

The Newsletter for Clearwater's
Bright and Beautiful Employees and Retirees



City Hosts 'Star Wars' Water Plant Tours

By Heather Parsons

The Tusken Raiders of Tatooine considered water wells to be sacred places – and indeed they are. Staff from **Clearwater Public Utilities**, the **Clearwater Public Library System**, and the Reverse-Osmosis water treatment plant had a great time hosting the first-ever "May the Fourth Be With You" water plant tours! The open-house event was held May 4 and celebrated not only all things Star Wars but also Drinking Water Week.

Members of the Florida Garrison 501st Legion attended, and youth librarians from the Clearwater Public Library System helped young padawans make light sabers before touring our reverse-osmosis water treatment plant. Water rebels – we mean, staff! – taught visitors where their water comes from, how it is treated from start to finish, and how to conserve water. Guests also took home bags of water-saving devices, such as low-flow showerheads, toilet tummies, and sink aerators.

It was a great time and partnership, and we will look for more ways to continue working together and supporting one another's important work.



Employee Spotlight: Kenneth Craven

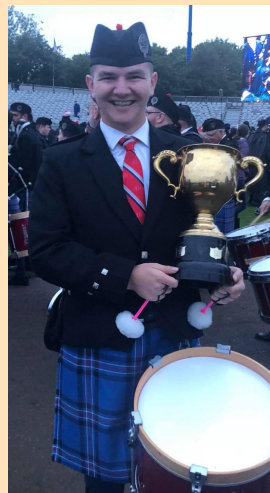
By Krystie Epperson

Network Analyst **Kenneth Craven** is an [I.T. Guy](#) by day and a competitive drummer by night. Craven began playing drums in sixth grade after he saw a few of his friends in band.

He is currently a member and lead tenor drummer of the city of Dunedin Grade 1 Bagpipe Band and is also an instructor for the bass and tenor section in the city of Dunedin Grade 4 Bagpipe Band.

Craven will be traveling to Scotland this summer for the World Pipe Band Championships.

He is already a winner as he was a member of the pipe band when it won the 2018 Grade 2 World Championships and 2019 Grade 1 North American Championships.



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Happy "100" to Clearwater Gas System

Clearwater Gas System recently celebrated its 100-year anniversary of serving the Clearwater community and beyond. Thank you to our loyal customers and partners for your support over the years, and we would like to acknowledge the hard work and technical skillsets of our gas team, which has been a huge part of our success and legacy.

Clearwater Gas System's mission always has been to provide safe, reliable and affordable gas energy to our customers and the community. Check out our special anniversary video at ClearwaterGas.com. We look forward to being the community's energy provider of choice for many more years to come.



Kaylynn Price: A Woman in STEM

Utilities Engineering Manager **Kaylynn Price** shared her educational and career experiences at the Women in STEM Breakfast in March. She spoke with female students from Seminole middle and high schools who are interested in working in STEM fields, like engineering, utilities, pharmacy and other fields. Thank you for sharing your wisdom with today's youth and inspiring them to become women in STEM.



Robert Reedy: A Photo-Optic Artist

By Heather Parsons

One of the best things about getting to know our coworkers is finding out how many artists, musicians, and creative souls walk among us. **Robert Reedy** is one such artist.



A city employee of 17 years, Reedy works at the Marshall Street Water Reclamation Facility as a wastewater treatment plant operator at **Clearwater Public Utilities**. When he's not at work, you can find him in his home studio or on YouTube, painting with light.

Reedy uses a technique called photo-optic painting to create variations of traditional painting-with-light artwork. Photo-optic painting is when an artist uses light, a lightbrush (such as a flashlight), a camera, and video camera to capture art. You move the light source in a motion to create an image. Eventually, you can layer those images to create a beautiful piece of art.

Reedy says you can use light to paint just as easily as you would traditional paints. Some of his artworks are on display at the Marshall Street Water Reclamation Facility.

He still has more than two years before he retires from the city, he says. Then, he plans to dedicate his energy toward teaching this Photo-Optic-Painting technique on his YouTube channel, which he launched in 2018. Find Reedy and his classes at [YouTube.com/@RobertReedyJr.1752](https://www.youtube.com/@RobertReedyJr.1752).

Special Olympics Torch Run

By Rob Shaw

Several **Clearwater Police** officers participated in the recent Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.



On April 17, the officers met with representatives of other law enforcement agencies at Philippe Park, where the run began. More than 4 miles later, it ended at Paul B. Stephens School.

That's where dozens of excited students welcomed the arrival of the torch. During the run, the torch was passed among several runners, including multiple Clearwater officers.



The torch run is an annual event designed to highlight the amazing work of Special Olympics and the athletes who compete in those games.

Bring Your Child to Work Day

Bring Your Child To Work Day was celebrated in April, and many city employees did just that. The city of Clearwater invited children of employees to spend the day seeing where their parents work and what they do to make Clearwater bright and beautiful each day.

All the kiddos who attended had the chance to help their parents at work, see a **Clearwater Police Department K-9** in action, see a **Clearwater Fire & Rescue Department** fire truck up close and check out other equipment and tools that are used by staff daily. Everyone had a great time!



Looking Back on Building a Brighter City

By Heather Parsons

Construction Division Manager **Tim Kurtz** graduated from the University of Georgia's College of Environment and Design in 1983 with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, and he made a long and steadfast career here at the city of Clearwater in the years that follow.



Forty years after college graduation, he returned to his alma mater for a class reunion in April, where he shared the high points of his career, 27 of which were here in Clearwater and the years preceding in the public sector, in a slide presentation with his peers.

Throughout his career, Kurtz served as project or construction manager on a myriad of significant projects, many of which are here in Clearwater. They include Beach Walk, Cleveland Street streetscape, the Clearwater Beach Roundabout, Mandalay Avenue and Gulfview Streetscape, and most recently, the redevelopment of Coachman Park and The BayCare Sound music venue.

Kurtz's fingerprints are all over our bright and beautiful city in our blueprints, buildings and infrastructure. We are happy he got the opportunity to share his successes with the university that launched his career in our direction.

Clearwater Celebrates Neighborhoods Day

In March, Clearwater held its annual tradition of Neighborhoods Day, where neighborhood associations and communities come together, host block parties and meet with city staff.

There were 32 neighborhoods that participated this year. **City Council** and staff talked with many residents and hosted hands-on demonstrations of their trade throughout the various neighborhoods.



Collecting Cereal for the Summer

By Rob Shaw

When it comes to helping feed children at breakfast over the summer, the **Clearwater Police Department** and other city workers have it covered.



City employees collected hundreds of boxes of cereal, breakfast bars, oatmeal and other items as part of the annual Cereal For Summer campaign. Collection boxes were placed inside the police department and the Municipal Services Building, and employees responded to the call.

Police department employees took the donations to St. Petersburg on May 3 to assist Feeding Tampa Bay, which serves families in need across the region. The breakfast food helps children over the summer, when they are not in school and getting a free breakfast.

H.E.P. Mentorship Program

The **Parks & Beautification** team took part in a heartwarming mentorship program for children earlier this year, organized by the **Clearwater Police Department** and the Homeless Empowerment Program. Staff had the opportunity to share what they do for work, and also celebrated a participant's birthday. It was a meaningful experience for all involved.



Long Center Pizza Party

By **Allie Chandler-Baier**

The **Long Center** team went above and beyond to show their appreciation for patrons and city staff who assist the recreation center. But this wasn't an ordinary pizza party - they handcrafted an array of delicious pies, from hot honey, BLT, meat-lovers and even a delectable dessert pizza.



Annual Employee Art Contest Winners

Congratulations to the top three winners of the annual employee art contest. Fifteen employees submitted artwork.

1st Place
Melody Yin
Underwater
Photography



2nd Place
Carlos Cardenas
Sea Life Oil
Painting



3rd Place
Robert Hickman
Acrylic Painted
Skateboards



Police Dog Osker Remembered

By **Rob Shaw**

A former **Clearwater Police** K-9 was among those remembered during a recent memorial service.

Osker, who worked alongside now-retired Officer **Bob Pease** from 2012 to 2019, died last year. The four-legged crime fighter was among a handful of K-9s honored at Curlew Hills Memory Gardens from a variety of Pinellas County law enforcement agencies.

Osker joins several other K-9s who have passed at the cemetery, which is donated by Curlew Hills as a gesture of their continuing support for police officers.



"They're working dogs, but when they come home, they are regular dogs," Pease said of Osker. "They save our lives all the time by finding people we are looking for and protecting us, and it was an honor to work with him."

Police Officers Deliver Mother's Day Flowers

By **Rob Shaw**

The **Clearwater Police Department** community engagement team knows how to brighten people's day.



Just ahead of Mother's Day recently, the team visited Hampton Apartments on McMullen Booth Road with a special surprise for the women who live there. They brought dozens of flower arrangements they had secured with the help of the Publix at Bayside Bridge Plaza.



Smiles were everywhere as the women lined up to get the beautiful flowers, which came in an array of colors and kinds. They were handed out by Community Engagement Officers **Lauren**

Josey-Filer and **Alexander Kaye**, along with Deputy Chief **Michael Walek**, Maj. **Nathan Burnside** and Lt. **Michael Spitaleri**.

Some were mothers, some were grandmothers, others were great-grandmothers. Some said they hadn't received flowers like that in years.

"It's wonderful to see such joy on the faces of these ladies," said Josey-Filer, who along with Kaye visits the senior living facility often. "This visit didn't just make their day, it made ours as well."



City Hosts 'Mad Scientist'-Themed Wastewater Plant Tours

By Travis Teuber, Public Utilities Assistant Manager

I wanted to take a moment to extend our thanks to everyone who helped during **Clearwater Public Utilities'** first-ever "Mad Scientist"-themed tours to celebrate our teams on National Public Science Day on Feb. 17. It was a rainy day, and despite the weather, 100 residents and families joined us at the Marshall Street Water Reclamation Facility for a day of science and silliness.

We opened our laboratory and hosted a range of scientific displays. Visitors checked out microscopes and microbes, beakers that show what our water looks like throughout the treatment process, and a video of a sewer cam inspection. Then, we took them through the plant and showed them what we do.

On behalf of Clearwater Public Utilities, we would like to thank everyone who was involved in this outreach, who made the day go smoothly, and who attended. Your incredible support during the first-ever open house played an important part in helping the public understand and appreciate the work we do every day.

Your enthusiasm and dedication truly made the event shine. The engagement with our community members and shared expertise was nothing short of inspiring, and we have received several compliments on the tour guides' knowledge and understanding. Your passion for your work and willingness to educate others left lasting impressions on those who attended.

It wasn't just the knowledge that made the day so special - it was also our kindness and hospitality. From welcoming guests with a smile to patiently answering their questions, your warmth and friendliness made everyone feel right at home. From our youngest scientist to our oldest community members, everyone who attended was floored by the friendliness and energy you all brought to the event!

We must not forget our crews who worked for hours behind the scenes to ensure the plant was cleaned and safe for public. We are so grateful for your partnership and collaboration throughout the planning process. Everyone's willingness to work hand-in-hand with other teams made all the difference.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for your hard work, dedication, and generosity of spirit. It's partners like all of you who make our community strong, vibrant and connected.



Building & Maintenance Celebrates a Big 'Retirement'

By Heather Parsons

The **Building and Maintenance team** is celebrating a win in a huge way.



The team had been using the same work order system for nearly 20 years. Over the years, it became antiquated and wasn't serving the city's needs. The old system was traditionally a pen-and-paper method, which now has become a fully electronic, modernized system.

"As we all know, change is hard," said **Lelia Peterson**, administrative support division manager. "Over the past few months, our team has demonstrated remarkable dedication, resilience, and adaptability through this transformation."



The new system went live April 30, and the **General Services Department** hosted a "retirement party" for the old system. The Building and Maintenance team rolled out a week-long celebration of festivities to acknowledge everyone's hard work. The team enjoyed grab-and-go breakfasts, a special lunch and pinata-smashing event, and brain-freeze sweet treats.

"I am extremely proud of this team of talented professionals," said Assistant City Manager **Dan Slaughter**. "This was not an easy project, and the dedication to innovation and process improvement is to be commended."

When a building and maintenance issue is identified, employees should continue to reach out to their building and maintenance work coordinator, who would enter a ticket on your behalf via the new system.



"Moving to a new work order system is an exciting opportunity for growth and efficiency," said **Peter Bardou**, director of General Services. "Embracing change opens doors to streamlined processes, clearer communication, and ultimately, greater productivity. Here's to embracing this new chapter with enthusiasm and a commitment to excellence!"

Personnel Corner

Nov. 18, 2023 through May 12, 2024

NEW HIRES.....

Alyssa Allen, Human Resources Analyst I, Human Resources

Adam Aramino, Survey Assistant I, Public Works

Misty Autery, Administrative Assistant, Public Utilities

Brian Balloon, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Eugene Barone, Utility Dispatcher I, Clearwater Gas

Citlaly Baxcajay-Arvizu, Library Assistant I, Library

Michelle Blanchard, Gas System Engineer Division Manager, Clearwater Gas

Adam Borgman, Public Information Coordinator I, Public Communications

Robin Boykins, Accounting Technician I, Public Utilities

William Bridges, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation

Daniel Brown, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator C, Public Utilities

Kaliq Campbell, Solid Waste Worker I, Solid Waste

Olga Chavez, Librarian I, Library

Brenton Clayton, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Francisco Colon, Water District Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Christopher Corrales, Police Cadet, Police

Douglas Costello, Parks Service Technician III, Parks & Recreation

Andrew Covington, Parking, Facilities & Security Aide, Marine & Aviation

Kayla Cowart, Customer Service Representative I, Planning & Development

Sarah Crowell, Librarian I, Library

Nathaniel Dandy, Water Distribution Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Jayshawn Daniels, Solid Waste Worker I, Solid Waste

Sarah Davis, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation

Emily Davis, Compliance Coordinator, Public Utilities

Michael De Koter, CAD & GIS Technician I, Public Works

Brianne Defoe, Accounting Technician II, Finance

Xavier Dominicis, Business Systems Analyst I, Utility Customer Service

Maria Dones, Librarian I, Library

Shanna Drake, Police Officer, Police

Raymond Dresch, Engineering Specialist III, Public Works

Nicholas Finch, CAD & GIS Technician I, Public Works

Jim Fry, Gas Operations Division Manager, Clearwater Gas

Devin Furlow, Gas Technician I, Clearwater Gas

Kayla Garcia, Staff Assistant II, Economic Development & Housing

Lloyd Gardner, Industrial Electrician, Public Utilities

Adarius Garland, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Donna Groce, Accounting Technician I, Library

Michael Gunnin, Wastewater Collection Technician I, Public Utilities

Taylor Hack, Survey Assistant I, Public Works

Ozell Hall, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Vincent Hollingsworth, Solid Waste Worker I, Solid Waste

Alba Horanlli, Administrative Assistant, Planning & Development

Annabella Hullen, Engineer II, Public Works

Darius Hunsicker, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Taylor Jaber, Police Cadet, Police

Hadley Johnson, Police Telecommunicator I, Police

Ben Joseph, Solid Waste Worker I, Solid Waste

Taylor Keene, Library Assistant I, Library

Dizzmond Kelly, Meter Reader I, Utility Customer Service

Kailey Kinder, Police Telecommunicator I, Police

Nathaniel Koehler, Police Cadet, Police

Neil Kummerer, Fire Administrative Chief, Fire & Rescue

Jason Larson, Police Telecommunicator I, Police

Aaron Lombard, Librarian I, Library

Alyssa Losauro, Recreation Specialist, Parks & Recreation

Lorenzo Marry, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Michael McCabe, Administrative Support Division Manager, Fire & Rescue

William McCoy, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Briahna McCrary, Customer Service Representative I, Utility Customer Service

Christopher McFadden, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Sherrod Morgan, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Peter Mullady, Police Cadet, Police

Maria Nehring, Accountant II, Finance

Brent Nicolosi, Parking, Facility & Security Aide, Library

Jesus Niño, CRA Director, Community Redevelopment Agency

Andrew Nolan-Rivera, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Codey Nygren, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Casey O'Day, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation

Juan Ospina Fajardo, Fleet Mechanic, General Services

Aram Papazian, Utilities Mechanic, Public Utilities

Marco Pascual Zacarias, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation

Isabella Patton, Library Assistant I, Library

Stefan Pavlovic, Police Cadet, Police

Miguel Pena, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

NEW HIRES (cont.)

William Perdue, Fleet Operations Trainer, General Services

Roberto Perez, Fleet Mechanic, General Services

Gregory Perles, Parks Service Supervisor II, Parks & Recreation

Darrell Perry, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Patricia Peterson, Librarian I, Library

Nhi Phan, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation

Jordan Phillips, Stormwater Technician I, Public Works

Edward Pierce, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Elizabeth Ponga, Police Telecommunicator I, Police

Julie Quattrochi, Customer Service Representative I, Utility Customer Service

Brian Rautmann, Parking, Facility & Security Aide, Public Works

Patrick Redmond, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Nicholas Reeves, Parks Service Supervisor I, Parks & Recreation

Samantha Reilly, Engineering Specialist III, Public Works

Angel Rivera Melendez, Engineering Division Manager, Public Works

Shawn Rodriguez, Streets & Sidewalks Technician I, Public Works

Delaney Rose, Librarian I, Library

Derrek Rose, Fire Inspector II, Fire

Kenneth Scherer, Water Plant Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

James Schwer, Fleet Mechanic, General Services

Scott Selover, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Damarcus Sims, Solid Waste Worker I, Solid Waste

Johnie Singleton, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Matthew Smith, Parks Service Technician III, Parks & Recreation

Stephen Smith, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Jendi Solka, Contracts & Procurement Specialist, General Services

Sidney Sora, Police Officer, Police

Nicholas Spatafora, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Mark Still, Code Inspector I, Planning & Development

Hezekiah Swann, Solid Waste Worker I, Solid Waste

Ryan Thomas, Wastewater Collection Technician I, Public Utilities

Christopher Vera, Police Telecommunicator I, Police

Brooklyn Wascher, Legal Office Administrator, City Attorney

Jacolby Washington, Solid Waste Assistant Director, Solid Waste

Loretta Waterworth, Accounting Technician I, Public Utilities

Sam Wells, Utilities Mechanic, Public Utilities

Seanna White, Crime Analyst I, Police

Craig Wilson, Parks Senior Division Manager, Parks & Recreation

Halil Yalcinkaya, Police Cadet, Police

PROMOTIONS

Abraham Adger, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator C, Public Utilities

William Ambrose, Streets & Sidewalks Technician II, Public Works

Taylor Amlin, Parks Manager, Parks & Recreation

Isabella Arroyo, Human Resources Technician, Human Resources

Tracy Ashley, Billing Specialist, Utility Customer Service

Mark Auger, Gas Technician I, Clearwater Gas

Stephen Baris, Police Sergeant, Police

Richard Berg III, Water Distribution Operator I, Public Utilities

Marcus Blackwell, Utilities Mechanic, Public Utilities

Andrew Blauvelt, Public Utilities Assistant Manager, Public Utilities

Daniel Braniff, Police Officer, Police

Kadarious Brown, Wastewater Collection Technician II, Public Utilities

Tina Burdo, Accountant I, Finance

Jaquez Byrd, Stormwater Technician I, Public Works

Bradford Cheek, Parks Manager, Parks & Recreation

Jessica Chueka, Housing/Community Development Specialist, Economic Development & Housing

Bernard Cleveland, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Raymond Croze, Police Sergeant, Police

Jerome Dennis, Stormwater Technician I, Public Works

Deanthony Dodson, Streets & Sidewalks Technician II, Public Works

Terrance Elkins, Parks Service Supervisor I, Parks & Recreation

Keyon Evans, Police Officer, Police

Mitchell Flanger, Police Officer, Police

Kevin Flynn, CAD & GIS Technician II, Public Works

Devon Franklin, Wastewater Collection Technician I, Public Utilities

Cory Garakop, Water Distribution Operator II, Public Utilities

Sarah Gartrell, Library Assistant I, Library

Irin Gomez, Community Development Coordinator II, Economic Development & Housing

Adrian Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Engineering Specialist III, Public Utilities

Robert Green, Human Resources Analyst II, Human Resources

Sylvester Hall, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator B, Public Utilities

Eric Hartell, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Rhett Havenstein, Gas System Specialist, Clearwater Gas

Ryan Healy, Gas System Specialist, Clearwater Gas

PROMOTIONS (cont.)

Saviron Higgs, Parks Service
Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Tyraven Jackson, Survey Crew Leader,
Public Works

Tyler Johns, Water Distribution
Operator I, Public Utilities

Simeon Johnson, Fire Inspector II,
Fire & Rescue

Jacob Johnson, Traffic Engineering
Analyst, Public Works

Jaylyn Kimbrough, Stormwater
Technician II, Public Works

Alpha Lecard, Library Assistant I, Library

Victor Lee, Business Systems Analyst II,
Public Utilities

Donald MacIntyre, Parks Service
Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Victoria Magee, Crime Analyst I, Police

Thomas Maimonis, Water Distribution
Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Spiro Mannossos, Gas Operations
Supervisor, Clearwater Gas

Andrew Martin, Police Officer, Police

Isabel Mastrapa Winget, Business
Systems Analyst I, Planning &
Development

Charles McAbee, Public Utilities
Assistant Manager, Public Utilities

Brooke McLemore, Customer Service
Specialist Utility Customer Service

RETIREMENTS

Stephen Avise, Firefighter/Driver-
Operator, Fire & Rescue

Heath Brenner, Fire Lieutenant,
Fire & Rescue

Vicky Britton, Payroll Technician I, Police

Gina Dewitt, Legal Office Administrator,
City Attorney

Randy Foltz, Utilities Maintenance
Supervisor II, Public Utilities

John Garakop, Welder/Manufacturer,
Solid Waste

Eric Hannah, Solid Waste Services
Supervisor II, Solid Waste

John Insko, Police Sergeant, Police

Michael Meurant, Parks Service
Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Cameron Mills, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Ucal Morrison, Solid Waste Equipment
Operator, Solid Waste

Bethany Nin, Police Officer, Police

Antonio Ojeda Henriquez, Parks Service
Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Efremz Only, Streets & Sidewalks
Technician I, Public Works

Larry Phillips, Customer Service
Representative I, Utility Customer Service

Kaylynn Price, Engineering Division
Manager, Public Utilities

Arnold Retzer, Solid Waste Services
Supervisor II, Solid Waste

Jacorrie Riley, Wastewater Collection
Technician II, Public Utilities

Dilan Rivera, Customer Service
Representative I, Utility Customer Service

Christopher Rose, Solid Waste Services
Supervisor I, Solid Waste

Abyi Santiago, Parks Service Technician II,
Parks & Recreation

Amanda Santiago, Staff Assistant II,
Parks & Recreation

Joseph Santostefano, Parks Service
Supervisor I, Parks & Recreation

Kellen Scott, Network Analyst II,
Information Technology

Carol McAnally, Police Records Specialist,
Police

Howard McChesney, Network Engineer II,
Information Technology

James McCulley, Gas Sales Division
Manager, Clearwater Gas

Joseph Ruhlin, Police Officer, Police

Christian Schuele, Fire Inspector II,
Fire & Rescue

Laurie Sullivan, Library Assistant I, Library

Gerald Theisen, Parks Service Technician
III, Parks & Recreation

Theroun Winston, Solid Waste Worker I,
Solid Waste

Robert Sfero, Water Distribution
Operator I, Public Utilities

Matthew Simpson, Fleet Mechanic
Supervisor, General Services

Peter Smutko, Gas System Specialist,
Clearwater Gas

Jacob Speranza, Skilled Tradesworker I,
Marine & Aviation

Noah Starczewski, Police Officer, Police

David Stoner III, Systems Programmer II,
Information Technology

Andrew Sullivan, Fire Inspector II,
Fire & Rescue

Karen Swafford, Human Resources
Division Manager, Human Resources

Bryce Talley, Parks Service Technician II,
Parks & Recreation

Zouhier Taouil, Utilities Mechanic,
Public Utilities

Israel Tinajero Pena, Water Distribution
Operator I, Public Utilities

Daniel Tobin, Police Officer, Police

Darquez Whitfield, Wastewater Collection
Technician II, Public Utilities

Christopher Winder, Utilities Electronics
Technician, Public Utilities

Ethan Winget, Pier Operations Manager,
Parks & Recreation

Terry Winthrop, Police Cadet, Police

Christopher Ziermann, Police Lieutenant,
Police

Weddings

Maleah Hinkle, Recreation Manager,
married Spencer Van Buskirk on
Dec. 31, 2023

Austin Sheldon, Network Analyst II,
married Megan Paul on Dec. 3, 2023

Kelsi Sheldon, Pool Lifeguard, married
Anthony Stewart on Oct. 22, 2023

WELCOME BACK

Julia Bodolay, Administrative Assistant, Library

Tracy Boone, Payroll Technician I, Police

William Buzzell, Parking, Facility & Security Aide, Public Works

Jaice Currie, Network Analyst I, Information Technology

Modesto Gonzalez, Traffic Engineering Assistant, Public Works

Richard Hartman, Transportation Planner, Planning & Development

Deandre Lane, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Anthony Medina, Police Telecommunicator I, Police

Lelia Peterson, Administrative Support Division Manager, General Services

Terrance Scott, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Terrell Smith, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Michelle Wannike, Librarian I, Library

Edward Wilmes, Stormwater Maintenance Division Manager, Public Works

TRANSFERS

Taurus Brown, Solid Waste Worker I, Solid Waste

Cassie Cordova, Sustainability Division Manager, Public Works

Donye' Davis, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation

Lindsey Dicicco, Accounting Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Graham Donaldson, Marine & Aviation Assistant Manager, Marine & Aviation

Brent Jones, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation

Kelsie Juliet, Police Office Specialist, Police

Briahna McCrary, Customer Service Representative I, Utility Customer Service

Kaleb Peterson, Library Assistant I, Library

Michelle Quinzi, Staff Assistant II, Library

Joseph Ryan, Construction Inspector I, Public Works

Melody Yin, Sustainability Specialist, Public Works

Service Awards

20 YEARS

Shaun Beasley, Recreation Manager, Parks & Recreation

Shelby Brown, Code Inspector II, Planning & Development

Perry Conzen, Fleet Division Manager, General Services

James Deluca, Wastewater Collection Technician II, Public Utilities

Sergio Fidelis, Police Sergeant, Police

Peter Gushee, Fire Training Officer, Fire & Rescue

Daniel Hollingsworth, Utilities Mechanic, Public Utilities

Tarik Jones, Solid Waste Worker I, Solid Waste

Philip Kirchoffer, Library Page, Library

Vicki Komeruskas, Development Review Technician II, Planning & Development

Frank McCormick, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Paul Roskey, Recreation Supervisor, Parks & Recreation

Joseph Ryan, Construction Inspector I, Public Works

Matthew Schad, Firefighter/Driver-Operator, Fire & Rescue

James Vanzandt, Fire Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

Jeffrey Wallace, Firefighter/Driver-Operator, Fire & Rescue

James Westerman, Firefighter/Driver-Operator, Fire & Rescue

25 YEARS

Scott Batten, Water Distribution Supervisor I, Public Utilities

Larry Labus, Parks Service Technician III, Parks & Recreation

Brian Langille, Executive Director Gas System, Clearwater Gas

Thomas Lulek, Police Sergeant, Police

Cherise Sarnoff, Parks Service Technician III, Parks & Recreation

Nicole Sprague, Deputy City Clerk, City Clerk

Michael Vacca, Public Utilities Division Manager, Public Utilities

30 YEARS

Adam Athan, Skilled Tradesworker I, Parks & Recreation

Geraldine Blakley, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator A, Public Utilities

Pawel Dembinski, GIS Assistant Manager, Public Works

John Dorsey, Transfer Station/Scales Operator, Solid Waste

Stephen Martindale, Water Distribution Operator II, Public Utilities

Lupita Newell, Inside Gas Sales Representative, Clearwater Gas

45 YEARS

Art Kader, Parks & Recreation Director, Parks & Recreation

Births

To **Cullen Ahearn**, Fire Medic, a son named Rhett Jeffrey, born March 29

To **Alyssa Allen**, Human Resources Analyst I, a daughter named Kennedy, born April 25, weighing 7lbs., 15 oz.

To **Kaitlin Homme**, Fire Medic, a son named Maverick, born April 2

To **Ali Ismailoski**, Rights-of-Way Division Manager, a son named Arijan, born Feb. 16, weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz., 19.5 inches long

To **Alexander Kaye**, Police Officer, a daughter named Sofia Grace, born Feb. 9, weighing 8 lbs., 12 oz.

To **Alyssa Reukauf**, Police Telecommunicator I, a daughter named Salem, born Jan. 28, weighing 3 lbs., 14 oz.

To **Todd Rushing**, Fire Medic, a daughter named Avery Rose born in Feb. 11

Sympathies

To the family, friends and colleagues of **Sam Elliott**, Water Plant Operator A, who passed away May 2.

To the family, friends and colleagues of these retired city employees who recently passed:

- **Althea Anderson**, retired Library Division Manager, on Jan. 1
- **Andrea Beane**, retired Senior Accountant, on Feb. 25, 2024
- **Barbara Borgan**, Customer Service Representative, Jan. 8
- **Walter Dewillis**, retired Firefighter, on Jan. 9
- **Teresa Finch**, retired Environmental Manager, on May 2
- **Gary Fritts**, retired Electronics Technician, on Feb. 21
- **Alfred Harris**, retired Solid Waste Equipment Operator, April 1
- **Lucinda Hicks**, retired Staff Assistant III, on Feb. 18
- **Michael Jackson**, retired Gas Specialist, on Feb. 14
- **Varghese Jolly**, retired Water Plant Operator A, on April 10
- **Scotty Jordan**, retired Development Review Technician II, on Feb. 17
- **Franklin Knickerbocker**, retired Police Officer, on April 9
- **James Nungester**, retired Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Jan. 26
- **Thomas Pailes**, retired Police Officer, on Jan. 11
- **William Peterson**, retired Risk Management Specialist, on Jan. 5
- **Thomas Pudelski**, retired Police Officer, on Dec. 30, 2023

Police Department Awards

The **Clearwater Police Department's** most recent award recipients are as follows:



Letter of Commendation

- Corporal **Kelly Miller**
- Officer **Lauren Josey-Filer**

The members of **Team J** (July 29, 2023 - Jan. 26, 2024) and our **Honor Guard**, were selected to receive the 2023 Chief's Unit Citation.

TEAM J (July 29, 2023 – Jan. 26, 2024)

- Sergeant **Shannon Kasperek**
- Corporal **Joseph May**
- Officer **Daniel Bieber**
- Officer **Matthew Bremis**
- Officer **Jarrett Forstell**
- Officer **C.J. Giardino**
- Officer **Matthew High**
- Officer **Jonathan Reid**
- Officer **Brian Rowell**
- Officer **William Spelman**
- Officer **Zachary Zarra**

HONOR GUARD

- Sergeant **Shannon Kasperek**
- Sergeant **Todd Turpack**
- Detective **Paul Balmer** (Honor Guard Commander)
- Detective **Brittani Berg**
- Corporal **Kelly Miller**
- Detective **George Solakian**
- Officer **Darold Cook**
- Officer **Paul Durrance**
- Officer **Henry Giles**
- Officer **Alexander Kaye**
- Officer **Jose Medina**
- Officer **Christopher Miller**
- Officer **Samantha Negron**
- Officer **Elizabeth Neris-Ruiz**
- Officer **Stephany Ogradney**
- Officer **SaMarre Perez**
- Officer **Xavier Rodriguez**
- Officer **Kelsey Viars**
- Officer **Jacob Walser**

Bi-Monthly Team Award Winners

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

Achievement Awards Committee Grill Masters

The team members include:
Alex West and **Scott Batten**

MAY/JUNE 2024

Stormwater Volunteer Firefighters - Public Works

The team members include:
Maurice Bryant and **Kenny Smith**

Employee and Team of the Year Awards

William B. Horne Employee of the Year Award



Congratulations to **Macie Tripple**, who received the William B. Horne II Employee of the Year Award for 2023.

Tripple attended to a junior counselor who came into the Morningside Recreation Complex very upset and crying. She gave them time to settle down and ended up speaking to them to see if they were okay. They did not want to go home.

She called the police for the minor's safety. Following an investigation, their abuser was arrested. Tripple's manager and upper management congratulated her on how she handled the situation. She went above and beyond, spending nearly four hours listening and making sure the minor was safe and that the appropriate steps were taken.

Team of the Year Award

The Orientation Impact Team won the 2023 Team of the Year. Employees include **Donna Hemberger, Chrystal Ryals, Michelle Sheldon, Ricky Ryals, William Anderson, Jaye Matthews, Carol Barden, Todd Morrone, Amelia Cruz, Amy Sessions, Larry Stavro, Brendan West, Scotty Hougham, David Scrivener, Nate Brown, Carissa Santana** and **Heather Wright**.



During an orientation session break, a new employee fell in the breakroom and needed serious medical attention. A group of new hires and current staff from various departments jumped into action. They were calm, rapid, caring and likely lifesaving. Even after the incident, employees were reaching out to this young man's family to see how they could help.

MARCH/APRIL 2024

Marine & Aviation Skilled Tradesworkers

The team members include:
Charles Graves, Terry Winthrop, Dylan Richards, Tyson Mason and **Larry Jones**

Wastewater Collection System of the Year Award

Congratulations to the teams at **Clearwater Public Utilities**, that were selected for the Florida Water Environment Association's "Wastewater Collection System of the Year Award," in the category of medium utilities that serve Florida communities of 20,000 to 75,000 accounts.

This award, given in April 2024, recognizes utilities for significant accomplishments and the fostering of excellence in the operation and maintenance of wastewater collection systems. Shown left to right are **Andrew Blauvelt** (utilities assistant manager), **Justin Fletcher** (wastewater collection supervisor), **Reed Harvin** (utilities maintenance supervisor), and **Jeffery Barnes** (utilities electronics technician), all of Clearwater Public Utilities.



Each day, the collections team of Clearwater Public Utilities helps convey enough wastewater to fill about 1,000 backyard swimming pools – or to continually fill up one backyard pool in less than two minutes -- to the city's wastewater facilities.

Here is a look at Clearwater's sanitary sewer system by the numbers:

- 12 MGD, Wastewater That Comes to Our Plants Each Day (in millions of gallons)
- 408 Miles of Sewer Lines
- 38 Miles of Force Main
- 79 Lift Stations
- 15,000 Manholes
- 33,400 Sewer Connection Points
- 99 Employees in Our Wastewater Team

"I am proud of all the efforts of our teams at the city's three wastewater plants each day," said **Richard Gardner**, Public Utilities Director. "Wastewater treatment is vitally important to a city's infrastructure and often goes unnoticed. This award is the result of dedicated service, superior knowledge, and teamwork."

Employees of the Month

JANUARY 2024

Michelle Sheldon
Human Resources Analyst II
Human Resources

APRIL 2024

Vicki Sudduth
Code Inspector
Planning & Development

FEBRUARY 2024

Matthew Woloschek
Systems Programmer II
Information Technology

MAY 2024

Abyi Santiago
Parks Service Technician
Parks & Recreation

MARCH 2024

Mason St. Martin
Fire Medic
Fire & Rescue

Cause For Applause



City Engineer **Tara Kivett** was recognized as Engineer of the Year by the Florida Engineering Society.

City Manager **Jennifer Poirrier** is a candidate to become a credentialed city manager by the International City/County Management Association.

Sustainability Specialist **Melody Yin** was recognized by Keep Pinellas Beautiful at its annual awards luncheon For Outstanding Program Support.



The Dunedin-Clearwater Elks Lodge 1525 honored Officer **Justin Buis** with its Officer of the Year award. Officer Buis was recognized for saving the life of a swimmer on Clearwater Beach after the man had a heart attack.



Officer **Paul Comini**, who is assigned to Countryside High School, received the 47th Annual Joseph F. Cornelius Family Foundation's Outstanding Police Officer of the Year Award, the department's highest honor.

Detective **Paul Balmer** received the Rotary's 2024 Public Safety and Service Award for the police department. A detective in the economic crimes unit, Balmer is also the commander of the department's honor guard. Detective Paul Balmer also received the Law Enforcement Public Servant Citation Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 10304.



Division Chief **Jevon Graham** received the Rotary's 2024 Public Safety and Service Award for the fire department. The leader of the city's emergency management efforts, Chief Graham also contributes his time to several community organizations.



Congratulations to the **Solid Waste and Recycling** drivers, who competed at the SWANA Florida's Road-e-o competition in April. **Tim Jones** took home the first place in the side-loader competition and also the "Top Gun" award for best overall driver. Kudos also go to **Joe Marshall** and **Josh Burdo**, who placed second in tractor trailer and roll-off challenges. The hard work and competitive spirit of **Harlan Hamilton**, **Lester McVicker** and **Rufus Whiting** does not go unnoticed, as they showcased their skills in their outstanding performances at the event. Special thanks go out to **Arnie Retzer**, **Angela Campagna**, **Michael Campagna** and **Erick Swinton**, who volunteered their time to help judge the competition.



CONNECTION

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- Bruce Rector, Mayor**
- Ryan Cotton, Councilmember**
- Mike Mannino, Councilmember**
- David Allbritton, Councilmember**
- Lina Teixeira, Councilmember**
- Jennifer Poirrier, City Manager**

MyClearwater.com

I Make Clearwater Thrive Award Winners



Congratulations to the winners of the "I Make Clearwater Thrive" contest! The award recipients were announced May 14 at the Senior Executive Team meeting, and each will take home a \$500 award in their paychecks. The winning

submissions portray enthusiasm and commitment to their roles, greatly influencing city operations in alignment with our overarching vision of a community that thrives from bay to beach.

- *People's Choice:* **Cassidy Bonovitch**, Library
- *Achievement Awards Committee Choice:* **Amber Brice**, City Manager's Office
- *Senior Executive Team Choice:* **Claudia Gonzalez**, Library
- *City Manager's Office Choice:* **Travis Teuber**, Public Utilities
- *Most Creative:* **Kenneth Craven**, Information Technology



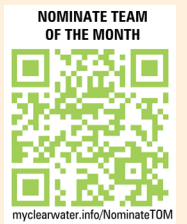
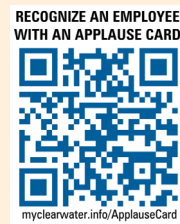
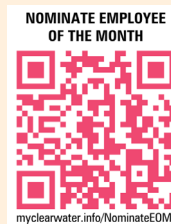
Join The Diversity Leadership Council

The Diversity Leadership Council is looking for new members to help create positive culture and inspire inclusion. Any employees who are interested in joining this effort are more than welcome. Meetings are at 11 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Municipal Services Building, Room 130. Email **Karen Swafford** or **Michelle Sheldon** for information or to express your interest in joining.



Clearwater Employee Achievement Awards

Recognize a colleague by submitting their name for an applause card to recognize a job well done. You can also nominate a fellow employee for Employee of the Month or a team of co-workers for Team of the Month. Scan the QR code and fill out the form.



Connection

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REMINDER



**City offices will be closed
Wednesday, June 19 and
Thursday, July 4.**



If you have a story idea, article, personnel news, or photos to share, please email them to the Editor at krystal.epperson@myclearwater.com or call (727) 444-7562. Let us know what you'd like to see in the next Connection!