

SUNSHINE LINES

MAY 2022

Beautiful News From Bay to Beach

MORE UTILITY PAYMENT OPTIONS WILL SOON BE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

The city of Clearwater knows paying utility bills isn't your favorite thing to do, so we're making it as easy as possible. In June, the city will launch a new, user-friendly, electronic payment system. You can look forward to being able to:

- Set it and forget it with AutoPay. Save time and avoid late or missed payments. For AutoPay that is set up with a credit card, customers will no longer be required to approve the payment each month.
- Pay online by electronic check, Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express, Google Pay, Apple Pay, Venmo or PayPal.
- Use a new, pay-by-text feature. You can get text notifications about your bill and have the option to pay through text message with your default payment method. Sign up for this service when making an online payment or in your account.

- See your balance update in the payment portal as soon as you make a payment.
- Use one-time pay to quickly view and pay your bill without registering.
- Pay multiple bills in one transaction with a new shopping cart feature.



DEACTIVATE KUBRA'S AUTOPAY BY MAY 31

If you currently use KUBRA's AutoPay, you must deactivate it before May 31. In addition, don't schedule any payments to take place after May 30. The current system will be available through May 30 to make same-day payments by electronic check or debit/credit card, and the

city's traditional payment methods will continue to be available: pay by mail, walk-in, drive-thru, or the city's Direct Debit program available at MyClearwater.com/Payments. We will keep you updated when the new vendor becomes available.

HOW TO AVOID A CONVENIENCE FEE

Customers paying with check or credit/debit card through the new program will be charged a \$2.95 convenience fee. You may avoid the convenience fee by paying in one of the following ways:

- **In person.** Pay to cashier by cash, check or money order at 100 S. Myrtle Ave.
- **Drop box.** Place a check or money order in our drop box located at 100 S. Myrtle Ave. Include your account number on a check or money order.
- **By mail.** Mail a check or money order to P.O. Box 30020, Tampa FL 33630. Include your account number on a check or money order.

- **Direct debit utility bill payment service.** This method automatically deducts the amount of your utility bill from your bank account each month. Sign up at MyClearwater.com/Payments.
- **Online bill pay.** You can pay through your online banking account.

BE MINDFUL OF SEA TURTLES AS NESTING SEASON BEGINS

Sea turtle nesting season began May 1 and ends Oct. 31. Newly hatched turtles find their way to the sea by following the light of the night sky over the water. Young turtles have a small amount of energy that must take them to the water. Artificial lights from buildings and roads near the beach can distract hatchlings on their way to the gulf. Instead of following the brightest spot on the water, they might get disoriented and head the wrong way – away from their food source.

All species of sea turtles are threatened or endangered, which is why it's critical that we protect them. Clearwater city ordinances have specific lighting requirements for beach parking lots, streets and promenades to protect sea turtles.

Things you can do to help protect them include:

- If you live near the beach, shut off, dim or shield your lights at night. Consider switching to sea turtle-friendly lighting.
- Flatten sandcastles and fill in holes.
- Pick up and properly dispose of litter on the beach.
- Take all personal belongings from the beach at the day's end. This prevents obstacles in the young turtles' way to the water.
- Stay off the dunes.
- Say no to single-use plastics, such as straws and one-use water bottles, which might get carried into the Gulf of Mexico by storms.

Pinellas County averaged about 275 nests last year, and each nest potentially carried about 100 eggs. If you are lucky enough to find a turtle nest on the beach, don't disturb it. If the nest is unmarked, notify the Clearwater Marine Aquarium at (727) 441-1790.





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SHOPPING WITH A VIBE PRESENTS ‘MOTOWN IN MAY’

The Shopping with a Vibe market in Clearwater is back with a “Motown in May” event, Saturday, May 28, from 3 to 8 p.m., at Walter C. Campbell Park, 801 N. MLK Jr. Ave.

On the fourth Saturday of each month, the Shopping with a Vibe market – in collaboration with Clearwater Urban Leadership Coalition and the city of Clearwater – brings vendors from all over

the region for a one-of-a-kind shopping and entertainment experience in the city.

Enjoy live entertainment, games, foodie competitions, arts and crafts, line dancing, bounce houses and some of the best food in town. For information on Shopping with a Vibe events and vending opportunities, visit SatMorningShoppe.com.



GRAB A BOOK & READ THIS SUMMER

The Clearwater Public Library System invites you to catch the wave this summer in the “Oceans of Possibilities” summer reading program. Continuing to read during the summer break is important for students, as it helps to ward off the summer slump.

The city’s summer reading challenge is designed to help track your reading and earn prizes in the process. It’s filled with book lists curated for select ages, ranges and interests. This challenge can be accessed through Beanstack, a free online service that offers unique and fun ways to connect children, teens and adults with books and educational reading activities. Readers of all ages are eligible for prizes throughout the program.

The summer will conclude with the city’s annual backpack, book and school supply giveaway to help families prepare for the coming school year. Sign up for the summer reading program through the library’s Beanstack page at MyClearwaterLibrary.Beanstack.com/Reader365.



GREEN PROGRAM GIVES KIDS THE POWER TO SAVE THE PLANET

This summer, the Clearwater Public Library System is excited to partner with the city’s sustainability team to present a Green Guardians series. This program matches family-style learning with the city’s sustainability initiative, called Clearwater Greenprint 2.0.

Your child can become a Green Guardian this summer through an interactive, eight-week program to give youngsters green superpowers. As Green Guardians, students will learn how they can protect the planet and become good environmental stewards.

The program runs from 2 to 3 p.m. every Tuesday in June and July at various Clearwater library branches. Sessions focus on a different environmental topic each week with guest presenters and fun crafts. Topics for June include Harness the Sun!, Gas Buster’s Safety Road-e-o, Nurture Nature, and Water Warriors. Parents are welcome to attend. To learn more, visit MyClearwaterLibrary.com.



SIGN UP FOR ALERT PINELLAS

Receive alerts about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for Alert Pinellas, an emergency notification service for Pinellas County. Alert Pinellas allows you to sign up to receive urgent messages on a variety of situations, such as severe weather, boil-water notices, missing persons or evacuations. This service is free to residents.

When you sign up, you choose how to receive alerts. This could be a cell phone, landline, text, email – you can enter multiple methods. Receive alerts for up to five locations. Register at pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas.

MEMORIAL DAY IS MAY 30

City of Clearwater offices, libraries and recreation facilities will be closed Monday, May 30, for Memorial Day. Solid Waste & Recycling crews will be working, and there will be no changes to the collection schedule. In addition, a Memorial Day ceremony will be held at Crest Lake Park, 201 S. Glenwood Ave.

Your Leadership Team		
MAYOR Frank Hibbard	CITY MANAGER Jon Jennings	CITY ATTORNEY David Margolis
COUNCILMEMBERS		
David Allbritton	Kathleen Beckman	
Mark Bunker	Lina Teixeira	
Para información en español, llame al (727) 562-4047.		
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