

Kathleen Beckman
YOUR
Clearwater City Councilmember



THANKS TO ALL THE
"MOMS"

Writer Mitch Albom (*Tuesdays with Morrie; The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, and many more) says of motherhood, "When you look at your

mother, you are looking at the purest love you will ever know." I think he got it right.

Sunday, May 8, is Mother's Day. I want to take this opportunity to say "Happy Mother's Day" to my mom, who I love with all my heart. I've been incredibly blessed to have the most supportive, funny, hard-working, generous, thoughtful and intelligent mother anyone could hope for. My mom, Veronica, is one of 11 children, the youngest girl. When she was just 16, her mother died in a car accident. Her father struggled with alcoholism, so my mom was "raised" by her older siblings, primarily, my Aunt Sara, who now struggles with dementia.

Every family has its challenges and hurdles, but it is the enduring, consistent love of a parent, a mom, who can provide that safety net of security and acceptance. It is a powerful role. It may not be filled by a birth mother; it can often be assumed by another who enriches one's life and guides someone through obstacles and challenges. My Aunt Sara never married or had children, but I like to think she was a great "mom" to my mother. And my mom learned from her, and I learned from all the women in my family. The circle of love continues. Happy Mother's Day to all who create, support, mentor and model LOVE.

HUNDREDS ATTEND EASTER EGG HUNT
AT MORNINGSIDE MEADOWS

The sounds of children of all ages splashing and scrambling for



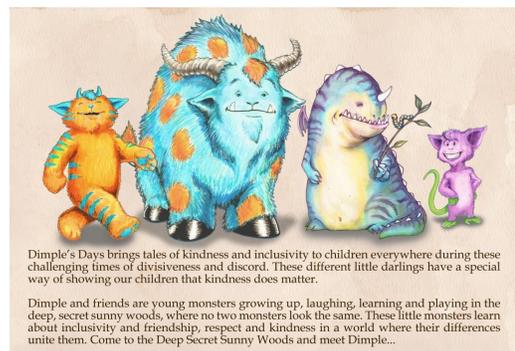
CHECK OUT THE WORK OF
"EMERGING ARTIST" GRANT
WINNERS

Congratulations to the exceptional local artists who were chosen for this year's Creative Pinellas Emerging Artist Grants. Their diverse creations are part of the sixth annual exhibition that features original work by the following Clearwater artists: Adam and Kayte Bush, Rachel Ratliff, and Heather Rippert, as well as award-winning art from Dorian Angello, Jon Ditty, Alex Kaufman, Teresa Mandala, Ashley Rivers, Ketsy Ruiz, and Margherita Tibaldo.

Samples of their stunning art pieces are on exhibition at The Gallery at Creative Pinellas, 1221 Walsingham Rd., Largo, now through June 19. Gallery hours: Wed.-Sun., 12-5 p.m. You can view their art and learn more here: [Pinellas County Emerging Artists](#)

Above is "Birds of Carnival" by Clearwater artist Rachel Ratcliff

Below is a sample of Clearwater artists Kayte and Adam Bush's Dimple's Days characters and story.



Dimple's Days brings tales of kindness and inclusivity to children everywhere during these challenging times of divisiveness and discord. These different little darlings have a special way of showing our children that kindness does matter.

Dimple and friends are young monsters growing up, laughing, learning and playing in the deep, secret sunny woods, where no two monsters look the same. These little monsters learn about inclusivity and friendship, respect and kindness in a world where their differences unite them. Come to the Deep Secret Sunny Woods and meet Dimple...

LAST WEEKEND FOR SAND
SCULPTURES



Easter eggs at the Morningside Recreation Center on Saturday, April 16, was pure joy. I was honored to be asked to participate.

I started the official “egg hunt” for the three and under group as they entered the wading pool with baskets, pails and mesh bags. Many thanks to the Clearwater Parks and Recreation staff and leadership for organizing this event. It was a huge success! Hundreds participated, and even in the 84-degree heat, the Easter Bunny was there to offer hugs and pose for photos.

SHOPPING WITH A VIBE BUILDS ON SUCCESS



This monthly outdoor market and food truck extravaganza continues to grow in the the heart of North Greenwood. On Saturday, April 23, from 3-8 p.m., the focus will be “Jazz on the

Grass.” Along with amazing music there will be vendors galore, bounce houses, poetry and live entertainment, a spade tournament, raffles and cash prizes. Last month the attendance was “off the charts!” Come join the fun; plan to stop by Walter C. Campbell Park and celebrate community, great music and local entrepreneurs.



PINELLAS SCHOOLS UNVEIL ELECTRIC BUS

On April 8, Pinellas County Schools (PCS) joined the

City of Largo, Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition, and Florida Transportation Systems, Inc., to unveil an electric school bus at Largo Central Park. I was thrilled to attend the unveiling and to take a ride. No fumes, super quiet and a money and energy saver!

In the coming months, PCS will incorporate



The final weekend of the Clearwater Sugar Sand Festival is April 23-24 at Clearwater Beach. By all accounts it has been a huge

success! Thousands of visitors have viewed the amazing sand sculptures that correspond to the letters of the alphabet.

I was fortunate to meet an artist who traveled from Texas to contribute to this display. He created “Mother Earth” near the end of the exhibit. Along with live entertainment, nearly endless food choices, stunning views and “people watching,” there is a ferris wheel to offer expansive views of beautiful Clearwater. Don’t miss the fun; try to stop by this last weekend. [Purchase tickets and learn more here.](#)

HUMBLED TO RECEIVE THE HOME RULE HERO AWARD

I am incredibly honored to receive one of the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Home Rule Hero awards. Between December 2021 and February 2022, I made three trips to Tallahassee to advocate for Clearwater’s legislative priorities with our state elected officials. This was a great learning experience for me, and I was excited to be at the capitol working on behalf of our city and residents. I’ll continue to challenge pre-emption and strive to find compromise. Below is a photo of me and Senator Hooper in Tallahassee this year.

You can read more here: [Home Rule Hero](#)

20 electric school buses into transportation routes district-wide. The average school bus runs 100 miles per day; electric school buses can go for 120 miles on a single charge. Additional information is available here: [PCS Electric School Buses.](#)



FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

The first Saturday of every month, Clearwater Marine Aquarium's Sea Turtle Conservation Program staff and other community volunteers meet at the Ross Norton

Recreation Center from 9-11 a.m. to participate in a clean-up of Lake Belleview and the surrounding area, including Ed Wright Park and Ross Norton Recreation Center.

I participate as often as I can. On April 9, two of my middle-school friends, Jammie and her brother, Sebastian and I collected trash and a few treasures. Not only did we find an abandoned engine in a ditch, we also found a four-foot long snake skin! Fun times! To learn more and register for this event, click here: [Lake Belleview/CMA Clean-up.](#)



STEPPING UP TO THE CHALLENGE

On April 6, I visited The First Rung, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located at 1114 Grant St. in Clearwater. The mission of The First Rung is to provide educational, technical,

and mentoring services to people interested in construction careers, and to fulfill community and workforce needs. A FREE PROGRAM, it is open to those 16 years or older.

Skills taught include: core construction; carpentry; framing; drywall installation; tiling; electrical; masonry; plumbing; hand and

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLPARK!



The 19th annual Charity Softball Challenge is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, at 3:30 p.m., at BayCare Ballpark, where the Largo Police will face the indomitable spirit and talent of the Clearwater Police. Tickets are \$20; kids 4 and under are free. This includes admission to the softball game, a Clearwater Threshers game afterward against the Bradenton Marauders, and a post-game fireworks show! It also includes all-you-can-eat food and drinks from 5-7:30 p.m. A silent auction is planned, as well. Proceeds from the game and auction benefit Officer Kyle Resler, a 20-year veteran with the police department who is currently battling cancer.

NORTH GREENWOOD CRA PLANNING MEETINGS CONTINUE



On Tues. April 19 Clearwater residents attended the second

in a series of four neighborhood meetings to discuss and share ideas about the North Greenwood CRA

power tool use; basic safety; and material handling. Additionally, the program provides opportunities to attend life skills workshops on topics such as financial education.

This program is conducted in collaboration with the Office of Workforce Innovation at Pinellas Technical College, Clearwater. To learn more, please contact Brent Dawkins: Brentsherry@me.com

Note: The First Rung is always looking for donations of tools, construction supplies of all sorts, paint, and, of course, financial donations are much appreciated, too.



ARTICLE/PODCAST OF THE MONTH

"State Report on African American Cemeteries"

This month's article is the [*Florida State Report from the Task Force on Abandoned African-American Cemeteries*](#). Published December 17, 2021, it has historical perspective and recommendations pertinent to Clearwater's abandoned African-American cemeteries: Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, and an all-black cemetery at the corner of Holt Avenue and Engman Street in the North Greenwood neighborhood. This is an academic article; it's lengthy, but well worth the read.



'The Science of Happiness' Podcast

Some podcasts about living a better, cheerier life are anecdotal, but *The Science of Happiness* has the facts.

Hosted by Dacher Keltner, founder of the University of California Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center, the show explores topics like the value of outdoor time, connecting with your elders, and silencing your inner critic. Click here for more information: [The Science of Happiness](#)

By the Way... Interested in Starting a Podcast?

Learn how to use microphones, cameras

plans. Their website www.ngreenwoodcra.com includes the project overview, schedule, documents, information about committees and a short survey. If you'd like to learn more, please check it out.

EARTH DAY AND MORE!



We're coming to the end of "Earth Month" but Clearwater has more than a few Earth friendly events you can

participate in thru the end of April. But remember... every day is Earth Day!

There is an Earth Day Cleanup at Pier 60; an Arbor Day tree giveaway; an Earth Day Celebration at Moccasin Lake; a Shred-a-Thon and Medicine Take-Back; and of course our Clyde Butcher "American's Everglades" Free exhibit continues at the Clearwater Main Library thru the end of May. You can access all the details here: [Clearwater Earth Day Events](#)



BRUNCH AND LEARN

There will be an African American Graves presentation on Saturday, April 30, from 9 a.m.–noon.

Special Angels Investments and the NAACP Clearwater Upper Pinellas County Branch will host a collaborative learning experience uniting students and the community in African American cemetery conversations. This event will be held at the Clearwater MLK Jr. Neighborhood Center, 1201 Douglas Ave.

[MAY CALENDAR OF CITY MEETINGS](#)

AND FINALLY THANKS FOR

and editing software to create a podcast and stream to sites like YouTube, Spreaker, Stitcher and Google podcasts with this introductory program to begin your podcasting journey! Join professional videographer and podcaster John Casimiro at Clearwater Main Library's Heritage Studio on Wednesday, May 4. Learn more and register here: [Clearwater Library Podcast Information](#)

Local Journalism ... the 'Fourth Pillar of Democracy'

Local journalism is the fourth pillar of our Democracy- Sign up for a subscription here: [Tampa Bay Times Subscriptions.](#)



ANNUAL CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE!

The annual Clearwater

Garden Club outdoor plant sale is scheduled for May 7, 2022 from 8 am to noon; it features hundreds of plants and flowers donated by members and other local friends of the Garden Club. This year also features plant related vendors and a presentation about best practices for growing house plants. Plants available for sale include flowers, herbs, succulents, and vegetables, along with a large variety of pots, seeds, tools and treasures. Prices are reasonable and most plants are locally grown. The Clearwater Garden Club is located at 405 Seminole St.

Since 1950 Clearwater Garden Club members have sought to bring delight to Clearwater residents through outreach programs, community projects and social gatherings that promote the conservation and beautification of our natural surroundings, and a sense of community. Learn more here: [Clearwater Garden Club.](#)

YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT

Please Share Your Ideas and Concerns

One of the reasons I send out a newsletter is to receive feedback from you. However, please be aware that any communication with me related to the newsletter is public record.

Learn More about Our City and Council Meetings

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

And click on the following link to access city meetings, agendas and attached documents: [UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS](#)

Consider Volunteer Opportunities

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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