

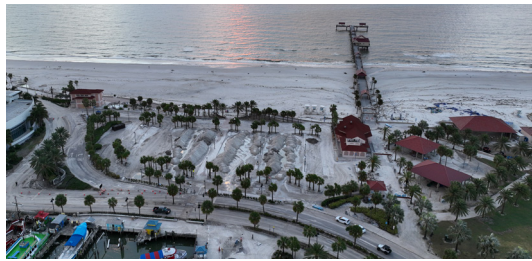
The Newsletter for Clearwater's
Bright and Beautiful Employees and Retirees



City Team Restores Clearwater Post-Hurricanes

By City Manager Jennifer Poirrier

Our community has been through a lot since hurricanes Helene and Milton. These storms severely damaged our community's homes, businesses, and city buildings, but they haven't hampered our spirits.



Rather, city leaders have been inspired by you – our staff – who have been working tirelessly since the arrival of the storms. Led by Emergency Manager **Jevon Graham** and Emergency Management Specialist **Derek Smith**,



the city opened the Emergency Operations Center prior to Helene's arrival. It stayed open until weeks after Milton swept across our city.

Every single city department was involved in our storm response. Our road to recovery will be long, perhaps taking years.

A special thank you goes to Clearwater's **public safety staff** and our public safety partners, who heroically rescued more than 550 residents from The Standard Apartments, the biggest rescue effort ever in Pinellas County. Our police, fire and emergency management employees worked hard to keep our residents safe before, during and after the hurricanes.



More than 4 million pounds of sand washed into city streets and storm pipes from storm surge, and crews led by the city's **Public Works** team evaluated it, cleaned it, and returned it to our bright and beautiful



beach. In total, crews cleaned more than 13,480 tons of sand and removed sand from more than 11,000 feet of storm pipes.

City crews also cleared debris from roads, restored all traffic lights, conducted citywide



damage assessments, assisted in debris removal, coordinated the inspection of city bridges, cleaned up debris from hundreds of trees following the storms, conducted repairs to infrastructure, and restored the city's stormwater system in areas of significant flooding.

Utilities crews worked hard to restore power to the city's lift stations, manage water flows before and after the storms, and restore our water systems after the hurricanes passed.

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Restoring Post-Hurricanes (continued from page 1)



Our **parks teams** restored the city's recreation centers, helped clear roads, and inspected and reopened our 109 parks as quickly as possible. These efforts provided residents with safe spaces to relax, recharge and regain a sense of normalcy after the emotional and physical toll of the hurricanes. Recreation centers and libraries also served as cooling and charging stations for those without power.

Human Resources staff coordinated with employees who were impacted personally from the storms, and so many others contributed toward helping impacted employees and their families.

Our **General Support Services** team assessed the city's buildings to make sure they were structurally sound, and our **Planning and Development staff** got to work in supporting our residents as they began the difficult and emotional rebuilding process. Significant efforts to support our residents continue.

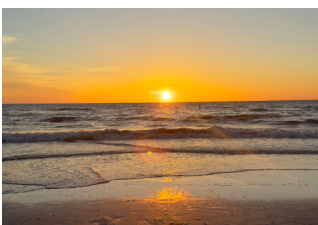


Our **Public Communications** team worked around the clock to share information our residents needed, frequently and accurately, often in an ever-changing environment. And the **Marine and Aviation Department** supported our commercial tenants at the marina throughout the storm. The beach marina endured significant damage, and we continue moving forward with our marina upgrade project.

The city's **solid waste team** has been working hard since the first hurricane through today, to return Clearwater to its bright and beautiful splendor. As of Jan. 14, solid waste crews and our debris-management contractor have removed 3,987 tons of mixed debris, 33,693 tons of construction and demolition debris and 43,799 tons of yard waste. In total, that's equal to the weight of 245 Boeing 747 jet airplanes loaded with passengers and luggage.



Our **Economic Development and Housing teams** shared grant, loan and special program information to impacted businesses, our **Finance team** worked with staff in the Emergency Operations Center, and so many others contributed toward the city's recovery efforts.



And now, we continue moving forward, and Clearwater is still shining. Our beach lifeguards are back on the beach, businesses on the barrier island have reopened, and parking lots are back in business. With that being said, our Clearwater barrier island businesses might have a hard time recovering after the hurricanes. There are

so many great restaurants and attractions on Clearwater Beach which you can visit. I hope that you will support them just as we did our downtown businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Clearwater is still shining!

Great American Teach-In



Mayor **Bruce Rector** and employees from **Clearwater Police Department, Clearwater Fire & Rescue Department, and Clearwater Solid Waste** presented to students in Clearwater as part of the Great American Teach-In in November.

They met a lot of great students and answered many questions about what we do and how we do it.



Solid Waste Specialist **Jonathan Campbell** spoke with students at Kings Highway Elementary

about the city's garbage and recycling program. The students were eager to listen and learn about the best practices for waste management and sustainability.



Save The Date: Neighborhoods Day



Save the date for Clearwater Celebrates Neighborhoods Day on Saturday, March 22. Neighborhoods Day is a day for communities to connect and for residents to make lasting relationships. It is also a great opportunity for staff to interact with residents.

Employee Spotlight: John Klinefelter

By Rob Shaw



In **Clearwater Fire & Rescue Department** circles, he's known as Division Chief **John Klinefelter**. But in the world of girls softball, he's known – and beloved – as “Coach John.” Fighting fires and saving lives are his passions. Coaching young softball players and helping them become better people are his purpose. “I do it as a way to give back and mentor the youth,” Klinefelter said of his coaching.

Klinefelter is in his 23rd year as a Clearwater firefighter; he currently serves

as the division chief for health and safety. He's been around local softball circles for 15 years. For the last 11 of those years, he's been an integral part of the Clearwater High School girls softball team. He's been the head coach the last six years, and his team went all the way to the regional championship this past spring – a level of success the team had never seen before.



Klinefelter has coached all ages in softball, where girls start as young as 5 years old. He's coached Little League and travel ball and currently runs a travel softball organization with girls ages 8 to 18 spread across 14 teams. In other words, he spends a lot of time on the softball field. But it's well worth it.

“For some of these kids, it's why they are going to college,” Klinefelter said. “It's the motivation they needed to stay in school. It's bigger than softball. It helps them to achieve their dreams.” Angalee Parra spent four years playing on the Clearwater High team before graduating this past spring. “He's very much like a dad to me. He is always there for you,” she said. “He puts life lessons on the field to teach us things that we can use off the field.” Parra started playing softball when she was 6 and has had many coaches throughout the years. “He's everything you would want in a coach,” she said. “He has definitely made a lasting impact on me, and I know I can count on him always.”

Klinefelter played baseball as a boy, and softball has become a family affair for him. His two daughters grew up playing the sport – sometimes with him as coach and other times with him in the bleachers.

His youngest daughter, Abbee, plays at Tennessee Tech and will be a sophomore next year. His oldest daughter, Ashlee, played four years at Barry University.



“A lot of coaches just care about winning and making themselves look good,” Abbee Klinefelter said. “He cares about the kids and cares about developing them as people as well.” And she promises she's not just saying that because he is her father. “You feel more welcome and cared about as a person,” Abbee Klinefelter said.



Being the coach's daughter does not mean she gets extra perks. Or that he takes it easy on her. “I was always the one who was getting pushed the hardest,” she said. “He wanted me to be the best version of myself.”

That, “Coach John” said, is what it's all about. “Kids are learning life skills through the game of softball,” he said. “Seeing girls go out into the world with life skills and coping mechanisms makes it all worth it.”

Utilities Crew Responds to Children's Hospital Amid Hurricane

By Heather Parsons



Even heroes need rescued sometimes.

Doctors and nurses at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital worked through the early morning hours after Hurricane Milton wreaked havoc on St. Petersburg. Their well pump for their auxiliary water supply to the hospital's air conditioning system stopped running. Concerned they would need to evacuate the facility's young patients and staff, hospital administrators reached out for help.

Word eventually got to the Florida Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network, of which Clearwater Public Utilities is a member. That's when Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Specialist **Charles McAbee** and Water Plant Operator **A Kyle Wilson** gathered tools and supplies and headed to the hospital.

“Their primary chiller water supply was damaged due to a pipe break in the ceiling,” said McAbee. “It could not be repaired because spare parts were not readily available. Our mission quickly became clear: get the auxiliary system back up and running.”

It was a difficult fix. In fact, multiple issues prevented the system from operating properly. The reduced pressure assembly was leaking out of the relief valve, flooding some of the building's hallways, and there was not enough pressure to push valves open to deliver water to the chiller system for the air conditioning units. The pair were able to successfully troubleshoot the issue and fix the system.

“We were relieved when the air conditioning system was back online,” said Wilson. They stayed back for an hour as units were restarted one by one, to make sure everything worked properly. Both McAbee and Wilson enjoyed the chance to work with the hospital's maintenance team.

“It was great to see people come together during a time of crisis and work hand-in-hand to avoid what could have been a much bigger problem,” said McAbee. “That is truly what being a part of a community is all about.”

Cause For Applause

Congratulations to retired Detective **Paul Balmer**, who was the recipient of the VFW National Law Enforcement Award. Detective Balmer was recognized for his numerous acts of service, excellence in his duties, and consistency.

Pool Lifeguard **Justin Brown** was honored with the Clearwater Police Department Samaritan Award for rescuing a child from the North Greenwood pool and administering lifesaving measures.



School Crossing Guard **Michael Buttice** was presented the Doug Carey School Crossing Guard of the Year Award for the 2022-2023 school year.



Marine & Aviation Assistant Manager **Graham Donaldson** is Pipe Major in the city of Dunedin Grade 4 Pipe Band.



The band traveled to Scotland to compete in the European Pipe Band Championships and the World Pipe Band Championships in August. The pipe band competed in the Grade 4A division and won the European Championships and got fifth place at the World Pipe Band Championships.

Congratulations also go to **Kenneth Craven** and **Jaice Currie** for competing as a part of the city of Dunedin Grade 1 Pipe Band in the World Pipe Band Championships in Scotland.

Lt. **Meg Hasty** was recognized at AMPLIFY Clearwater 2024 Stellar Awards in September with The Carol Hague AchieveHers Woman of the Year award.



Transportation Manager **Annabella Hullen**, became an official U.S. citizen in December. She said, "Over the course of 17 years, the U.S. has given me the opportunity to start my life, build my wonderful family, and have a career I enjoy greatly. God bless the USA!"

Information Technology Director **Dan Mayer** was named Coach of the Year for the USA Lacrosse Gulf Coast.

Heather Parsons, Public Information Coordinator II, achieved the highest level at Toastmasters, the Distinguished Toastmaster. To earn this achievement, she has led at the club and district levels, organized speech contests and special projects, and served as a mentor helping peers reach their goals.



Kaylynn Price, engineering division manager for Clearwater Public Utilities, was a panelist for the "Women of Water" event hosted by the Florida Water Environment Association in July. The event was in high demand and sold out.



The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) presented the Patriot Award to Clearwater City Manager **Jennifer Poirrier** in November, in recognition of her outstanding support for the Reserve and National Guard. Poirrier's leadership and the city of Clearwater's commitment to service

members within the workplace exemplify the values upheld by ESGR and the city's dedication to fostering a supportive environment for military personnel.



Congratulations to the recent graduates of the Florida State University's Certified Public Manager program. Graduates are (left to right): **Daniel Trueblood** (Public Utilities division manager), **Brandi Portalatin** (Solid Waste division manager), **Christina Goodrich** (Public Utilities division manager), **Mike Flanigan** (Public Utilities assistant director), and **Charles McAbee** (Public Utilities supervisory control and data acquisition specialist). This is a nationally-recognized leadership development program for public managers and supervisors.

Clearwater's **Fleet Division** was recognized at the Transit Authority conference for being in the NAFA 100 Best Fleets in front of the entire conference.



Clearwater won big at the Visit St. Pete-Clearwater 2024 Best of St. Pete/Clearwater Awards in May. Several places and activities located in Clearwater were voted the best in their categories including:

- Best Beaches: Clearwater Beach and Sand Key Beach
- Best Mural: Dolphin Mural Coachman Park by Sonny

"Sundancer" Behan

- Best Newcomers: The BayCare Sound at Coachman Park
- Best Live Music Venue: The BayCare Sound at Coachman Park

View the full list of winners at [visitstpeteclearwater.com/best-of-winners](https://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com/best-of-winners)

Clearwater Police Officers Save One of Their Own

By Rob Shaw

When Detective **George Solakian** collapsed inside **Clearwater Police Department** headquarters earlier this year, he was minutes away – perhaps seconds – from possible death after suffering cardiac arrest.

As he lay on the floor of the Crimes Against Children and Families Unit on Feb. 5, he had a faint pulse and labored breathing. He was non-responsive.



Thanks to the efforts of multiple police department and **Clearwater Fire & Rescue** personnel, in addition to medical personnel at two hospitals, Detective Solakian’s life was saved that day. If not for the quick thinking and quick actions of those people, the outcome likely would have been tragic.

Detective **James Brady** was the first to come across his fellow detective a few minutes before 8 that morning, mere seconds after he had collapsed. He immediately called out on the radio – “611, CD, start me FD emergency, CACF office. Solakian’s down.”

Detective Brady turned Solakian on his side to assess him, then returned him to his back so he could do chest compressions. As he began efforts to save his coworker’s life, others dashed to the scene.

Sgt. **Jarred Stiff** and Sgt. **Nikole Kasperek** arrived and helped in various ways. Sgt. Stiff took over chest compressions to give Detective Brady a break; Sgt. Kasperek helped maintain Detective Solakian’s airway.



Several others contributed to ensuring that Detective Solakian had a fighting chance. Some made sure that firefighters could quickly get to the police department; others hastened their entry into the building, where Fire Medic **Isaac Humphreys** and Fire Medic **Justin Blocker** quickly made it to the third floor, where they took over lifesaving measures.

No matter their background, unit or department, everyone had one goal in mind: To help their brother.

Sgt. Stiff rode in the ambulance with Detective Solakian and remained with him at the hospital as others showed up at Morton Plant. The sergeant had to give the detective more chest compressions after he coded again in the hospital hallway.

Solakian spent 12 days in the hospital, including several days in a medically induced coma, before continuing his recovery at home. On July 1, he returned to work, much to the delight of his coworkers.

“I’ve been on too many scenes similar to that with not good outcomes,” Sgt. Kasperek said. “I didn’t know if he was going to make it. I thought we were going to have a fatality in our own building.

“People were in the right place at the right time,” she added.

Those people being in the right place at the right time, and performing the lifesaving actions that needed to be done, are why Detective Solakian is still with us today. He has made it a point to personally thank those who came to his rescue at the police department, fire department and the two hospitals. On Nov. 20, he finally got to meet the two fire medics who played a crucial role.

“I’m just lucky to be alive,” Solakian said. “Technically, I died four times and they brought me back. They said it was a miracle that I survived this.”

Visitors from Sister City Ixmiquilpan

Clearwater hosted delegates from our new sister city of Ixmiquilpan, Mexico, in July. While visiting, they took a tour of the main police station and met with the Hispanic Outreach Center and city staff.



Clearwater staff and management had discussions on ways to foster our new sister city relationship and strengthen the cultural bonds between our communities.



A highlight of the visit was attending the closing ceremony of the Federación de Hidalguenses summer camp.



Parks & Recreation Attends Conference

Several staff members from the **Parks & Recreation Department** attended the Florida Recreation and Park Association, Inc. conference in August, with the theme “The Great Adventure.”

The conference provided valuable insights into a spectrum of industry topics. This learning experience will help enhance the services that the parks & recreation department provides to the community.

Attending this conference gave staff the opportunity to stay informed and inspired in their efforts to create exceptional recreational experiences for all.



Personnel Corner

May 13 through Nov. 21, 2024

NEW HIRES.....

Christopher Allen, Police Cadet, Police

Otha Armstrong, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Daunte Asberry, Solid Waste Worker I, Solid Waste

John Balcer, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Terry Barber, Fire Marshal, Fire & Rescue

Daldrick Barnes, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Amanda Beatty, Police Telecommunicator I, Police

William Bechtel, Systems Programmer I, Information Technology

Leanne Bell, Public Information Coordinator I, Public Communications

Timmy Benitez, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Jesse Bennett, Stormwater Technician I, Public Works

Claudia Betham, Police Telecommunicator I, Police

Kimberly Blackmon, Library Assistant I, Library

Michael Blake, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Nicholas Bornstein, Stormwater Technician I, Public Works

Myika Bowden, Utility Dispatcher I, Clearwater Gas

Kevin Boyden, Parking, Facility & Security Aide, Library

Elizabeth Brewer, Librarian I, Library

Tristan Broome, Gas Technician I, Gas

Gerald Burney, Solid Waste Worker I, Solid Waste

Michael Camarillo, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Dominic Chasse, Police Cadet, Police

Robert Chmura, Traffic Signal Technician II, Public Works

Joshua Coxwell, Police Cadet, Police

Carol Creutz, Accounting Technician II, Finance

Kristina Dodd, Administrative Support Division Manager, Public Utilities

Austen Dole, Planner II, Planning & Development

Jackie Dombrowski, Licensed Electrician, General Services

Parker Duryea, Police Officer, Police

Elizabeth Flanigan, Solid Waste Accounts Coordinator, Solid Waste

Julian Frazier, Fleet Mechanic, General Services

Chase Furlow, Gas Technician I, Gas

Joseph Gagne, Police Officer, Police

Joseph Garland, Police Telecommunicator I, Police

Najah Glaze, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Ryan Green, Planner II, Planning & Development

Robert Gremillion, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Zachary Hauschild, Police Officer, Police

Brandon Hellmann, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Isaiah Henderson, Police Cadet, Police

Eugene Henry, Floodplain Administrator, Planning & Development

Adrian Higgins, Water District Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Zakkery Holzhauser, Parking, Facility & Security Aide, Public Works

Leondre Horne, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Jason Jackson, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Travis Jones, Building & Maintenance Supervisor II, General Services

Maria Kadau, Police Telecommunicator I, Police

Daniel Kelly, Engineering Specialist III, Public Works

Amanda Klotz, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Edward Kozak, Planning Division Manager, Planning & Development

Mark Kraf, Traffic Signal Technician I, Public Works

Sage Lamparelli, Police Cadet, Police

Kyle Lanphear, Police Cadet, Police

Monica Lueking, Neighborhoods Coordinator, Public Communications

Jared Mancini, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation

Michael Marino, Solid Waste Worker I, Solid Waste

Anthony Martin, Marine Facility Operator, Parks & Recreation

Kevin Mattocks, Code Inspector I, Planning & Development

Noah Mayberry, Development Review Technician I, Planning & Development

Anna Mendoza, Police Cadet, Police

Ted Miller, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation

Julliana Miranda-Diaz, Library Assistant I, Library

Verqueze Mitchell, Water District Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Sedwick Moore, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Stephanie Morales, Customer Service Representative I, Utility Customer Service

Peyton Munson, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation

Samantha Myers, Engineering Specialist I, Public Utilities

Troy Nelson, Meter Reader I, Utility Customer Service

Shanika Nicholson, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Rocky Nikci, Police Telecommunicator I, Police

Adam Nugent, Gas Technician I, Gas

Dasril Panko, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator C, Public Utilities

Amanda Paukert, Payroll Technician I, Parks & Recreation

NEW HIRES (cont.)

Kelly Peterich, Engineer II, Public Works

Christopher Poland, Water Plant Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Marcus Prescott, Traffic Sign & Marking Technician I, Public Works

Randall Raines, Water District Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Amanda Reich, Customer Service Representative I, Utility Customer Service

Hugo Resendiz, Streets & Sidewalks Technician I, Public Works

Jonathan Richardson, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Lester Rivera, Fleet Mechanic, General Services

Robert Robicheau, Land Development Arborist, Planning & Development

Angela Runyon, Police Officer, Police

Austin Sadorf, Police Cadet, Police

Keegan Saraceno, Utilities Mechanic, Public Utilities

Joseph Sauro, Police Officer, Police

Colin Shea, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation

Trevor Shultz, Gas Technician I, Gas

Keith Simmons, Water District Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Daynah Singh, Library Assistant I, Library

Willem Slater, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation

Ryan Spedden, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Donovan Stewart, Stormwater Technician I, Public Works

Joshua Stinson, Meter Reader I, Utility Customer Service

Ryan Swannack, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Shahzad Takaloo, Planner III, Planning & Development

Alyssa Taravella, Library Assistant I, Library

Robert Tenney, Parking Enforcement Specialist, Public Works

Ricky Timbrook, Police Officer, Police

Danielle Tipton, Marine Facility Operator, Parks & Recreation

Elias Trejo Cruz, Gas Technician Apprentice, Gas

Michael Tutoli, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

Frank Vaillant-Figueroa, Welder/Manufacturer, Solid Waste

Lothario Washington, Fleet Mechanic, General Services

Hunter Welch, Parks Service Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Jared Wilson, Air Conditioning Technician, General Services

Jaiylan Wynn, Stormwater Technician I, Public Works

Adrian Young, Planner I, Planning & Development

James Young, Traffic Sign & Marking Technician I, Public Works

PROMOTIONS

Melissa Adams, Parks Service Technician III, Parks & Recreation

Krista Akers, Parks Service Technician III, Parks & Recreation

Amelia Anderson, Recreation Leader II, Parks & Recreation

Adam Athan, Skilled Tradesworker III, Parks & Recreation

Homero Baeza, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Joshua Baxter, Solid Waste Services Supervisor II, Solid Waste

Joseph Beebe, Skilled Tradesworker III, General Services

Tyler Bohnsack, Water Plant Operator B, Public Utilities

Brian Boyer, Parking Meter Technician, Public Works

William Bridges, Recreation Leader II, Parks & Recreation

Jatayious Byrd, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Jonathan Campbell, Solid Waste Specialist, Solid Waste

Jariel Candelario, Solid Waste Services Supervisor I, Solid Waste

Jason Cantrell, Plans Examiner III, Planning & Development

Torey Castleberry, Water Distribution Supervisor I, Public Utilities

Hunter Carlson, Budget Analyst III, Finance

Christopher Chester, Wastewater Collection Technician I, Public Utilities

Eric Climes, Wastewater Collection Technician II, Public Utilities

Betsy Cook, Human Resources Analyst I, Human Resources

Christopher Corrales, Police Officer, Police

Clifford Cotton, Stormwater Technician I, Public Works

Leonard Cox, Water Distribution Supervisor II, Public Utilities

Sawyer Day, Parks Service Supervisor I, Parks & Recreation

Danielle Debois, City Clerk Specialist, City Clerk

Robert Devore, Billing Specialist II, Utility Customer Service

Ryan Duval, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator C, Public Utilities

Lisa Figueroa, Police Records Specialist, Police

Dwayne Floyd, Gas Technician II, Gas

Samantha Freeland, Police Telecommunicator II, Police

Mallory Fuchs, Development Review Technician II, Planning & Development

PROMOTIONS (cont.)

Phillip Greene, Gas Technician III, Gas

Ozell Hall, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Donald Hudenburg, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Annabella Hullen, Transport Engineer Division Manager, Public Works

Taylor Jaber, Police Officer, Police

David Jehnzen, Code Inspector II, Planning & Development

Brandon Johnson, Wastewater Collection Technician II, Public Utilities

Tarik Jones, Transfer Station/Scales Operator, Solid Waste

Nathaniel Koehler, Police Officer, Police

Amy Kuhle, Billing Specialist II, Marine & Aviation

Deandre Lane, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Chelsea Lang, Police Telecommunicator II, Police

Scott Lewis, Recreation Leader II, Parks & Recreation

Thomas Maimonis, Water Distribution Operator I, Public Utilities

Michelle Mann, Police Telecommunicator II, Police

Eric Matherly, Gas System Specialist, Gas

Pietro Mattiace, Fire Apparatus Mechanic, General Services

Leo Mazzullo, Skilled Tradesworker III, General Services

Cedric McBride, Stormwater Technician II, Public Works

Christopher McFadden, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Erin McHenry, Police Officer, Police

Brooke McLemore, Customer Service Representative II, Utility Customer Service

Michael Mouroukis, Network Engineer III, Information Technology

John Mulder, Utilities Maintenance Supervisor I, Public Utilities

Peter Mullady, Police Officer, Police

Sean Murphy, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator C, Public Utilities

Amber Nahorodny, Police Telecommunicator II, Police

Jon Nardin, Building Inspector I, Planning & Development

Virginia Novotny, Police Telecommunicator II, Police

Codey Nygren, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

William Olive, Police Telecommunicator II, Police

Timothy Palmese, Parks Service Technician III, Parks & Recreation

Jake Papjes, Gas Technician II, Gas

Stefan Pavlovic, Police Officer, Police

Miguel Pena, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Darrell Perry, Solid Waste Service Supervisor I, Solid Waste

Larry Phillips, Customer Service Representative II, Utility Customer Service

Chris Plempel, Water Distribution Operator I, Public Utilities

Brian Rautmann, Recreation Facilities Support Custodian, Parks & Recreation

Keith Robertson, Wastewater Collection Technician II, Public Utilities

Richard Robinson, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator C, Public Utilities

Kelly Rogers, Procurement Analyst II, Finance

Trejo Roldan, Skilled Tradesworker III, General Services

Christopher Rose, Solid Waste Services Supervisor II, Solid Waste

Scott Selover, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Ricky Shaw, Stormwater Technician II, Public Works

Samantha Sheaffer, Police Telecommunicator II, Police

Brian Simon, Code Inspector II, Planning & Development

Alison Smith, Gas Technician I, Gas

Jewel Smith, Recreation Supervisor, Parks & Recreation

John Stephens, Code Inspector II, Planning & Development

Charles Stewart, Network Analyst II, Information Technology

Daniel Taban, Skilled Tradesworker III, Parks & Recreation

Colby Wade, Gas Technician II, Gas

Robert Waite, Solid Waste Services Supervisor II, Solid Waste

Davon Watson, Network Engineer II, Information Technology

Marcus Weaver, Streets & Sidewalks Technician III, Public Works

Alexander West, Utilities Maintenance Supervisor I, Public Utilities

Clifton Whitaker, CAD & GIS Technician II, Clearwater Gas

Joseph White, Police Telecommunicator II, Police

Dezmond Whiting, Wastewater Collection Technician II, Public Utilities

Jamar Williams, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Terry Winthrop, Police Officer, Police

Herman Winthrop, Utilities Maintenance Supervisor II, Public Utilities

Halil Yalcinkaya, Police Officer, Police

WELCOME BACK

Robert Lazzaro, Crime Analyst I, Police

Sean Austin, Solid Waste Accounts Coordinator, Solid Waste

David Bruneau, Police Service Technician, Police

Shana Kelley, Library Assistant I, Library

Jada McCree, Payroll Technician I, Fire & Rescue

Bernard McNally, Parking, Facility & Security Aide, Marine & Aviation

Chyna Miller-Robinson, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation

Keenan Murray, Meter Reader I, Utility Customer Service

Alexis Wells, Parks Senior Division Manager, Parks & Recreation

Mike Whiting, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste

RETIREMENTS

Trava Alston, Police Service Technician, Police

Geraldine Blakley, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator A, Public Utilities

Shelby Brown, Code Inspector II, Planning & Development

Carl Conyers, Police Officer, Police

Michael Delk, Assistant City Manager, City Manager's Office

John Dorsey, Transfer Station/Scales Operator, Solid Waste

Gerard Grace, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Lynn Hastings, Human Resources Staff Assistant, Human Resources

Leann Holbrook, Police Office Specialist, Police

Joshua Jewett, Police Officer, Police

Timothy Kurtz, Construction Division Manager, Public Works

Robert Lazzaro, Police Officer, Police

Chad Reed, Police Officer, Police

Barry Slack, Utilities Mechanic, Public Utilities

Erick Swinton, Solid Waste Service Supervisor II, Solid Waste

Kent Walker, Librarian II, Library

Stephen Wannos, Police Lieutenant, Police

Michael Williams, Police Officer, Police

Mario Zaccaria, Plans Examiner IV, Planning & Development

Births

To **Ryan Bianca**, Police Detective, a son named Shepherd Michael, born Nov. 22 weighing 8 lbs., 4 oz.

To **Paula** and **Tom Chaplinsky**, retirees, a grandson named Ezekiel, born May 18, weighing 6 lbs. 1 oz.

To **Kayla Dyer**, Well-Being Coordinator, on the birth of her son named Liam Riker, born Aug. 27, weighing 5 lbs. 14 oz.

To **David Kurinsky**, Police Officer, a daughter named Leila Theresa, born Oct. 29 weighing 6 lbs., 2 oz.

To **Kyle** and **Alexis Bingham**, Police Officers, a son named Asher, born July 7

To **Jarrod Young**, Police Officer, a son named Luka Bradley, born Dec. 31 weighing 8 lbs.

Service Awards

20 YEARS

William Anderson, Building & Maintenance Supervisor II, General Services

Barry Balmer, Police Officer, Police

Nathaniel Bowne, Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator, Public Utilities

Ian Cameron, Police Sergeant, Police

Jaime Cuervo Garzon, Skilled Tradesworker II, General Services

Timothy Ferlanie, Water Plant Operator A, Public Utilities

Milisa Harris, Procurement Analyst I, Finance

James Hawkins, Utilities Mechanic, Public Utilities

Natalia Illich-Hailey, Police Major, Police

Robert Lee, Fire Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

Dzavit Lika, Custodial Worker, Library

Theodore Mellis, Traffic Operations Supervisor, Public Works

Daniel O'Brien, Police Officer, Police

Robert Palisi, Fire Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

George Phillips, Police Officer, Police

Blaise Sciarra, Driver-Operator, Fire & Rescue

Adriana Topel, Librarian II, Library

Todd Turpack, Police Sergeant, Police

Jeffrey Walker, Engineer II, Public Works

Patrick Zulla, Stormwater Assistant Manager, Public Works

25 YEARS

Chancee Anderson, Parks Service Supervisor II, Parks & Recreation

Gina Clayton, Planning & Development Director, Planning & Development

Matthew Daerr, Fire District Commander, Fire & Rescue

Weddings

Lupita Newell, Gas Sales Representative, married Robert Werthman on Sept. 14.

Markus Debose, Stormwater Technician II, Public Works

Joseph Farrar, Solid Waste Assistant Manager, Solid Waste

Jevon Graham, Fire Division Chief, Fire & Rescue

Melissa Jackson, Accounting Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Michael Jones, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

Edith Jones, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator A, Public Utilities

Robert Keane, Fire Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

Eric Kleinman, Athletic Field Manager, Parks & Recreation

Scott Kurleman, Development Services Division Manager, Planning & Development

Jon Lopez, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Francis Whitney, Driver-Operator, Fire & Rescue

30 YEARS

Steven Baginski, Police Lieutenant, Police

Nathan Ballouz, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

Roberto Beruvides, Police Officer, Police

Susan Chase, Documents & Records Specialist, City Clerk's Office

Todd Johnson, Police Major, Police

Jay Ravins, Finance Director, Finance

Julie Schultz, Recreation Supervisor, Parks & Recreation

Kent Walker, Librarian II, Library

Thomas Wiggins, Stormwater Heavy Equipment Operator, Public Works

35 YEARS

Reina Carbajal, Library Assistant II, Library

Sympathies

To the family, friends and colleagues of **Ander Woods**, Parks Service Technician III, who passed away Sept. 3

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

- **Dennis Acker**, retired Police Officer, on Dec. 5
- **James Albright**, retired Computer Operator, on May 21
- **Michael Blake Sr.**, retired Public Utilities Technician II, on Oct. 30. To **Michael Blake Jr.**, Parks Service Technician I, on the loss of his father
- **Frank Bowler**, retired Chief Communications Technician, on June 19
- **Joseph Colbert**, retired Fire Inspector, on Aug. 26. To **Steve Colbert**, retired Fire Medic, on the loss of his father
- **Helen Davis**, retired Gas Staff Assistant, on Sept. 5
- **Walter Davis**, retired Solid Waste Equipment Operator, on Sept. 14
- **Thomas Downes**, retired Solid Waste/General Services Director, on Oct. 10
- **Forrest Draxton**, retired Equipment Operator, on June 1
- **Larry Dowd**, retired Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, on Jan. 2. To **Birgitt Dowd**, retired Recreation Specialist, on the loss of her husband and to **Katrina Miller**, Solid Waste Manager, on the loss of her father.
- **Kenneth Emerson** retired Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, on Nov. 22
- **Donald Flynn**, retired Firefighter, on Nov. 26
- **Nick Gossman**, retired Police Communications Supervisor, on June 9
- **Robert Hink**, retired Firefighter, on Sept. 1
- **David Humphrey**, retired Police Service Technician, on Sept. 14
- **Jennie Keegan**, retired Accounting Clerk, on Aug. 26
- **Steven Palmer**, retired Tradesworker II, on Nov. 20
- **Earthene Rayner**, retired Solid Waste Equipment Operator, on Oct. 18
- **Joseph Reilly**, retired Tradesworker, on Sept. 4
- **Stephen Revello**, retired Maintenance Worker II, on Aug. 3
- **John Wepler**, retired Gas Technician III, on Jan. 2

To **Denise Balog**, Administrative Assistant, on loss of her father

To **Bill Buzzell**, Parking, Facilities and Security Aide, on the loss of his mother; and to **Brandon Buzzell**, Parking Citation Assistant, on the loss of his grandmother

To **Lee Cheek**, Parks Manager, on the loss of his father

To **Kris Koch**, Downtown Core/Venue Division Manager, on the loss of his mother-in-law

To **Konrad McCree**, Police, and **Jada McCree**, Payroll Technician I, on loss of Jada's brother

To **Earl Swift**, Recreation Supervisor, on the loss of his father

Clearwater Public Utilities 2024 Awards

Congratulations to the Clearwater Public Utilities staff recipients for the department's 2024 awards. Lead Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator **Alan Brooks** was recognized as the department's 'Employee of the Year.' The city's wastewater collections team received the 'Team of the Year' award: **Kyon Devine, Michael Helm, Darquez Whitfield and James Deluca**, all wastewater collection technicians. Thank you to these crews for their hard work all year long!



Bi-Monthly Team Award Winners

JULY/AUGUST 2024

Fleet CNG Recycle Firefighting Team

The team members include:

Juan Ospina, Robert Orner (General Services) and **Matthew Mauger** (Fire)

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

Days Inn Fire Rescue Team

The team members include:

Lt. Fred Morris, Patrick Curry, Mason St. Martin and **Christopher Collins**

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

2024 Comic Con Team, Library/ Parks & Recreation

The team members include: **Rick Derby, Kate Dressel, Savannah Elliot, Sarah Fletcher, Kayla Grant, Zaccheus Jammer, Kelsy Johnson, Aaron Lombard, Shawn Manspeaker, Amber Priestler, Thomas Shepherd, Christa Smith, Tony Stamatoplos** and **Johnareus Young**

Police Department Awards

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

Medal of Meritorious Service

- Sgt. **Kevin Klein**

Lifesaving Award

- Sgt. **Nikole Kasperek**
- Sgt. **Ryan McMullen**
- Sgt. **Craig Murray**
- Sgt. **Jarred Stiff**
- Detective **James Brady**
- Cpl. **Antony Mills**
- Officer **Matthew Capone**
- School Safety Officer **Brett Faulk**
- Officer **David Race**

Letter of Commendation

- Lt. **Joel "J.P." Morley**
- Officer **Anthony Curcio**
- Officer **Michael Kelchner**
- Officer **Cole Van Deusen**



Employees of the Month

JUNE 2024

Jason Coole

Parks Service Technician
Parks & Recreation

JULY 2024

James Van Zandt

Fire Lieutenant
Fire & Rescue

AUGUST 2024

Amber Brice

Arts & Cultural Affairs Manager
City Manager's Office

SEPTEMBER 2024

Ethan Winget

Pier Operations Manager
Parks & Recreation

OCTOBER 2024

Brooke Harris

Systems Programmer II
Information Technology

NOVEMBER 2024

Barbara Johnson

Administrative Assistant
Planning & Development

DECEMBER 2024

Matthew Anderson

Parks & Recreation Assistant Director
Parks & Recreation

Team-Building Kickball Tournament

The Parks & Recreation Department held its annual kickball championship at the Eddie C. Moore Complex in May. On the line was the coveted trophy, bragging rights for the year and which assistant director would get a pie in the face. In the end the Special Events and Athletics team ran away with the victory over the Parks and Beautification team.



City Manager Named Grand Marshal



City Manager Jennifer Poirier was the Grand Marshal of the Clearwater Beach Making Spirits Bright Holiday Parade that was held in December on Clearwater Beach.

Main Library Assists Resident With Marriage Proposal

In July, the **Clearwater Main Library staff** assisted resident Johnathon Seese with a marriage proposal to Jessica Miller. Seese said the Main Library was chosen for its beautiful location and great collection.

Main Library staff pulled the requested books, so that Seese could place scavenger hunt clues in them. Once the paper clues were in place, the books were reshelfed for Miller to find. Once she found the last library book on the hunt which was "Lord of the Rings," he pulled out the ring and proposed.

Not surprisingly, she said yes! The happy couple celebrated afterward by getting a Clearwater library card.



Utilities Staff Attends Job Fair

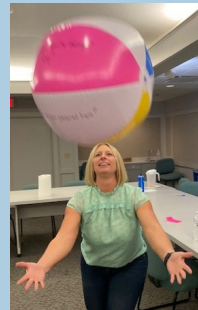
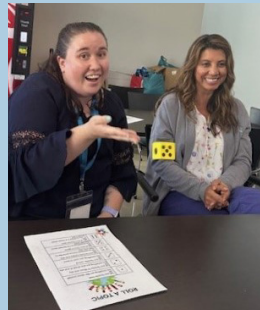
Utilities Engineering Manager **Kaylynn Price** (left) and Administrative Support Manager **Kristina Dodd** (right) represented Clearwater Public Utilities at a recent "Recruit Military" job fair at Amalie Arena in Tampa.

They talked with veterans who are looking for their next career path, shared what it's like working for the city, and encouraged people to apply for utility jobs.



Clearwater Celebrates Diversity, Juneteenth and Pride

Clearwater celebrated Diversity Week, Juneteenth and Pride all within a span of a month. Check out some photos from the variety of activities that took place as part of the celebrations:





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



Borrow a Sustainable Event Kit for Your Office Party

By Heather Parsons

If you're planning to host an office gathering, retirement party, or other event at your workplace that serves foods or drink, you can borrow a sustainable event kit to skip use of single-use plastics.

The city's sustainability team launched a program last year to share sustainable event kits with other city employees who are hosting such parties. Kits encourage skipping single-use plastics and can accommodate up to 216 guests.

Kits include commercial-grade stainless steel cutlery, including forks, knives, teaspoons and soup spoons. You can borrow reusable teal plastic dishware, including medium plates (7.5" wide, 1.5" deep) and 15-ounce cups. The dishware is BPA-free and dishwasher-safe. And if you like, you can also borrow teal, machine-washable, 100 percent cotton napkins, free from harmful chemicals and synthetic materials.

"You don't have to use everything in the kit," said Sustainability Manager **Cassie Cordova**. "You can borrow whatever you like, so long as materials are returned cleaned and having been washed."

The kit also comes with a compartmentalized tray for cutlery, commercial-grade plastic tubs to transport and collect the dirty dishware, and a laundry bag for the napkins.

"We're proud to provide a more sustainable option that employees can check out for events," said Cordova.

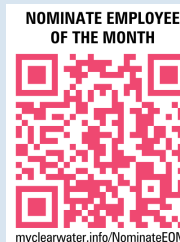
- Reserve a Kit: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/157754570d5d4742826d7e617c4cfbcc>
- Kit Details: [https://myclearwater.sharepoint.com/SitePages/Sustainable-Event-Kits-\(SEK\).aspx](https://myclearwater.sharepoint.com/SitePages/Sustainable-Event-Kits-(SEK).aspx)

Clearwater Employee Achievement Awards

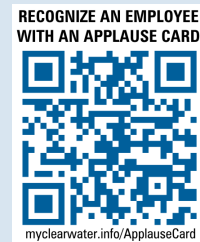
The city's Achievement Awards Program recognizes employees whose work and attitudes reflect the values of the city. The program aims to motivate and encourage employees to continuously strive for excellence. Don't forget there are many ways you can nominate your fellow coworkers for great work.

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.

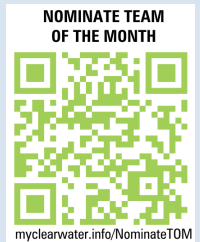
Scan the QR code and fill out the form.



myclearwater.info/NominateEOM



myclearwater.info/ApplauseCard



myclearwater.info/NominateTOM



REMINDER

City offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 17, in observance of the Presidents Day holiday.

Connection

is produced by the Public Communications Department.

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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!