

SUNSHINE LINES

JUNE 2022

Beautiful News From Bay to Beach

MORE UTILITY PAYMENT OPTIONS NOW ARE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

The city launched a new, user-friendly, electronic payment system May 31. Here is what you need to know.

IS YOUR UTILITY ACCOUNT SET UP ON AUTOPAY?

If your account has been on AutoPay prior to May 31, you will need to set it up again with the new vendor, Invoice Cloud. Note: the city also has a direct debit program, which drafts the money from your bank account automatically each month with no convenience fee.

If you currently use the direct debit service, no action is required on your part. Call Utility Customer Service at (727) 562-4600 with questions.



NEW ELECTRONIC PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR UTILITY CUSTOMERS

The new electronic payment service makes it easier and more convenient for customers to view and pay their bills. With the new service, customers can pay by electronic check, debit/credit card, Google Pay, Apple Pay, Venmo or PayPal. You can schedule one-time and automatic payments, securely store payment information for later use, review up to 24 months of past bills (as they become available),

enroll in paperless billing, and sign up for Pay by Text. Email notifications are sent when your bill is ready to view, just before the due date, and when a scheduled payment is pending. Creating an account is recommended; however, you can view bills and make a payment without creating an account. A pay-by-phone option is available 24/7 and is a quick alternative for customers who may not be interested in paying their

bill online. With Pay by Text, customers will receive text notifications about their bill and have the option to respond via text message to make a payment using their default payment method. Visit MyClearwater.com/Payments or call (727) 562-4600 with questions.

GET READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane season began June 1 and goes through Nov. 30. The city has its emergency plan in place for hurricanes and tropical storms, and so should you.

- Make sure you know what you would do if a hurricane or tropical storm affects Clearwater.
- Check evacuation maps to see if you live in an evacuation zone.
- Know where you would go in the event of an evacuation. A friend or relative's place would be best. Hurricane shelters are meant as last resorts for people who have nowhere else to go.
- For hurricane checklists and survival guides, visit PinellasCounty.org/Emergency/PrepareAhead.htm.
- Sign up for emergency notifications at PinellasCounty.org/AlertPinellas.



CLEARWATER HAPPENINGS

'The World Within,' Sounds of the Everglades

This outdoor installation will play the natural symphony of the Everglades from sunrise to sunset.

- May 15 to June 15
- Gas Light Alley
- 515 Cleveland St.

Shopping with a Vibe Market: 'Motown in May'

Join vendors from all over the region for a one-of-a-kind shopping and entertainment experience.

- May 28, 3 to 8 p.m.
- Walter C. Campbell Park
- 801 N. MLK Jr. Ave.
- SatMorningShoppe.com

Moffitt Mole Patrol

The Mole Patrol®, a team of physicians and registered nurses from Moffitt Cancer Center, will offer free skin cancer screenings.

- July 30, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Pier 60 Park, 7 Causeway Blvd.

Daydreaming: Niki Butcher's Hand-Painted Photography

See Niki Butcher's hand-painted photography exhibit for free at the Clearwater Main Library.

- June 15 to Jan. 31, 2023
- 100 N. Osceola Ave.
- DowntownClearwater.com



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CITY OFFERS FLOOD PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

Hurricane season and the summer rainy season 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.

Flood map information is available at PinellasCounty.org/Flooding.

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.

CLEARWATER CELEBRATES AMERICA

The city's Clearwater Celebrates America event returns with a bang July 4 at BayCare Ballpark in Clearwater. Families can celebrate America's birthday in style with a huge fireworks display, a star-studded concert, games and inflatables for children of all ages. Gates open at 7 p.m. and fireworks begin at 9:15 p.m.

The next day, you can continue patriotic celebrations by participating in a 5th of July beach cleanup. Join the city of Clearwater on the Courtney Campbell Causeway or at Sand Key Bayside Park and the Sailing Center. Volunteers will pick up fireworks and litter from the previous day's celebrations in order to keep our city bright and beautiful.

To register for either location, visit GivePulse.com/MyClearwater.



COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY LAUNCHES PLACEMAKING GRANT PROGRAM

A new placemaking and resident engagement grant program is now offering residents, artists, community groups, and interested participants up to \$25,000 to help transform Downtown Clearwater's public spaces into beautiful, new spaces through

creative and eligible projects. Eligible projects can be related to the following:

- Art installations, sculptures, displays or decorations.
- Street, alley, parking lot, vacant lot, park, parklets or plaza improvements.

- Cultural programming and performance arts.
- Resident engagement programs or activities.

Learn more at DowntownClearwater.com/Placemaking.

RETHINK WASTE!

Food scraps, electronics, furniture, plastic bottles, pool chemicals, and junk mail. What goes where? Find out by playing the Rethink Waste recycling sorting game at MyClearwater.com/RethinkWaste. You can decide

if materials should be recycled, composted or disposed of as garbage. The game is fun for all ages, as many people are often confused about how to responsibly dispose of everyday items.

If you still don't know how to properly dispose of an item, visit MyClearwater.com/Recycling and use the "Where Does It Go" search tool, or you can call the Solid Waste Operations hotline at (727) 562-4920.

FOUR WAYS TO PROTECT OUR WATERS

We can help protect our waterways for future generations by interacting with nature responsibly. The Gulf of Mexico and all streams lead to the ocean, which provides food, habitat, recreation, and transportation for humans and wildlife.

Here are some ways you can protect local waters:

1. Use reef-friendly sunscreen. The sunscreen you apply may get washed off and enter the water. Toxic chemicals found in many commercial sunscreens harm corals and marine life.
2. Reduce single-use plastics by bringing reusable containers, straws and cutlery. Properly dispose of the trash you create.

3. Be a good angler and respect local fishing regulations. Catch and keep only what's allowed. Dispose of fishing line in a monofilament recycling bin to avoid harming birds.
4. Don't fertilize your lawn during the rainy summer to prevent excess nutrients washing into the Gulf of Mexico, lowering oxygen levels and killing fish. Fertilizers contribute to harmful algae blooms.

Take the Ocean Allies pledge. Scan the QR code or go to myclearwater.info/oceanallies. For more information on how you can help, visit OceanAllies.org.



Your Leadership Team

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Para información en español, llame al (727) 562-4047.

Sunshine Lines is produced by the city of Clearwater Public Communications Department.

MyClearwater.com