds of acrylic leaves. The sculpture is located at the Main Library courtyard and greets visitors as they arrive at the library's main entrance.

Police Dept. Employees Awarded

The Clearwater Police Department held an awards ceremony Oct. 13.

Below is a list of awards and recipients:

MEDAL OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
Sergeant **Stephen Wannos**

MEDAL OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
Sergeant **Michael Spitaleri**
Officer **Justin Hennis**
Officer **Eric Mitchell**
Officer **Matthew Richmond**
Officer **Steven Venezia**

MEDAL OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE
Officer **Michelle Brunozzi**
Officer **Fredrick Lise**

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
Officer **Catherine Long**

COMBAT CROSS
Corporal **Brian Rogers**

LETTER OF COMMENDATION
Communication Operator
Amber Meagher



Tracey's Pick for Favorite Reads: "Sweetbitter" by Stephanie Danler

By Tracey Reed

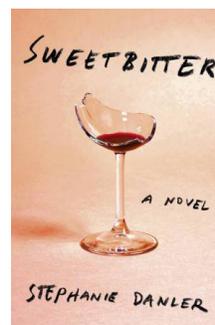
I seem to be on a kick with books that are food-related. I recently re-read Anthony Bourdain's "Kitchen Confidential," which I highly recommend if you are a fan of, well, food. And there's many other memoirs (Ruth Reichel is a particular favorite), recipe books and combinations of both that are delightful and fascinating. However, this fiction book, "Sweetbitter," completely caught me off guard. I didn't read descriptions of it until after I started, and many have compared it to Bourdain's memoir.

This novel, set in a hip Union Square restaurant in New York City, tells the story of the first year in Tess' rebirth, "Let's say I was born in late June of 2006 when I came over the George Washington Bridge." Her job becomes her life, as it does with many in the restaurant industry, and her passion for learning is unmistakable. She's taken under the wing of the senior

server, Simone, and falls hard for the bartender, Jake.

I know it sounds trite, and save for the lushness of the writing, and the very real feel and trajectory of Tess' story, it would be. She describes oysters, champagne, "sex and food and death" as one who is living it.

Set in the seasons of her first year, we grow with Tess as she discovers her palate and what it means to be 22 in New York City: "I wanted to say, my life is full. I chose this life because it's a constant assault of color and taste and light and it's raw and ugly and fast and it's mine. And you'll never understand. Until you live it, you don't know."



City Publications Shine in National Light

By Heather Parsons

Congratulations to the city's Graphic Design team, **Laura Del Valle** and **Mario Paredes**, on their winning graphic designs that were recognized nationally this past month. Their work received accolades from Graphic Design USA, a business-to-business information source for graphic design professionals. The **Public Communications Department** received an American Graphic Design Award for the city's MyClearwater magazine and for Parks & Recreation Department's Fun 'n Country concert poster for the city's Special Events division. For more information about this awards program, visit gdusa.com.

The design team along with the **Parks & Recreation Department** also was recognized at the state level by the Florida Festivals & Events Association's SUNSational Awards for 2016. The city won first place in the photography category for a photo taken at WiLD Splash, second place for a television spot at Maxima Concierto Herencia Hispana and third place for a promotional poster of the AmeriLife Fun 'n Country event presented by 99.5 QYK. To learn more about these awards, visit ffea.com/sunsational-awards.

MyClearwater magazine also received an Award of Excellence from the City-County Communications & Marketing Association, or 3CMA, this past September. The national award was given in the category of external publications and included magazines and newsletters. Thank you to everyone who contributes content and photography to this quality publication. Check out the current issue at magazinevolume.com/18916CO/.

Code Compliance Employees Represent Clearwater

By José Patiño

The Code Compliance Department is representing the city of Clearwater very well.

This month **Mary Jo Weaver**, a sign inspector in the city's Code Compliance division and **Diane Devol**, a city code inspector, were appointed to the board of the Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement.

Weaver was elected vice president, and Devol was elected secretary. They will each serve two-year terms.

"We are taking our turn and serving our fellow code inspectors," Weaver said.

The Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement represents code compliance officers from Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, Manatee, Sarasota, Hernando and Citrus counties and the code compliance officers in the municipalities in the respective counties. The organization meets bi-monthly and offers educational and updated information on the code inspection field. The organization has a guest speaker at its meetings to discuss the latest issues, trends and techniques in code compliance. The meetings also serve as an opportunity for certified code inspectors to earn continuing education hours and an opportunity to network.

The organization offers a scholarship to qualifying members to the annual state conference. This year, the organization will start offering scholarships for qualifying members to take certification and credential classes and examinations.

"It's a good way to be more involved in all aspects of our job," Devol said. "It broadens our scope and makes us better code inspectors."

Both Weaver and Devol are serving for the second time. Weaver was appointed vice president in 2014, and Devol was appointed secretary that same year.

Weaver and Devol are taking the path of city of Clearwater code inspector **Shelby Brown**, who was president of the Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement from 2010 to 2014.



Diane Devol, city code inspector, Mary Jo Weaver, city sign inspector, and Shelby Brown, city code inspector.

Lifeguards Work Hard to Keep Clearwater Beach Safe

By Jason Beisel



This year Tropical Storm Colin and Tropical Storm Hermine both made an impact on Clearwater Beach. Even though these were minor tropical storms, there was some damage and flooding in many areas. These storms also created rough surf along the Gulf of Mexico, which can make for dangerous conditions for those visiting the beach. That's where Clearwater lifeguards can help warn people and save lives. "A lot of storms can be an attraction to people, and they will overestimate their abilities while underestimating Mother Nature's strength," Clearwater Lifeguard Supervisor **Patrick Brafford** said.

Lifeguards on the beach work as a team to get the beach prepared for rough weather, while also having to stay on duty to make sure those visitors on the beach are safe. "We are all-hands-on-deck until it becomes too unsafe," Brafford said.

Lifeguards will monitor conditions and first decide which flags to raise. Yellow flags let swimmers know there is a rough surf with strong currents. Red flags are raised when there are serious hazards in the water and there are dangerous currents. A double red flag signals the beach is closed, because it's just too dangerous to swim and weather conditions have deteriorated.

Lifeguards will begin moving lifeguard towers higher on the beach to protect them from storm surge and damage. If conditions become worse, they will move all lifeguard vehicles and apparatus out of the main tower and away from the beach. "It's pretty basic. Protect city property, employees and those visiting the beach," Brafford said.

Lifeguards stay on the beach as long as weather conditions allow and will always monitor those people visiting the beach. Their top priority is to keep visitors informed of conditions and make sure they stay out of trouble. If it becomes unsafe, then lifeguards will evacuate the beach and hopefully visitors will as well.

Personnel Corner

Aug. 20 to Oct. 7, 2016

NEW HIRES

Andrew Bassant, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Stephon Byrd, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste & General Services

Garth Carson, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Logan Chaple, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Jack Cresap, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Patrick Curry, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Paul Dereszewski, School Crossing Guard, Police

James Griffin, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Jose Irizarry, Parking, Facility & Security Aide, Engineering

Richard Lawson, School Crossing Guard, Police

George Lewis-Saldana, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Jason Lubecki, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Bridget McCord, Police Information Technician I, Police

Michael McKnight, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Ucal Morrison, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste & General Services

Jon Page, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator C, Public Utilities

Richard Rios, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste & General Services

Carlos Rivera, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Donald Robinson, Gas Technician I, Clearwater Gas

Eric Rodriguez, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Derek Silver, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Chris Smaha, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Jordan Tellone, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Chase Westbrook, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Lawrence Wiley, School Crossing Guard, Police

Bryant Wilson, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste & General Services

PROMOTIONS

Patrick Allen, Stormwater Technician III, Engineering

Ryan Bessler, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Michelle Chapman, Customer Service Accounting Representatives, Utility Customer Service

Jody Criswell, Water Distribution Operator Lead, Public Utilities

Theresa Hughes, Customer Service Representative, Utility Customer Service

Erik Jordan, Water Plant Operator B, Public Utilities

Blake Maxfield, Parks Service Technician III, Parks & Recreation

Caleb Mello, Utilities Mechanic, Public Utilities

Nicholas Namaga, Water Distribution Plant Operator B, Public Utilities

Belen Rubin, Senior Library Assistant, Library

Kellen Scott, Police Communication Operator, Police

Jill Silverboard, Deputy City Manager, City Manager

Michele Stewart, Personnel/Payroll Technician, Parks & Recreation

Timothy Sunderman, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator B, Public Utilities

Troy Tarver, Solid Waste Accounts Coordinator, Solid Waste & General Services

Jason Wallace, Stormwater Technician III, Engineering

Davon Watson, Water Distribution Operator Lead, Public Utilities

WELCOME BACK

Caitlyn Anderson, Marine Facility Operator, Marine & Aviation

Catherine Cotton, Fire Inspector II, Fire & Rescue

Lawrence Flory, Police Communication Operator Trainee, Police

Anthony Hall, Beach Lifeguard, Parks & Recreation

Piatra Johnson, Recreation Leader, Parks & Recreation

Alvin Miller, Recreation Leader, Parks & Recreation

Courtney Osteen, Library Assistant, Library

Xaymara Santiago-Pabon, Recreation Leader, Parks & Recreation

Charles Vaughan, Recreation Leader, Parks & Recreation

Alexandria Wells, Librarian I, Library

RETIREMENTS

Barbara Hagen, Gas Program Coordinator, Clearwater Gas

Debora Kendall, Parks Service Technician III, Parks & Recreation

Elaine Lewis, Police Office Specialist, Police

Margarita Lyons, Library Assistant, Library

Patricia Morin, Lead Parking Attendant, Engineering

Linda Ratcliffe, Library Assistant, Library

Daniel Rozzi, Police Officer, Police

Nancy Scott, Senior Staff Assistant, Planning & Development

Steven Sears, Police Sergeant, Police

Julia Tynefield, Personnel/Payroll Technician, Parks & Recreation

John Witkowski, Building Construction Inspector, Planning & Development

TRANSFERS

Graham Donaldson, Marine Facility Operator, Marine & Aviation

Travis Lee, Solid Waste Worker, Solid Waste & General Services

Nancy Selvick, Police Office Specialist, Police

Births

To **Brett Jennings**, Gas Technician I, a daughter named Scarlett Ann, born Sept. 12, weighing 5 lbs., 14 oz.

To **Joe Roseto**, Human Resources Director, a great-granddaughter, named Demi Rae, born Sept. 23, weighing 8 lbs., 10 oz.

To **Kimberly Turner**, Communications Supervisor, a son named Colton Scott, born Sept. 30, weighing 9 lbs.

Sympathies

To the family, friends and co-workers of this retired city employee who passed away recently:

- **Willie Marcus**, former Maintenance Worker I, on Oct. 13
- **Josephine Robinson**, former Systems Analyst/Programmer, on Aug. 28

To **Darien Asberry**, Recreation Leader, on the loss of his grandfather

To **Nathanel Bowne**, Aquatic Programmer, on the loss of his father

To **Bruce Griffin**, Gas Operations Manager, on the loss of his father

To **Randy Higgins**, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, on the loss of his aunt

To **Frank McCormick**, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, on the loss of his wife's grandmother

Service Awards

20 YEARS

David Dalton, Police Major, Police

Michael Duff, Mechanic Fabricator, Solid Waste & General Services

Darrell Ford, Stormwater Supervisor I, Engineering

Von Watson, Streets & Sidewalks Supervisor II, Parks & Recreation

25 YEARS

Edward Stiers, Streets & Sidewalks Technician II, Parks & Recreation

William Taggart, Police Service Technician, Police

Thomas Tague, Police Officer, Police

30 YEARS

Susan Marx, Customer Service Representatives, Clearwater Gas

Lawrence Wynn, Public Utilities Technician II, Public Utilities

Letter from a Retiree

By **Richard "Rick" Sheldon**

As an old retired city employee, I just turned 80, I've always been proud of my service with the city.

I still remember the day that I got a job with the city. I had been unemployed for awhile, and with a wife, (Mary) and child to support, it was imperative that I just get any job. Good luck was on my side; I was able to get a job at the sewage treatment plant on State Road 60 (the East Plant). I'll never forget the look on Mary's face when I told her where I was going to be working. As it turned out, wastewater treatment proved to be just my thing!

As the years passed by, I was able to advance in my chosen career and moved into supervision. When I reached retirement age, I left the city of Clearwater and took the job as superintendent for the city of Largo's treatment facilities. After a few years there, I totally retired.

The highlight of my wastewater career was when I became an instructor for wastewater operator training programs. Believe it or not, I often attended regional and statewide seminars or short schools, even after my retirement. I still say today to people who question why I stayed in the field: "It might be sewage to you, but it is and was my bread and butter!"

Last year, I lost my wife of 57 years. I look back on a full and productive life with four grown children, eight grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

I'll close with something an employee of mine asked: "Mr. Sheldon, do you really enjoy working here?" I went into a rather long response telling of all the good we do to protect the health (of residents) etc., etc. I finally asked him, "Why the question?" He said, "Well I've been working here for some time now, and I'm starting to like it. I thought I was losing it!"



Clearwater Library System Celebrated 100 Years

By **Krystie Epperson**

The Clearwater Public Library System celebrated its centennial throughout the week of Sept. 12 with celebrations that included games, activities and birthday cake at each branch. The week culminated with a big party at the Main Library on Sept. 17. Many current and former library employees attended the events along with city officials and members of the public.



From left to right: **Amber Priester** (Library Assistant), **Linda Rothstein** (Adult Services Manager), **Deborah Androvetto** (Library Volunteer), **Susan Fernandez** (Library Volunteer), **Christa Smith** (North Greenwood Branch Manager), cardboard cutout of Andrew Carnegie, **Ed Tumber** (East Library Branch Manager), **Jennifer Rush** (Senior Library Assistant), **Meredith Kambic** (Librarian I), **Kayla Grant** (Librarian II), **Roxana Grinov** (Librarian I)

Top Ops Winners 2016

By Heather Parsons

On Oct. 5, Clearwater Public Utilities competed in the 2016 American Public Works Association West Coast Branch's Rodeo and North Pinellas Municipal Utilities "Meeting of the Minds' Top Ops Competition" held in Pinellas Park. It's a showdown of industry field professionals, with more than 400 attendees.

More than 190 employees from municipalities in seven counties competed. Clearwater tied with the host city for first place for the overall trophy. Clearwater took home several trophies and performed well in many competitions.

Clearwater's winners are:

Hard Tap

A team of four installs a tap on a pressurized ductile iron pipe.

- 1st place: "Clearwater Aqua Men" - **Jason Gray, Dan McGuinness, Davon Watson and Logan Bashline** (4:29)



Wastewater Operator Challenge

Everyday know-how of wastewater operations in "college bowl" format.

- 1st place: "Dual Operators Gone Rogue" - **Carl Allison and Jackie Calder**



Water Operator Challenge

Everyday know-how of water operations in "college bowl" format.

- 2nd place: "No Use For a Name" - **Erik Jordan and Charles McAbee**



Meter Madness

A meter is assembled from a bucket of parts.

- 1st place: **Matt D'Andrea** (0:51.19)

Administrators' Challenge

Tests the ability of office staff to successfully complete the backhoe egg drop challenge.

- 1st place: **Laura Davis** (1:19)



Hot Dog Eating Contest

Five-minute time limit.

- 1st Place: **Matt D'Andrea** (nine hot dogs)

Congratulations to everyone who participated!

Volunteers Needed for 2017 Point-in-Time Count

By José Patiño

The 2017 Point-in-Time Count and Survey is set for Jan. 24, and the city needs staff to volunteer. The Point-in-Time Count and Survey helps local agencies track the extent of homelessness in our community. It also helps policymakers and agencies track the progress to ending homelessness and helps determine the programs that are needed. The Point-in-Time Count and Survey is done on the streets and at locations where homeless individuals and families can be found. The Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board and its partners are organizing the 2017 Point-in-Time Count and Survey.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Gabe Parra**, the city's community development manager, at 562-4047 or gabe.parra@myclearwater.com.

Gas Marketing Star Stands Out in the State

By Heather Parsons

Congratulations to **Lisa Brown-Friday**, Gas Marketing Specialist, who received the 2016 Fred Pryor Natural Gas Marketing Person of the Year award from the Florida Natural Gas Association, or FNGA. The award recognizes top marketing representatives in the natural gas industry in Florida. FNGA represents 30-plus investor-owned and municipal gas systems in Florida.



"Lisa deserves this award simply for her work ethic, dedication, integrity and most importantly, for being a trustworthy and invaluable representative to our gas industry for the past 15 years," said **Kristi Cheatham-Pettit**, Gas Sales Manager for Clearwater Gas System. "Her teamwork approach to all of us here at the city's gas sales office is far beyond what is typical in most businesses today."

Lisa began her career at Clearwater Gas in 2001 and was hired as a Sales and Marketing Specialist. Since then, she has become and remains an integral member in the overall success of Clearwater Gas Sales. She is in charge of all promotional activities for the department, and she develops key marketing strategies and messages about CGS's continuously successful "Live Greener with Gas" campaign. She also has been instrumental in coordinating CGS events such as the grand opening of the city's natural gas fueling station (Oct. 2011), Clearwater Gas's 80th year in business (2003) and CGS's role in the city's centennial celebration (2015).

Cheatham-Pettit can't imagine a team without Lisa Brown-Friday. "Her creative skills and thoughtful advertising campaigns assist our sales staff, even as the country's economic downturn stretched from 2008 to current time," she said.

Lisa recently took lead in developing the overall five-year strategic marketing plan for Clearwater Gas and continues to be a valuable leader and consummate professional representing the industry.

"Lisa's ability to craft and deliver a message for advertisement or media outlets is one of her important contributions that keep Clearwater Gas in the forefront of current and potential customers throughout Tampa Bay," said Cheatham-Pettit. "This award not only brings value to Lisa's creativity and hard work, but to the city and Clearwater Gas as well."

Cause for Applause

Congratulations to **Debbie Reid**, Administrative Analyst, for being selected as a finalist in Arnold Premium Bread's America's Better Sandwich contest. Her tropical chicken salad sandwich is competing against 15 other sandwiches. The winning prize is \$25,000. Vote for Debbie's sandwich once per day until Oct. 23 at arnoldbread.com/recipes/tropical-chicken-salad-sandwiches.

Congressman David Jolly sent a letter of congratulations to **Larry Williams** and **Jevon Graham** for being promoted to Clearwater Fire & Rescue Assistant Chiefs earlier this summer.

Clearwater Fire & Rescue has received Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for meeting the criteria established through the CFAI's voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program.



Thousands Have Fun at National Night Out

By Rob Shaw



They lined up for a chance to pet the police horses or throw a life ring off the police boat. They got to watch the K9s in action, check out the SWAT gear and sit atop a police motorcycle or inside a fire truck.

Those were just a few of the offerings at National Night Out on Oct. 4 at the Target located at Clearwater Mall.



The annual event is designed as way to enhance the community partnership between the **Clearwater Police Department** and the residents of Clearwater. An estimated 3,000 people turned out for the free, family-friendly event.



Police Chief **Dan Slaughter** and other members of the command staff chatted with citizens, as did various patrol officers and detectives who represented many different specialty units. Mayor **George Cretekos** and council members also were in attendance.

"This is one of my favorite events that we do every year," said Chief Slaughter. "It's tremendous for our officers to be able to interact with citizens in such a positive setting. There's so much for the kids to see and do; I just love to see our community and officers come together having such a good time."



National Night Out is always held in Clearwater the first Tuesday of October; next year's is set for Oct. 3.

TEAM AWARD

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

The Team for Margo Chauncey, Police, Planning & Development and Solid Waste

Team members include: **Vicki Fletcher, Trava Alston, Danny Knight, Allie Stewart, Diane Devol, Christin Harris, Julie Phillips, Nilda Espinosa, Terry Teunis, Cpl. Todd Turpack, Det. Chris Precious, Det. Matt Dupree, Det. Jarred Stiff, Det. Jon Maser, Det. Chris Kakalaw, Sgt. Tim Downes, Rufus Whiting, Tarik Jones, Dominic Sharp, Mike McGlockton and John Pittman**

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



SEPTEMBER

Herman Winthrop
Utilities Mechanic
Public Utilities



OCTOBER

Mike Dellavolpe
Firefighter/Driver-Operator
Fire & Rescue

United Way Day of Caring a Great Success

By Lisa Perkins

Photos by Mayor George Cretekos

The United Way Day of Caring was held Oct. 6. Ninety-four volunteers worked on projects at six different locations. Work locations included the Homeless Empowerment Program, Boys and Girls Club of the Suncoast, two sites at Religious Community Services, the Outreach and the Permanent Living Program and two sites at R'Club Day Care, Bredden and Gateway.

Volunteers participated in a variety of tasks that included landscaping, painting, building a deck, putting in a French drain, organizing closets, building two planter boxes and more.



Achievement Awards Committee Keeps Employees Cool

The Achievement Awards Committee has been surprising employees recently with treats from Kona Ice.

So far, the Kona Ice truck has visited the Public Utilities, General Services and Solid Waste departments. Other work locations will be notified when the Kona Ice truck will be visiting their work site.



Better Body Bingo

By Regina Novak

Better Body Bingo begins Nov. 14, will run for seven weeks and end Jan. 1. Better Body Bingo is a fun way to encourage healthy behaviors over the holidays. It is free, easy and you can win great prizes.

Each week, participants will fill out the corresponding week's BINGO card containing squares that list healthy or positive behaviors. The objective is to complete as many of the listed activities as you can during the week and mark the squares.

At the end of the week, email your card to regina.novak@myclearwater.com. Those without email can print their card and fax it to (727) 793-2328 or turn in your completed card to the HR office at MSB or the Long Center front desk for chances to win prizes.

All permanent full-time and part-time employees are welcome to participate. Employees can participate individually or as a four-member team. Each week, 25 winners will be drawn randomly from those employees who turn in eligible cards. At the end of the challenge, grand prizes will be drawn for 10 individual prizes as well as five team prizes.

More details are available at the Better Body BINGO link on the city's Intranet page. Signups will begin at the Health Fair on Oct. 28.



REMEMBER

City offices will be closed on Friday, Nov. 11 for Veteran's Day. Enjoy your time off!

Connection

is produced bi-monthly by the Public Communications Department.

Joelle Castelli Executive Editor
Krystie Epperson Editor/Designer

Contributors

Kelly Adkisson, Jason Beisel, Lisa Brown-Friday, Sandy Clayton, Mary Cressman, George Cretekos, Laura Davis, Cheri Drigan, Kayla Grant, Kimberly Handville, Chris Hubbard, Deborah Humes, Michelle Kutch, Joan Martell, Jennifer Moulton, Regina Novak, Heather Parsons, José Patiño, Lisa Perkins, Tracey Reed, Richard Sheldon, Rob Shaw and Michelle Sheldon



If you have a story idea, article, personnel news, or photos to share, please e-mail them to the Editor at krystal.epperson@myclearwater.com or call 562-4681. Let us know what you'd like to see in the next Connection!



CONNECTION

P.O. BOX 4748 • CLEARWATER, FL • 33758-4748
 727.562.4681

George N. Cretekos, Mayor
Doreen Caudell, Councilmember
Dr. Bob Cundiff, Councilmember
Hoyt Hamilton, Councilmember
Bill Jonson, Councilmember
Bill Horne, City Manager

MyClearwater.com

