

SUNSHINE LINES

AUGUST 2022

Beautiful News From Bay to Beach

TEMPORARY CHANGES IN OUR WATER TREATMENT PROCESS

SEPT. 25 TO OCT. 15

Each year, Pinellas County's drinking water distribution system temporarily switches its water treatment method from chloramines to chlorine. Clearwater customers are affected because the city buys some of its water from Pinellas County.

People who are sensitive to chlorine may notice a stronger smell or taste during this temporary change in our water disinfecting process. Users of kidney dialysis machines and owners of aquatic life should contact their respective service providers for additional guidance.

Why are you changing how you treat our drinking water?

Chloramines are commonly used for drinking water disinfection. As part of a program to clean water pipes, twice a year disinfection switches to chlorine for Clearwater customers. This is a common water treatment practice for water systems that normally use chloramine throughout the year.

What are drinking water disinfectants?

Chlorine and chloramines are common disinfectants used to remove microbial contaminants, such as bacteria and viruses. Disinfection occurs during the drinking water treatment process.

These simple steps may minimize chlorine odor or taste:

- Run the tap for a few minutes before using.
- Fill a pitcher of water and let it sit for several hours to allow any residual chlorine to dissipate.
- Consider installing a carbon filter on kitchen/bathroom faucets or shower heads, or replace existing existing filters with new ones.

Your water is safe to drink and meets all federal and state drinking water standards. Call Clearwater Public Utilities at (727) 562-4960 with questions.



PAY YOUR UTILITY BILL BY TEXT

You can now pay your gas or utility bill using Pay By Text, a new feature offered by the city of Clearwater's electronic utility bill payment platform, InvoiceCloud. Once registered for this service, you will receive a text message when your new utility bill is available. The text will prompt you to reply OK if you would like to pay with your default payment method. You will then have to reply PAY to a second message that provides the total payment amount. A final message will be sent informing you that the payment is complete.

If you don't have a payment method saved, the text message also contains a link to the payment portal. Clicking on this link will allow you to access the virtual site right on your mobile device and allow you to view your bill and/or make a payment. Register for this new, convenient method of payment today at www.invoicecloud.com/clearwaterfl or at MyClearwater.com/Payments.



WAKE UP TO A BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL FUTURE

The city of Clearwater is hiring for a variety of open positions in several departments. The city offers competitive pay, pension benefits, 100-percent employer-paid healthcare coverage, an employee health center, wellness programs, paid time off, training and development, rewards and recognition.

See the list of open jobs, learn more and apply online at MyClearwater.info/JobListings or at MyClearwater.com. The future is bright and beautiful -- join us.



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SAFE STORAGE DURING STORM SEASON

As temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico heat up, be sure to properly safeguard chemicals in your home and storage spaces during hurricane season. During tropical storm events, waters can flow into garages, sheds, kitchens and bathrooms where families store chemicals, such as fertilizers, paints, automotive fluids, pesticides and cleaners. Elevating dangerous chemicals onto shelves can keep them from leaking into the environment.

Rid your home of chemicals you no longer use, and take them to the Household Electronics and Chemical Collection Center, operated by Pinellas County, 2990 110th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. For details on what the facility accepts, visit PinellasCounty.org/SolidWaste/HEC3 or call (727) 464-7500.



CITY OFFERS FLOOD PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

Hurricane season and summer rains are here. Tropical storms, hurricanes and seasonal rains can flood homes with heavy rains that accompany such storms. Protect your property by elevating your appliances (an example is by raising a water heater or air conditioning unit), knowing your flood zone, and implementing flood-proofing techniques. Another action you can take to protect yourself and your property is purchasing flood insurance.

The city provides site visits, one-on-one consultations and advice to homeowners about property protection measures, such as retrofitting and drainage improvements. Call (727) 562-4750 for a city of Clearwater property protection consultation or site visit to evaluate drainage or retrofitting options.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

City Offices Closed Labor Day

City of Clearwater offices, libraries and some recreation facilities will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of Labor Day. The city's Solid Waste Department will be working, and there will be no changes to the collection schedule. For police or fire emergencies, dial 9-1-1.

Business Tax Renewals: Due Sept. 30

The last day to renew your business tax receipt in Clearwater without incurring penalties is Sept. 30. If a renewal payment is not received on or before Oct. 1, late fees will be assessed, imposed and added monthly. Call (727) 562-4567 or (727) 562-4721 with questions.

City Budget Discussions Open to the Public

The city manager's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022/23 has been released, and it includes a tentative millage rate of 5.955 mills, the same rate as last year and previous years. These budget meetings have been scheduled:

- First public hearing to adopt the tentative budget and millage rate is Sept. 15 at 6 p.m.
- Second public hearing to adopt the tentative budget and millage rate is Sept. 29 at 6 p.m.

The meetings are viewable on streaming video (myclearwater.com), Clearwater's Facebook live (facebook.com/cityofclearwater), and YouTube channel (youtube.com/myclearwater). The budget is posted on MyClearwater.com.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY

Pinellas County schools resume Aug. 10, and that means it's time to keep an eye out for students, crossing guards and school buses.

Drivers should be aware of lower speeds in school zones before and after school, and always be cognizant of crossing guards whose job is to keep children safe. In addition, be sure to stop for school buses that have stopped to pick up or let off students.

The Clearwater Police Department is always looking for qualified crossing guard candidates. For more information, call (727) 224-7192.



Your Leadership Team

MAYOR
Frank Hibbard

CITY MANAGER
Jon Jennings

CITY ATTORNEY
David Margolis

COUNCILMEMBERS
David Allbritton
Mark Bunker

Kathleen Beckman
Lina Teixeira

- For information in English, call (727) 562-4682.
- Para información en español, llame al (727) 562-4047.
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