

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



Public Utilities Hosts Wateropolis Simulation

By Jennifer Peña-Cruz

A lot more goes on in the decision-making process of public utilities than meets the eye. The **Public Utilities Department** hosted an interactive exercise called "Wateropolis" for all internal employees to attend and learn more about their role in the community. In this three-hour simulation, employees were able to enjoy a hands-on experience with the complexities of utility budgeting, managing competing priorities, and adapting to shifting consumption and revenue trends.

The presentation began with a brief history on the relationship between the public and public utilities, addressing concerns about water quality and the delivery of clean water to homes.



To strengthen the relationship among consumers and public utilities departments in the United States, the Clean Water Act of 1972 was enacted as a set of rules and regulations that remain in force today.

For the exercise, participants were split into "Wateropolis" teams, each acting as a public utilities department. Each team faced a series of budgeting scenarios and had to weigh priorities, including customer satisfaction, reliability performance, stakeholder understanding, community sustainability and employee development.



As the scenarios grew more complex, each team made tough decisions, bringing into perspective the day-to-day challenges our Clearwater Public Utilities staff and leaders face.

Toward the end of the simulation, as teams compared results on decisions made, participants gained a deeper understanding of the "behind-the-curtain" processes and how our Clearwater team navigates these challenges and makes decisions. Overall, this simulation highlighted how hard our team works every day to ensure the best service for the community.

Employee Spotlight: Doniela Prifti

For 18 years, Compliance and Contract Manager **Doniela Prifti** has been a cornerstone of Clearwater's Public Utilities Department. Her role might sound highly technical, as she oversees laboratory contracts, testing programs, and ensures the city meets every state and federal regulation. But at its core, Prifti says it's about one thing: protecting the health of the community.



Her passion for science started early. "I grew up in a little town called Pogradec, right on the shores of Lake Ohrid in Albania, the oldest and deepest lake in Europe," she shares. "When most kids were busy climbing trees or skipping rocks, I was already fascinated by the tiny creatures living in the water and the science behind it all." This led Prifti's passion for biology and chemistry, and soon she was graduating in the top 3% of her class from the University of Natural Science in 1997 with a degree in chemistry.

Two years later, she immigrated to the United States through the Department of State's diversity visa program. Adjusting to a new country and culture wasn't easy, but her determination carried her through. "It was difficult in the beginning," she recalls. "But I was determined to make it."

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Employee Spotlight: Doniela Prifti

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Her career began in the private sector with Minute Maid, now Coca-Cola, where she worked in food compliance and gained a deeper understanding of industry standards. That experience proved invaluable when she joined Clearwater in 2007. Since then, she has been a driving force in maintaining water quality and regulatory compliance, ensuring that residents can count on safe, reliable services. "I became something of a lab 'Swiss Army watch,'" she jokes, "running advanced instruments with complicated names, leading teams, managing audits, reviewing data, and making sure quality systems worked."

Prifti describes her role as being "a middleman between plants and laboratories," balancing multiple operations to keep results accurate and aligned with strict standards. Her passion, she says, is to protect both public health and the environment, and her work ethic is fueled by integrity and the pursuit of perfection. "I always want our instruments and results to come back perfect every time," she explains.

Despite the technical demands of her work, Prifti emphasizes the supportive environment she has found in Clearwater. "What I enjoy most is how helpful everyone has been. I've always had the support of my leadership team, and the focus is always on doing everything for the community." For her, every day feels like an accomplishment: sustaining clean, safe water for residents while contributing to a healthier, more sustainable future.

Outside of work, Prifti is a proud mother of two daughters: one attending the University of South Florida and the other at the University of Florida. She sees her journey, beginning with her move from Albania to building a career in science, and raising a family, as a testament to perseverance and hard work.

When asked what advice she would give to others starting out in their careers, Prifti doesn't hesitate: "Stay curious, stay brave, and remember that even the smallest actions can ripple out and change the world. If a kid from a little town by Lake Ohrid can grow up to protect pelicans, drinking water, and whole communities, just imagine what you can do."

The city of Clearwater is proud to highlight Prifti's contributions and celebrate not just her professional achievements, but also the character and values she brings to her work every day. Her story is a reminder that dedication, integrity, and passion can leave a lasting impact on both a workplace and a community.

Official Clearwater Delegation Travels to Nagano, Japan

By Amber Brice

In honor of the 65th anniversary of Clearwater's sister city relationship with Nagano, Japan, a delegation recently traveled to Nagano, including City Manager **Jennifer Poirrier**, members of the city council, city staff, the Clearwater Sister Cities Advisory Board, and representatives from the nonprofit Clearwater Sister Cities.



While visiting Nagano, they met with elected officials, learned about Japanese culture, met with local school children, explored historic sites, experienced the local cuisine, and visited the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

An official Clearwater delegation usually travels to Japan every five years in October, with a reciprocal delegation from Nagano visiting Clearwater the following February. This year's delegation trip was rescheduled to July 2025, due to last year's hurricanes.



Housing Division Recognized

By Jack Donahue

The city of **Clearwater Housing Division** has been recognized by the Florida Housing Coalition with the Resonance Award, part of the organization's annual awards program.



This award celebrates housing leaders and organizations whose work highlights the purpose and impact of affordable housing in their communities.

Congratulations to **Dylan Mayeux, Kara Grande** and the entire Housing Division team for their dedication and outstanding service to Clearwater residents.



PruittPlace - Clearwater Residents Connect Through Art at Clearwater East Library

By Jack Donahue

Residents from PruittPlace - Clearwater recently visited the Clearwater East Community Library for a behind-the-scenes tour and a yarn art workshop conducted by **Meredith Kambic**, branch manager at the East Community Library.

During the workshop, participants had the unique opportunity to create intricate and beautiful yarn pieces under Kambic's expert guidance. The visit aimed not only to foster community interaction and creativity but also to provide a deeper connection to the arts and crafts.

"Our ongoing partnership with PruittPlace - Clearwater has been very rewarding," said Kambic. "Since most of our visits take place at their facility, it was great to welcome the residents to our library. We loved seeing them enjoy the space, get creative with a craft, and discover how libraries have changed. Programs like these provide residents with meaningful social interaction, enjoyment, and opportunities for lifelong learning."



Our wonderful libraries are centers for learning and artistic activities, offering a welcoming atmosphere and state-of-the-art facilities that impressed all attendees. The event left participants with newfound skills, completed projects, and a reinforced appreciation for the vital role libraries play in promoting knowledge, creativity, and community engagement.



Solid Waste & Recycling Staff Are Hometown Heroes

By Krystie Epperson

Clearwater Girl Scout Troop #1111 selected the city of **Clearwater Solid Waste & Recycling Department** as their Hometown Hero for this year. The Hometown Hero program allows Girl Scout troops to choose a local organization as the recipient of their donated cookies.

The troop talked about how the city's solid waste crews are often overlooked and wanted to make sure they received the recognition they deserve for all of their hard work, especially after having so much to clean up after the last hurricane season. The troop visited the Solid Waste & Recycling administration building this summer to donate cookies to the department.



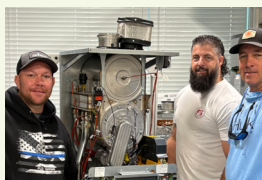
CGS Energy Staff Receive Specialized Certifications

By Lisa Hadley

Recently, **CGS Energy** technicians participated in specialized training at Rinnai's Dojo facility in Atlanta, renowned for its thorough and demanding training programs.



During this training, CGS Energy technicians earned certifications in the installation, service, and troubleshooting of commercial CX tankless rack and demand duo systems. CGS Energy is an authorized dealer and distributor of Rinnai tankless gas water heaters.



Beach Lifeguard Picture Day

By Rob Shaw

The annual photo day with the beach lifeguards is always a blast. Think of it like the old Olan Mills school photos, but with a much better backdrop.



Our beach lifeguards, who are employed by **Clearwater Fire & Rescue**, keep our beachgoers safe 365 days a year. They watch the waters for swimmers in trouble, respond to medical incidents, help find lost children, along with a myriad other duties.



One day each year, they gather for a group photo, along with some other fun shots. Thanks to **Justin Colen**, a multimedia specialist in Public Communications, for capturing such great shots!



National Night Out 2025

By Rob Shaw

The annual National Night Out was a hit this year in a new location. The **Clearwater Police Department** and **Clearwater Fire & Rescue** hosted families at Coachman Park for the event, which was fun for all ages. They got an inside look at a lot of the equipment both agencies use, and were able to meet the first responders who serve them daily.



Kids were able to climb inside a fire truck, check out the Baylite helicopter and watch a police K-9 in action. They could also climb inside

the police command bus and get a free bicycle helmet. The event is expected to return to Coachman Park next fall.



Personnel Corner

July 1 through Oct. 31, 2025

NEW HIRES.....

Michelle Alfred, Staff Assistant I,
Parks & Recreation

Marques Alexander, Solid Waste Worker I,
Solid Waste & Recycling

Jocelyn Alonso, Police Cadet, Police

Kenyatta Anderson, Solid Waste Worker I,
Solid Waste & Recycling

Rashad Banks, Solid Waste Worker I,
Solid Waste & Recycling

Nathaniel Bermudez, Parks Service
Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Brandy Bobb, Marine Facility Operator,
Parks & Recreation

Wade Brockman, Streets & Sidewalks
Technician I, Public Works

Todd Brown, Stormwater Technician I,
Public Works

Brandon Campbell, Solid Waste
Equipment Operator, Solid Waste &
Recycling

Gregory Casebier, Parks Service
Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Aaron Cornwell, SCADA Specialist,
Public Utilities

Aidan Coyne, Parks Service Technician III,
Parks & Recreation

Nicholas Cvetanovich, Parks Service
Technician I, Parks & Recreation

Laura Daniels, Accounting Technician I,
Parks & Recreation

Albert Davis, Fleet Division Manager,
General Services

Daniel Dieter, City Surveyor/GIS Division
Manager, Public Works

Mariana Domine, Library Assistant I,
Library

Justin Felix-Feliciano, Police Cadet, Police

Cassidy Gordon, Customer Service
Representative I, Utility Customer Service

Gabriel Greco-Gilreath, Meter Reader I,
Utility Customer Service

Cage Gregory, Gas Technician II,
CGS Energy

Cirila Cervantes Gutierrez, Custodial
Worker, Police

Jamal Hairston, Human Resources
Analyst I, Human Resources

Taner Hamzawi, Engineer II, Public Works

David Harrison, Solid Waste Worker I,
Solid Waste & Recycling

Aaron Head, Solid Waste Worker I,
Solid Waste & Recycling

Dimitri Higgins, Parks Service Technician I,
Parks & Recreation

Tyler Hileman, Parks Service Technician I,
Parks & Recreation

Branden Hill, Construction Inspector I,
Public Works

Ramona Hunter, CRA Coordinator,
Community Redevelopment Agency

Timothy Huse, Solid Waste Worker I,
Solid Waste & Recycling

Manisha Jones, Recreation Leader I,
Parks & Recreation

Ambre Jordan, Marine Facility Operator,
Parks & Recreation

Todd Lambert, Stormwater Heavy
Equipment Operator, Public Works

James Larsen, Building Inspector
Technician, Planning & Development

Rosalee Martinez, Marine Facility
Operator, Parks & Recreation

Jason McKoy, Industrial Electrician,
Public Utilities

Drew Merta, Survey Crew Leader,
Public Works

Luis Nava, Business Systems Analyst I,
Public Utilities

Jayce Ortiz, Solid Waste Worker I,
Solid Waste & Recycling

Heather Peterson, Library Assistant I,
Library

John Pierce, Parks Service Technician I,
Parks & Recreation

Chad Pittman, Fire Chief, Fire & Rescue

Viktoria Poniava, Engineering
Specialist III, Public Works

Andrew Ramos, Parking Enforcement
Specialist, Public Works

Johannes Rech, Parks Service Technician I,
Parks & Recreation

Michael Shille, Parking Division Manager,
Public Works

Edwin Simmonds, Parking Enforcement
Specialist, Public Works

Adam Singer, Parking, Facilities &
Security Aide, Marine & Aviation

Luciano Siracusa, Recreation Leader I,
Parks & Recreation

Caden Skaggs, Gas Technician Apprentice,
CGS Energy

Jeanne Smallcomb, Utility Dispatcher I,
CGS Energy

Alejandro Reyes Suero, Fleet Mechanic,
General Services

Thomas Super, Solid Waste Equipment
Operator, Solid Waste & Recycling

Cassandra Thomas, Human Resources
Analyst I, Human Resources

Anthony Walker-Collins, Solid Waste
Worker I, Solid Waste & Recycling

Cristian Ybarra, Stormwater Technician I,
Public Works

WELCOME BACK.....

Patrick Davis, Solid Waste Equipment
Operator, Solid Waste & Recycling

Jaylyn Kimbrough, Stormwater
Technician II, Public Works

David Wells, Streets & Sidewalks
Technician I, Public Works

RETIREMENTS.....

Steven Baginski, Police Lieutenant,
Police

David Clark, Plans Examiner IV,
Planning & Development

Jaime Cuervo-Garzon, Skilled
Tradesworker II, General Services

Jevon Graham, Fire Division Chief,
Fire & Rescue

John Klinefelter, Fire Division Chief,
Fire & Rescue

Sandy Lear, Business Systems Analyst II,
Information Technology

Frank McCormick, Solid Waste Equipment
Operator, Solid Waste

Norton McGiffin, Parking Supervisor,
Public Works

Gabe Parra, Community Development
Coordinator I, Economic Development &
Housing

Marvin Pettingill, Fire Deputy Chief,
Fire & Rescue

Cheryl Wood, Police Officer, Police

PROMOTIONS

Audra Aja, Economic Development Division Manager, Economic Development & Housing

Jesse Bennett, Stormwater Technician I, Public Works

Tyler Bohnsack, Lead Water Plant Operator, Public Utilities

Myika Bowden, Utility Dispatcher II, CGS Energy

Gregory Bowen, Human Resources Analyst I, Human Resources

Tristan Broome, Gas Technician II, CGS Energy

Jacob Chellew, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Jessica Chueka, Community Development Coordinator I, Economic Development & Housing

Roger Costello, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Edward Craft, Utilities Lead Mechanic, Public Utilities

Dylan Flora, Police Officer, Police

Jamie Gaubatz, Administrative Support Division Manager, Fire & Rescue

Brinton George, Police Sergeant, Police

Michael Gunnin, Utilities Mechanic, Public Utilities

Harlan Hamilton, Solid Waste Service Supervisor I, Solid Waste & Recycling

Keyth Hooton, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Collin Hurley, Skilled Tradesworker I, Marine & Aviation

Shana Kelley, Library Assistant I, Library

Noah Mayberry, Development Review Technician II, Planning & Development

Dylan Mayeux, Housing Division Manager, Economic Development & Housing

Bret Mershon, Skilled Tradesworker III, General Services

Verqueze Mitchell, Water Distribution Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Stephanie Morales, Customer Service Specialist, Utility Customer Service

Samantha Myers, Engineering Specialist II, Public Utilities

Amoy Nelson, Police Officer, Police

Jeffrey Payne, Parks Service Technician II, Parks & Recreation

Miguel Pena, Parks Service Technician III, Parks & Recreation

Dania Perez, Community Development Coordinator II, Economic Development & Housing

Christopher Perrin, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator C, Public Utilities

Kelly Peterich, Engineering Division Manager, Public Works

Christopher Powell, Parks Service Technician III, Parks & Recreation

Genesis Rodriguez, Police Officer, Police

Kimberly Root, Development Review Technician II, Planning & Development

Alexis Schroepfer, Police Officer, Police

Kellen Scott, Network Engineer I, Information Technology

Willem Slater, Recreation Leader II, Parks & Recreation

David Spielvogel, Recreation Center Manager, Parks & Recreation

Mason Spino, Police Officer, Police

Jared Staudinger, Water Distribution Operator I, Public Utilities

Tom Stewart, Network Engineer I, Information Technology

Donovan Stewart, Stormwater Technician I, Public Works

Jarred Stiff, Police Lieutenant, Police

Kenneth Sweitzer, Fire Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

Travis Teuber, Public Utilities Division Manager, Public Utilities

Cameron Tisdale, Police Service Technician, Police

Elias Trejo-Cruz, Gas Technician I, CGS Energy

Nicole Warder, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Loretta Waterworth, Accounting Technician II, Finance

TRANSFERS

Myles Simes, Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation

William Valveri, Police Records Specialist, Police

Kristopher Williams, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste & Recycling

Service Awards

20 YEARS

Nathan Brooks, Fire Medic Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

Christopher Hannigan, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Betty Hoskins, Payroll Technician I, Police

Ruth Jansen, Management Analyst, Police

Shawn Lawrentz, Fire Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

Pietro Mattiace, Fire Apparatus Mechanic, General Services

Benjamin McBride, Fire District Commander, Fire & Rescue

Fred Morris, Fire Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

Virginia Novotny, Police Telecommunicator II, Police

Clifford Patterson, Pool Lifeguard, Parks & Recreation

Mauricio Perdigon, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

James Perz, Police Officer, Police

Brian Philbin, Police Service Technician, Police

Jeff Roberts, Fire Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

Kelly Rogers, Procurement Analyst II, Finance

Terri Rowland, Staff Assistant I, Solid Waste & Recycling

Timothy Smith, Driver-Operator, Fire & Rescue

Vincent Supernor, Driver-Operator, Fire & Rescue

Jason Thibault, Fire Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

April Troyer, Librarian II, Library

Christopher Van Opdorp, Driver-Operator, Fire & Rescue

Jonathon Yuen, Police Officer, Police

Service Awards (cont.)

25 YEARS

Anthony Hadley, Solid Waste Service Supervisor II, Solid Waste

Jason Jones, Police Officer, Police

Kevin Klein, Police Sergeant, Police

Paul Mack, Parks Senior Division Manager, Parks & Recreation

Scott McGrail, Fire Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

Lenshawn Price, Police Sergeant, Police

Ronald Rice, Solid Waste Operations Supervisor, Solid Waste

30 YEARS

James Fields, Custodial Worker, Police

Al Hinson, Driver-Operator, Fire & Rescue

Judy Martin, Staff Assistant II, CGS Energy

David Stewart, Wastewater Collection Supervisor I, Public Utilities

35 YEARS

Cory Martens, Traffic Signal Systems Supervisor, Public Works

Employees of the Month

AUGUST 2025

Michael Vacca
Public Utilities Division Manager
Public Utilities

SEPTEMBER 2025

Timmy Benetiz
Parks Service Technician II
Parks & Recreation

OCTOBER 2025

Krystie Epperson
Public Information Coordinator I
Public Communications

NOVEMBER 2025

Edwin Simmonds
Parking Enforcement Specialist
Public Works

Bi-Monthly Team Award Winners

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025

Marine & Aviation Sinking Vessel Crew

Team members include: **Tyson Mason, Colin Hurley, Jacob Speranza, Shannon Beckett, Rick Bennett & Graham Donaldson**

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

Parks & Beautification Infrastructure Team Clean-Up Crew

Team members include: **Paul Mack, Jordan Rich, Maurice Hunter, Sedwick Moore, Matthew Sammuell, Bryce Talley, Saviron Hipps, Chancee Anderson, Joel Donagan, Timothy Palmese, Thomas Lucas, Chris Beckham, Michael Muerant, Jamie Gatewood, Sawyer Day, Mitch Arnold, Marquise Debose, Michael Blake, Jeff Payne, Fred Coker, Eric Keels, Michal Deatherage, Timmy Benitez & Najah Glaze**

Police Department Awards

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

Letter of Commendation

- Officer Jeffrey Williams
- Officer Adam Marston
- Officer Jose Medina

Lifesaving Award

- Officer Adam Marston
- Officer Jose Medina

Medal of Meritorious Service

- Officer Peter Mullady

Chief's Unit Citation was awarded to the members of our **Special Victims Unit** and the member of our **Tactical Narcotics Unit**.



Sympathies

To the family, friends and colleagues of **Zakkery Holzhauer**, Parking Enforcement Specialist, who passed away in July; and to **Michelle Holzhauer**, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator C, on the loss of her son

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

- **Gertrude Devers**, retired Development Review Technician II, Sept. 11
- **Trevor Murray**, retired Fire Medic, Sept. 23
- **Lynne Marchitello**, retired Parks Service Technician II, Nov. 7
- **Robert Orton**, retired Staff Assistant, Oct. 19
- **Robert Pagano**, retired Police Aide, July 4
- **Robert D. Pease**, retired Police Officer, Oct. 17
- **Michael Stuart**, retired Police Officer, Sept. 25
- **Raleigh Weiler**, retired Public Works Supervisor I, Sept. 7
- **Barbara Weston**, retired Cash & Investments Manager, Aug. 5

To **Jack Donahue**, Public Information Coordinator I, on the losses of his grandfather and his uncle

To **Matt Gresh**, Multi-Media Specialist, on the loss of his mother-in-law

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

Births

To **Carol Creutz**, Accounting Technician II, a granddaughter named Quinn Rose, born June 20, weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz.

To **Austin Sheldon**, Network Analyst II, a son named Jensen Cole; and to **Charles and Michelle Sheldon**, a grandson, born July 11, weighing 7 lbs. 15 oz.

Employees Enjoy Team-Building Week

By Krystie Epperson

A great week of team-building activities occurred in August for employees to take a break from their daily routine and have some fun with their colleagues. The goal of the week was to help every employee get to know their coworkers a little bit better and to learn more about how special and unique our city teams are.



Cause For Applause



City Manager **Jennifer Poirrier**, ICMA-CM, has earned the ICMA Credentialed Manager (ICMA-CM) designation. This prestigious credential reflects the city manager's commitment to professional development, ethical leadership, and excellence in local government management. Her achievement reinforces Clearwater's dedication to strong, effective leadership and quality service to our community.

A resident took the time to recognize Water Distribution Operator **Phil Evans**, who responded to an emergency call about a water leak. They said Evans was very professional and friendly and worked quickly in the dark to fix the line.



The Suncoast Animal League recently thanked the Clearwater Library System and East Library Branch Manger **Meredith Kambic** for leading a donation drive where staff and patrons came together to donate more than 450 items for their animals.

Congratulations to Parks & Recreation Variable Instructor **Paul Kleeman** for winning the KidsFirst Cooperman-Bogue Award Winner from the Juvenile Welfare Board.



A team of employees from the city's **Urban Forestry Division** and **Public Utilities Department** worked together to untangle a seagull that was stuck to a light pole with fishing line and set it free within 20 minutes of receiving a call from a citizen.

Tim Jones represented Clearwater at this year's International Solid Waste Road-E-O. He demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication, earning fifth place in the Automated Side Loader category, a remarkable achievement on such a competitive stage.

Two crossing guards were selected as recipients of the Doug Carey Crossing Guard of the Year Award. **William C. Roemer** was honored for the 2023-24 school year, while **Carmelitta Chiarmonte** was recognized for the 2024-25 school year.



Sgt. **Corey Lenczden**, Officer **Jason Moore**, Officer **Jonathan Yuen** and Officer **Joel Nina** competed in the 2025 World Police and Fire Games in Birmingham, Ala. Moore and Yuen participated in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, while Lenczden competed in wrestling and jiu-jitsu. All three came home with silver medals despite having to compete in higher-level divisions. Nina, an accomplished marksman who takes part in shooting competitions across the country,



competed in police combat shooting and police action shooting. He placed eighth out of 150 competitors, despite using his department-issued standard Glock pistol while others used customized competition firearms. More than 8,500 public safety athletes came from more than 70 countries to participate in the athletic contests.

Sgt. **David Nugent** received the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal from the Sons of the American Revolution, which is presented to someone who has served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement.



Parking Enforcement Specialist **Edwin Simmonds** performed a life-saving action during his very first week on the job when the person who was training him began choking. Simonds acted quickly and successfully dislodged the food and saved the life of a co-worker.

Employees Support Breast Cancer Awareness

Employees supported Breast Cancer Awareness Month by wearing pink each Wednesday throughout October. Check out this collection of photos that were sent in by those that participated in this important month.



We've Got Snakes!

By Rob Shaw



You never know what kind of call you're going to get as a police officer. One afternoon in the middle of October, officers responded to the 1300 block of Franklin Street for an animal call. When they got there, they found a 5-foot boa curled up on top of a car hood.

Sgt. **Ashley Hinkebein** carries a snake hook in her cruiser – you never know when one might come in handy – and was able to wrangle the reptilian rascal with the help of Officer **Brittney Roy**. The snake was taken to a local pet store, where employees helped find it a proper home. Excellent work by this dynamic pet-detective duo!

Veterans Day Breakfast Celebration

The city's Employee Appreciation Team recently organized a Veterans Day breakfast celebration at the Ross Norton Recreation Center. The breakfast recognized the approximately 180 city employees who have served in the military, or are currently in the reserves.





CONNECTION

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

MyClearwater.com

Neighborhoods Staff Judges Chili Contest



The Country Park Neighborhood recently hosted its fall block party and chili contest. Neighborhoods Coordinator **Monica Lueking** judged the competition, along with her husband. They tasted seven different chilis and crowned three winners.



Clearwater Sustainability 101

By Melody Yin

Have you watched the Sustainability 101 training video? This short video highlights what sustainability is and how each of us — as city employees and as humans — can contribute to a more sustainable way of living, working and playing. Whether it's reducing waste, conserving energy, or making smarter choices, every action counts. Take a few minutes to watch and be part of the change!



Check out the video at myclearwater.info/sustainability101. Reach out to the **Sustainability & Environmental Division** at Sustainability@MyClearwater.com with any questions or ideas.

Don't Forget About the City-County Credit Union Benefit

Don't forget that city of Clearwater employees are eligible for membership in the City-County Employees Credit Union.



Learn more at ccecu.org.

Pups Trick or Treating

By Rob Shaw

Trick or treating can be exhausting, even for dogs. Such was the case in late October at the police department when Ooga paid a visit from the Humane Society of Pinellas. He was the latest K-9 For A Day to visit headquarters in an effort to boost adoptions.



Ooga, a 2-year-old mixed breed, wandered the halls and got doggie treats instead of sweets. He enjoyed being petted and getting belly scratches from many of the employees. The next weekend after the police department's social media post, he was adopted. It was yet another success story in this amazing partnership between the police department and the Humane Society of Pinellas.

REMINDER

City offices will be closed Nov. 27 and 28, in observance of the Thanksgiving 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!