



Kathleen Beckman
YOUR
Clearwater City Councilmember



Are we in the dog days of summer or what? It's 90 degrees and humid as I begin to compose this newsletter. July, probably more than any other month, epitomizes "Americana." Of course we have the Fourth of

July and its many celebrations. We have family picnics, reunions and weddings. But along with those Americana images comes the real responsibility connected to our Fourth of July celebrations. **Civic Engagement.** As July comes to a close and many of us head into "back to school" mode and the rhythms of a set schedule, take a moment to look around at our community - think about all that is good, along with things that might need to be improved upon. And... engage civically by completing our [Clearwater 2045 Citizens Survey](#) to be used by our Planning Department. Attend a Council meeting or one of our many Advisory Board meetings. Write a letter to an elected official. Effective and representative government only happens when YOU are involved. Be a politically active patriot.

LEARN MORE...

[American Rescue Plan Act](#) (\$22.4 MILLION for Clearwater)

[Advantage Pinellas Housing Compact](#) - Addressing the Need for More Affordable Housing

[Clearwater Citizens Academy - Reg](#)



UPDATE ON RANKED CHOICE VOTING

On June 3rd the Council voted to include ranked choice voting (RCV) on our March 2022 ballot. City

Attorney Pam Akin will craft language for a March referendum for voters to decide whether to adopt ranked-choice voting. In the next few months there will be two readings of this ballot initiative where the public can offer comments. Here is a link to one website that promotes RCV:

[Ranked Choice Voting](#)

The Council will soon begin work to update the City's Strategic Plan. Here is a link to our current plan; [Strategic Plan](#). I believe it is lacking in any focus on environmental stewardship, for example. I hope we can do better. Here is a link to [Pinellas County's Strategic Plan](#) as a comparison.

WE NEED YOU!

On August 5th at 6:00 p.m. the City Council will be looking to adopt our revised Environmental/Sustainability Plan GREENPRINT 2.0. I am so excited about this update and the initiatives presented in this plan. I'll be looking to discuss adding measurable goals, dashboards and the hiring of an Energy Manager. Please take a look at it here: [Greenprint 2.0](#), and **PLAN TO ATTEND** this important meeting to weigh in on our plans to protect the environment that is so crucial to our health, our economy, our quality of life and our children's future.

Code Enforcement Change



On June 29, 2021, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 60 into law which no longer allows code

enforcement officers to investigate anonymous complaints. All code enforcement reports must include the complainant's personal information including name and address.

Cleveland Street Closure



On June 15 the Council voted unanimo-ously to keep the 400 and 500

blocks of Cleveland Street closed to traffic indefinitely. The street was closed in response to COVID and it has been a welcomed change, both economically and aesthetically for our residents and businesses. Cleveland St. is alive with music, activities and a variety of retail and restaurant establishments.

Working with our Sustainability Coordinator, Sheridan Boyle, the City is hosting a "Building Better Neighborhoods" series about home gardening and Florida-friendly landscaping. [Here is the link.](#)

Here is a link to [My Clearwater Magazine.](#)

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Click on the link above to access City meetings, agendas and attached documents.

The City of Clearwater has many volunteer opportunities. Here is a link to our website. Find out how you can make a difference: [Volunteers Needed](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Please note: I am thrilled that you have taken the time to read my newsletter, and one of the reasons I compose it and send it out is to receive feedback from you. However, please be aware that any

communication you do with me related to the newsletter is public record.

On July 26 during a special City Council Work Session, the Council selected five applicants to interview in August for the City Attorney position,

On July 30 the City receives the Semi-Finalist report and candidate materials for City Manager.



On July 15 the Clearwater Planning Department received the Florida League of Cities Florida Citizenship Award for its palcemaking programs. These programs included Paint the Pavement,

Signal Box Art, Sidewalk Rain Art, Storm Drain Murals, Sidewalk Poetry and Little Free Libraries. Congratulations to Planning Director Gina Clayton and her amazing staff who engaged hundreds of residents on these beautification and community building efforts.

From Imagining to Building



With a unanimous vote on July 15th, City Council approved construction/redevelopment of Coachman Park - our Imagine Clearwater project. This showcase park will include a 4000 seat covered amphitheater, an expansive playground, a splashpad, shade structures, and a stunning entry with tiered water pools along the concrete steps. Also noteworthy are the solar panels (the city's first!) that will be installed on buildings within the park. You can learn more and see a video representation here: [Imagine Clearwater.](#)

GETTING TO KNOW YOU!



My July Meet and Greet will be held on the corner of Cleveland and Garden St. from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, July 29. I'll bring some homemade treats and a variety of City resources as well as voter registration materials. Please stop by to share your ideas and concerns. Before or after, you can enjoy one of our many restaurants in The District.