

my CLEARWATER

Summer | May – Aug. 2017



MyClearwater.com



George N. Cretekos Mayor
Doreen Caudell Councilmember
Dr. Bob Cundiff Councilmember
Hoyt Hamilton Councilmember
Bill Jonson Councilmember

William B. Horne, II City Manager
Pam Akin City Attorney
Jill Silverboard Deputy City Manager
Micah Maxwell Assistant City Manager

EDITORIAL STAFF

Executive Editor Joelle Castelli
Editor Heather Parsons
Assistant Editors Jason Beisel
Krystie Epperson
Mike Lockwood
José Patiño
Rob Shaw
Graphic Designer Laura Del Valle

CONTRIBUTORS

Library Jennifer Obermaier
Parks & Recreation Shaun Beasley
Sandy Clayton
Brian Craig
Christopher Hubbard
Kris Koch
Kerry Marsalek
Public Utilities Paula MacDonald

MyClearwater is published three times a year by the city of Clearwater.

If you would like a free subscription, call 562-4708.

All phone numbers are area code 727 unless otherwise indicated.



ON THE COVER

Sgt. Tom Rodgers gives Brody Barnaky a hug after surprising the youngster at his fourth birthday party. See story, page 2.



Summer is here in bright and beautiful Clearwater! I hope you take advantage of all that Clearwater has to offer this season. Soak up some summer rays while playing outdoors in Clearwater Beach's sand and surf, or take advantage of the air conditioning at several of the city's recreation centers and library branches. The Long Center will refurbish its indoor pool starting in June, and aquatic activities will move to the Morningside Pool during construction. The Summer Reading Program kicks off June 5 at all Clearwater branches (see page 21 to learn more), so encourage youngsters in Clearwater to register and start reading the summer away.

Please welcome Micah Maxwell to the city team. He will serve our city's residents as the new Assistant City Manager. He comes to us from the Town of Belleair, where he served as Town Manager for more than 10 years. Additionally, Maxwell is familiar with Florida laws and our city having served as an intern from 2002-04.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from the University of Florida (1999) and Master of Public Administration from USF (2001). He attended the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia (2009) and is a Leadership Pinellas graduate (2011). He has been an ICMA Credentialed Manager since 2010. He will oversee the city's Imagine Clearwater initiative and will bring a fresh perspective to our management team.

Please also take note that hurricane season is coming up. While we live so close to the water, it can become a significant danger during the storm season. Make sure to have an emergency plan in place, an updated and fully stocked emergency storm kit, and let's all hope for a quiet storm season this year.

Sincerely,

Bill Horne

Bill Horne
City Manager



Table of Contents

Features

- 02 Visit By Officers Is Icing On The Cake For Birthday Boy
- 03 Pop-Up North Marina
- 06 Clearwater Character
- 08 Bags are Bad for the Bin
- 58 Snippets
- 61 Where Does My Water Come From?
- 62 Imagine Clearwater has Potential to Reposition the City

Healthy Choices

- 04 Staying Cool This Summer

Library

- 09 Hours
- 09 Adult Programs
- 13 Teen Programs
- 15 Youth Programs
- 21 Library Summer Reading Program

City Facilities

- 22 Facility Map and Location
- 23 City Facility Information



Recreation Guide

- 24 Cards & Passes
- 25 General Information
- 32 Clearwater Beach Recreation Center
- 34 Countryside Recreation Center
- 38 North Greenwood Recreation & Aquatic Complex
- 40 Long Center
- 44 McMullen Tennis Complex
- 47 Ross Norton Recreation & Aquatic Complex & Extreme Sports Park
- 50 Nature Programs
- 55 Organized Sports

Aging Well

- 26 Silver Sneakers
- 26 Programs and Resources
- 31 Health Wellness Lectures

Special Events

- 59 Downtown Clearwater
- 60 Special Events

Volunteers

- 64 Volunteer Programs

Inside Back Cover

Citizens Guide

Back Cover

Clearwater Threshers Home Game Schedule

Where Does My Water Come From?

Ask that question of five different people, and you may get just as many answers. In a recent survey about water, more than half of Clearwater residents were not sure of the source of their tap water. Guesses on the source of the city's water supply included the Floridan aquifer, water treatment plants, the beach, Pasco County and even states further north.

If you guessed that our water comes from the aquifer, you'd be correct. The Floridan aquifer system is a major source of groundwater in the United States, and is located from several hundred to nearly 3,000 feet below the ground under Florida, southern Georgia and small parts of adjacent Alabama and South Carolina. In total, the Floridan aquifer system extends over 100,000 square miles and produces more than 3 billion gallons of water each day. This may seem like a lot of water, but considering all of the major cities the aquifer serves, it's easy to understand how important conservation and reuse becomes, particularly during times of drought.

Here in Clearwater, residents use about 11.2 million gallons of water daily. Most of this water is pumped directly from the aquifer through city-owned and operated groundwater wells and is carefully treated through reverse osmosis to remove salts and other inorganic solids. The result is a pure, fresh tasting water that goes from the treatment facility to your tap.

While Clearwater is mostly self-sufficient in supplying water to our residents, daily demand for water does require us to purchase some of our water supply from Pinellas County Utilities. To keep costs manageable and ensure the future of our water, the city began researching alternative water conservation and reuse programs back in 2007. The following year, Clearwater embarked on a pilot project known as Groundwater Replenishment to explore recharging the aquifer and creating a new water source.

Assembling a team of industry leading scientists and engineers, the Public Utilities Department launched a small-scale pilot purification project in 2013 to test the feasibility of building a groundwater replenishment facility in Clearwater. The pilot ran for a one-year period, and more than 25,000 tests were monitored by third-party testing facilities to verify reliability and consistency of the rigorous three-step purification process. As a result of these scientific findings and previous successes in other cities throughout the country, the city was confident that reclaimed

water could be recycled and purified to a state equal to or better than bottled water. This water could then be balanced and safely reintroduced into the aquifer to blend with naturally purified water and ultimately end up at the tap, after many years of flowing gently through the Floridan aquifer.

After thorough testing and funding support from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), the city of Clearwater is now ready to embark on construction of a full-scale

groundwater replenishment facility at their Northeast Water Reclamation Facility off of State Route 580 and McMullen Booth Road. Once in operation, this treatment process will produce more than three million gallons of purified recycled water a day to be reintroduced to the aquifer, reducing reliance on purchasing additional water and, more importantly, providing a new water supply to protect the ecosystem and environment that we call home.

So the next time someone asks, "Where did this water come from?" you'll know the important role the Floridan aquifer plays, and how the city and the SWFWMD are working to make sure we do our part to RECYCLE, RECHARGE, REPLENISH!

Learn more about Groundwater Replenishment by visiting myclearwater.com/groundwater, and sign up for the project mailing list for updates.

