

# SUNSHINE LINES

Beautiful News From Bay to Beach



## News You Can Use

### Sister Cities High School Exchange Announcement

Clearwater seeks four high school students to participate in a cultural exchange with our Sister City of Nagano, Japan. Travel scholarships are available. Candidates must be residents who live in city limits. Applications are due Feb. 1, 2017. For more details, call (727) 562-4800.

### Utility Customer Service Holiday Closure

The city's Utility Customer Service office and drive-through window will close Thursday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. for a department holiday party. Normal office hours will resume Friday, Dec. 16. The department wishes all of its customers and citizens a bright and beautiful holiday season.

Residents have several other ways to pay their bills during this time. Options include paying by phone, on the city's website, by direct debit or by mail. To learn more, visit [myclearwater.com](http://myclearwater.com), and select "Utility Customer Service" from the dropdown list of city departments.

### City Offices Will Close on Select Holidays

City offices, libraries and recreation centers will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2 for New Year's Day (observed) and Monday, Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

### No Changes: Solid Waste/Recycling Holiday Collection Schedules

There will be no collection schedule changes for this year's Christmas, New Year's Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day holidays. The city's solid waste and recycling services will be business as usual. For more information about collections or services, call the city's Clearwater Solid Waste/Recycling Department at (727) 562-4920.

### Recycle Christmas Tree After The Holidays

The city of Clearwater's Solid Waste/Recycling Department encourages you to recycle your Christmas tree this holiday season. After the holidays are over, remove all lights and ornaments from trees, and put them at your curb on your regularly scheduled garbage and recycling pick-up day. Call (727) 562-4920 with questions.

### Volunteers Needed for 2017 Point-in-Time Count

The Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board and its partners, which include the city of Clearwater, need volunteers to participate in the Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey set for Jan. 24. The Point-in-Time Count and Survey helps local agencies track the extent of homelessness in the community. It also helps policymakers and agencies track the progress to ending homelessness. It also helps determine programs that are needed to assist the local homeless population.

The Point-in-Time Count and Survey is done on the streets and at locations where homeless individuals and families can be found. Volunteers who register to participate in the count must attend an hour and a half mandatory training session in early January. To volunteer, call (727) 582-7916 or register at [pinellashomeless.org/pitvolunteer](http://pinellashomeless.org/pitvolunteer).

## Clearwater's Neighborhoods

There are many neighborhood associations in Clearwater, but many aren't active. Let's change that. Neighborhoods can register or update their association's information online at [myclearwater.com/neighborhood](http://myclearwater.com/neighborhood). There is a registration sheet that can be printed, filled out and mailed in. There's an updated "Strategies for Developing A Neighborhood Association Guide" that will answer questions about membership recruitment, meeting structure and leadership roles.

Also, a representative from your neighborhood association can attend the monthly Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition meetings, which are held the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the "Starfish" meeting room at the Long Center, located at 1501 N. Belcher Road.

For more information, please contact Lawrence Young, Jr. at [lawrence.young@myclearwater.com](mailto:lawrence.young@myclearwater.com) or 727-562-4559.

### Clearwater Business SPARK – Where to Turn to Start and Grow Your Business

Clearwater Business SPARK, a network designed to support local small businesses and entrepreneurs, is equipped to help you start or grow a business in Clearwater. The partners in the network provide a comprehensive mix of programs and services that include business planning and coaching, educational programs, networking opportunities, guidance for doing business with the federal government and international markets and incubator services.

Clearwater Business SPARK offers access to databases and market research tools, a variety of co-working, meeting and training spaces and hands-on tools and activities at Studios at Main, a unique makerspace located within the Clearwater Main Library.

To learn more about Clearwater Business SPARK, visit [ClearwaterBusinessSPARK.com](http://ClearwaterBusinessSPARK.com) or contact Audra Aja, program coordinator, at (727) 443-0217 or email at [info@ClearwaterBusinessSpark.com](mailto:info@ClearwaterBusinessSpark.com).

Partners of Clearwater Business SPARK include the city of Clearwater's Economic Development and Housing Department, the city of Clearwater's Community Redevelopment Agency, Clearwater Public Library System, Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce, Florida Small Business Development Center at Pinellas County Economic Development and Florida Business Incubator, the Technical Arts Facility for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.



# Clearwater Happenings

## Save the Date: Clearwater Main Library's Comic Con

Saturday, March 18, 2017  
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Main Library  
100 N. Osceola Ave.

Comic Con will feature comic artists, cosplay, movies, panels, vendors, costumes contests and prizes. Free for all ages.



## Championship Beach Bash presented by St. Petersburg/Clearwater

The College Football National Championship presented by St. Petersburg/Clearwater will be played Jan. 9 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa. The day before, Jan. 8 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., join the colleges marching bands and cheerleaders as they enjoy the sun and sugar sands of Clearwater Beach. This free, fun day includes live music, skydivers, a tug-of-war, a flag football scrimmage against alumni, concert and more. After the bash, stick around for Sunsets at Pier 60 featuring artisans, music and more while catching the sunset on the Gulf of Mexico. Get more information at [collegefootballplayoff.com](http://collegefootballplayoff.com).



On Jan. 8, the Pier 60 parking lot will be closed, and no public parking will be allowed. The lot will be used to house buses, media and other essentials. Gulfview Boulevard between the Pier 60 lot and 2nd Street will also be closed. Visitors are encouraged to park downtown and use the Clearwater Ferry or Jolley Trolley, which will offer discounts during the event. For more information about parking on Clearwater Beach, visit [myclearwater.com/parking](http://myclearwater.com/parking).

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

Monday, Jan. 16 at 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
North Greenwood Recreation & Aquatic Complex, 900 N. MLK Jr. Ave, to Coachman Park, 301 Drew St.  
(727) 461-1369

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration includes a breakfast at the North Greenwood Recreation Center, followed by a 10 a.m. march from the recreation center to Coachman Park. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and younger. Reservations for tables seating eight people are available for a \$40 donation.



## We Care Fund

A sudden illness, loss of a job or other difficulties can cause financial setbacks – especially for folks just trying to make ends meet. Each day Clearwater's Utility Customer Service employees meet residents who have encountered hardships that make paying for basic utilities a challenge. That's where the Clearwater Utilities We Care Fund comes in.

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.

Because hardships know no season, people need temporary assistance in paying their utility bills throughout the year. We urge you to 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, fill out the enclosed We Care Fund insert and return with your payment. Thank you and happy holidays.



[myclearwater.com](http://myclearwater.com)



Para información en español, llame al (727) 562-4682.  
Sunshine Lines is produced by the city of Clearwater  
Public Communications Department

## Your Leadership Team

### Mayor Councilmembers

George N. Cretekos  
Doreen Caudell  
Dr. Bob Cundiff  
Bill Jonson  
Hoyt Hamilton  
Bill Horne  
Pam Akin

### City Manager City Attorney