

my CLEARWATER

Winter/Spring | Jan. – Apr. 2018



MyClearwater.com



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ON THE COVER

Two ladies stroll through Downtown Clearwater
and stop by the Second Century Studios,
a community space of art and culture.
See the article on page 2 to learn more.



As the New Year begins, I look back at accomplishments of 2017. Last year, the city made a substantial effort to help revitalize the downtown core, introducing a new brand for downtown and activating Station Square Park as the area's town center. A number of weekly public events now take place there, such as lunchtime and evening fitness classes, live music performances and meetups.

Last year, the city partnered with the USDA and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide nearly 2,000 free meals to Clearwater children through the Summer Break Spot program. The city launched the Studios@Main, unique makerspaces, and opened the North Beach Parking Plaza, offering more than 400 new parking spaces for north beachgoers. The Island Estates bridges were constructed, and the North Marina Master Plan began implementation. Parks & Recreation staff doubled the number of swim lessons given at city recreation centers to more than 29,000 lessons.

After an exciting 2017, we can look toward the future, as new challenges and celebrations lie ahead. This year, the city's highest priority is the implementation of the bluff revitalization master plan and the Imagine Clearwater vision for downtown. I would like to thank the voters of Clearwater who voted "yes" and supported the city's efforts to get the city's downtown revitalization referendum passed in November 2017. The ballot item was to obtain voter approval for the Imagine Clearwater plan and to gain support in revitalizing the city's bluff and waterfront. The City Council and I are thrilled to have such community support for this significant redevelopment project.

Another goal for 2018 is to improve the city's response during hurricanes and tropical storms. The city's senior executive team will spend time evaluating and improving upon the city's pre-, during-, and post-recovery hurricane efforts. Hurricane Irma impacted Clearwater greatly, and our city was lucky. The city will continue to focus on how to protect our residents during future storms.

Thank you for being an important part of the Clearwater community. I hope you will bring your families out to attend some of the city's signature events that Clearwater hosts. Some include the National Hockey League All-Star Game Beach Day on Jan. 27, the Sea-Blues Festival on Feb. 24 and 25, and the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival from April 13-22, just to name a few. Visit myclearwaterevents.com and check out what is happening in your bright and beautiful city!

Sincerely,

Bill Horne

Bill Horne
City Manager

Replenishing the Aquifer Moving to Reality

Permitting process underway for Clearwater Groundwater Replenishment Project



The AVPP will house state-of-the-art purification equipment to recycle reclaimed water.



Rendering view of new Advanced Water Purification Plant (AVPP) from State Road 580.

Water is a resource in high demand. With more than 11 million gallons of drinking water and nearly 7 million gallons of reclaimed water delivered to Clearwater utilities customers each day, the need to find efficient ways to conserve and protect our water supply has been on the minds of city leaders for over a decade.

The Clearwater Groundwater Replenishment Project is one of several initiatives in the city's Integrated Water Management Strategy Program, which is designed to manage the rising cost of water, conserve our valuable water supply, help reduce saltwater intrusion, protect the coastal environment and produce more water locally. The project is in its permitting process with construction planning to begin as early as summer 2018.

At the Northeast Water Reclamation Facility, a new Advanced Water Purification Plant and four on-site recharge wells will be constructed. The new facility, constructed of concrete block with a steel roof, will use state-of-the-art water purification techniques to recycle reclaimed water and return up to 3 million gallons a day of better-than-drinking water back into lower Zone A of the Floridan aquifer.

After a series of three public information meetings, resident feedback was incorporated into the final design of the treatment facility, adding more than 100 trees to the

property to enhance the overall aesthetics to the site. The facility will incorporate a public education component, and public tours of the advanced treatment system will be available. The \$36 million-dollar project is being co-funded by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

For more information on groundwater replenishment or to request a speaker for your group or organization, contact Lan-Anh Nguyen, Project Manager, at 562-4581 or lan-anh.nguyen@myclearwater.com.

You may also visit myclearwater.com/enotifications and select "Groundwater Replenishment" to sign up to receive updates on the project. You can find the project website at myclearwater.com/groundwater.

Project Timeline

- 2009 - Preliminary Feasibility Evaluation
- 2011 - Feasibility Study
- 2014 - 12-Month Advanced Water Purification Treatment Pilot Operation
- 2016 - Design of Advanced Water Purification Plant (AVPP) and Recharge Wells
- 2018 - Advanced Water Purification Plant and recharge well construction