

# SUNSHINE LINES

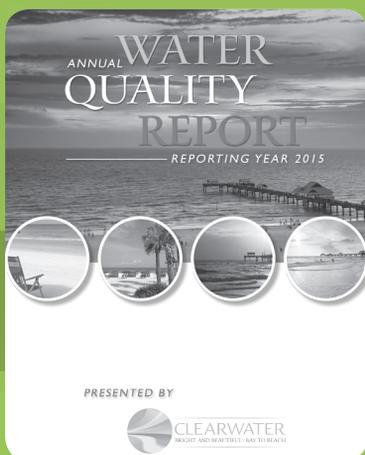
Beautiful News From Bay to Beach



## Water Report Is Now Available Online

Each year, Clearwater's Public Utilities Department presents residents with important information about the city's drinking water quality in an annual consumer confidence report. The 2015 Water Quality Report is now available electronically at [myclearwater.com/waterreport](http://myclearwater.com/waterreport).

The Water Quality Report contains pertinent water quality information of interest to Clearwater residents. As part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, all water systems throughout the country must publish this annual report. Printed copies are available upon request, and the report is also available in Spanish. If you'd like one mailed to you, call Public Utilities at (727) 562-4960.



## Rehab Your Home Through City Program

The city of Clearwater offers a housing rehabilitation program to Clearwater homeowners that can improve homes and lives. The program can assist with home improvements including roof replacement, electrical repairs, plumbing repairs, air conditioner installation, door and window replacement, American with Disabilities Act modifications and more.

To qualify, an applicant must own and occupy a single-family detached home, townhome or villa in Clearwater. The applicant must have current homeowners insurance, the value of the home cannot exceed \$168,000 and the applicant must qualify through income eligibility guidelines. For instance, a family of four earning less than \$47,350 a year would qualify for the program.

There is no age requirement. Some applicants qualify for no interest and no payments. In most cases, applicants qualify for no interest with payments spread out over 20 years. The program is funded with state and federal money. To learn more, call Terry Malcolm-Smith, the city's housing coordinator, at (727) 562-4036 or email [terry.malcolm-smith@myclearwater.com](mailto:terry.malcolm-smith@myclearwater.com).

## A Recipe for Safety

The summer grilling season has arrived along with consumers' love affair with barbecuing. Firing up the grill has now become a year-round ritual, and that's why grilling safety is so important.

Clearwater Gas System reminds customers to follow a few basic precautions to ensure safe and reliable operation of your gas grill:

- Check your grill and LP cylinder regularly for signs of wear and tear.
- Be sure to open the grill lid prior to lighting.
- Turn off the fuel supply and the burner when you're done cooking.
- Gas grills are designed for outdoor use only.

Safety begins with you, so always follow the manufacturer's instructions on proper usage, assembly and safety procedures.



## Free Recycling Presentations Available

Americans use about 392 aluminum cans per person per year. By recycling just one of those cans, you can save enough electricity to run a TV for three hours. Now imagine how much electricity could be saved by all Clearwater residents who recycle their cans!

Through the city's Solid Waste/Recycling Department, speakers are available to visit elementary school classes, scouts, churches and other community groups to discuss the basics of recycling. This free, educational outreach program teaches the importance of recycling with age-appropriate presentations for groups of 10 or more (Clearwater schools and organizations only, please.) To request a program, call (727) 562-4933.



# Clearwater Happenings

## Pierce Street Market

Saturday, Aug. 13

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Downtown Clearwater under the Memorial Causeway Bridge, next to the Clearwater Harbor Marina

This local makers market features an array of vendors who create jewelry, clothes, vintage items, artisan food, furniture, handmade crafts and more.

#SHOP  
LOCAL  
PIERCE  
STREET  
MARKET

## Fertilize Like a Floridian

Summer rains wash fertilizer into our lakes and oceans, spoiling our water. That's why it's illegal in Pinellas County to fertilize lawns during the rainy season, and it's also the reason slow-release products are required the rest of the year. Here are some ways you can fertilize like a Floridian:

### JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER

- Skip the fertilizer. From June 1 to Sept. 30 of every year, fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus cannot be applied to lawns or landscape plants according to Pinellas County ordinance.
- Pump some iron. Use Florida-friendly yard products that contain micronutrients to green up your lawn.
- Get better dirt. Add compost, composted cow or chicken manure, perlite, or other soil amendments.
- Pick better plants. Florida-friendly landscaping needs less fertilizer, water and overall care.

### OCTOBER THROUGH MAY

- Twice is nice. Fertilize just twice a year, in April and October.
- Watch the weather. Rainstorms don't water in fertilizer – they wash it away.
- Skip the phosphorus. The Tampa Bay region is naturally rich in phosphorus. Only use phosphorus-based fertilizer if a soil test turns up a deficiency.
- Choose slow-release. Pinellas County law requires lawn or landscape fertilizers with nitrogen to be at least 50 percent slow-release (also called timed-release, controlled release, or slowly available) from Oct. 1 to May 31.

## Learn About Government from the Inside Out

The 15th annual Clearwater Citizens Academy meets for 10 sessions beginning with orientation on Sept. 6, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. This interactive program will continue Tuesday evenings through Nov. 16. The academy focuses on educating residents about local government processes. Elected officials, department directors and other city staff will host unique and informative sessions designed to give citizens hands-on experience in city government operations.

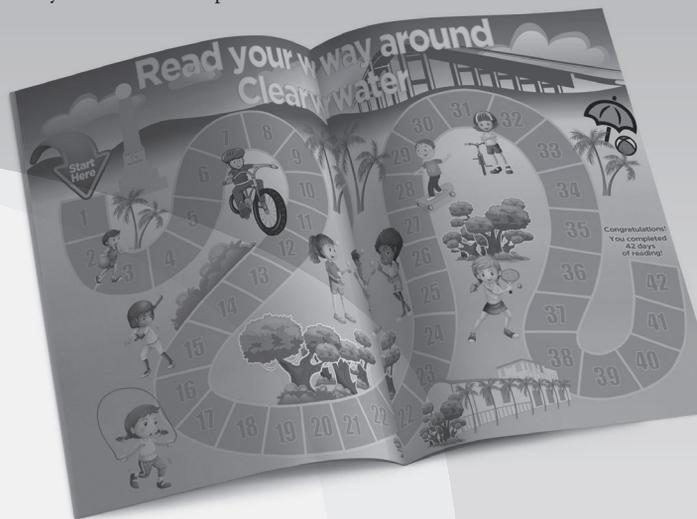
Take the class, be informed and get involved. Join other residents who help keep our community strong by actively participating in city affairs. Space is limited. Applications must be received no later than Monday, Aug. 1. Those who attend eight of the 10 sessions will graduate at the Nov. 16 City Council Meeting. Call (727) 562-4708 for more information.



## Chart Your Miles in Summer Reading

The summer reading program is happening now at your Clearwater Public Library System branch, and it's packed full of prizes and activities for all ages. This year, the library is offering two fun ways to keep you reading and learning this summer. Children up to 12 years old can join the Kid's Summer Reading Program as well as the online Summer Reading Club.

Sign up at your closest branch and begin charting your reading miles. The log will enable you to earn Reading Book Bucks, which can be cashed in at the general store for prizes. Track your reading online and earn entry to games, badges and coupons to Clearwater attractions and services. Children can choose between the in-house or online reading programs, or both. You can also sign up for a family account that gives parents access to their child's progress. Learn more at [myclearwater.com/cpl](http://myclearwater.com/cpl).



**CLEARWATER**  
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL · BAY TO BEACH

[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

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