

Kathleen Beckman  
YOUR  
Clearwater City Councilmember



Thank You to Those  
Who Work So Hard  
to Make a  
Difference

One of my favorite quotes is from John F. Kennedy – it's particularly resonant at this time of year: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the

highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." Actions do speak louder than words. We who are fortunate to live in this great country, we who have access to a free public education, who have public safety workers to protect and help us – who have protections and regulations to keep us safe. Thank you to all those who are out there working to make a difference: teachers, police officers and fire fighters, doctors and nurses, elected officials and journalists, public utility and sanitation workers, service workers too. Thank you to those who lead and volunteer with non-profits, those who get to know their neighbors and look out for the elderly and children in their neighborhoods. Thank you to those who donate to non-profits. Without you the important work they do would be limited. There is always so much to be grateful for – I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve our beautiful city. I'm grateful for all of the city employees I interact with who have helped me get my bearings and learn how to navigate and work for positive initiatives and opportunities for Clearwater. Happy Thanksgiving to you all. (The photo above is of Sara, Arion, and Jerimiah who help serve drinks to the homeless on Fridays with Beacon Street Ministries).

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH: Municipalities are  
Leading the Way!

This article, ["Conference of Mayors Reports Solar as Priority for City Energy and Climate Efforts"](#) published Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> by *Solar Industry* illustrates how the nation's mayors continue to lead on energy and climate actions. Municipalities, including Clearwater, are committing to taking action to reduce carbon emissions and save money. Additionally, I'm super excited that on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> Pinellas County became the first county in Florida to adopt renewable energy goals! Read more here: ["Pinellas County Commission Adopts Resolution Setting 100 Percent Clean Energy Goals."](#)

Celebrating Residents Who  
Care



This was the 29<sup>th</sup> year for the non-profit Paint Your Heart Out

(PYHO) organization's efforts in Clearwater. This year PYHO painted 13 homes in Clearwater! Thank you to Samantha Almaraz for serving as President of this non-profit and directing the volunteer efforts of the extensive team. Here is Sam with her husband, Sal, who was a big help with painting and coordination efforts. Lots of organizations contributed, including the City of Clearwater, Ally Restore and Reconstruct, Whiz Rollers, Wooster Paint, Kisinger Campo, Publix, Teamsters Local 79, Ardurra, Baycare, Morton Plant, Bouchard Insurance MMA, The Way to Happiness, Arys Roofing, The Threshers, Candlewood Suites Hotel and The Lightning to name a few.

Meeting with Legislators -  
Advocating for Clearwater



I'm off to Tallahassee on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>! I serve as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President for the Suncoast League of Cities. With 25 member cities in three counties spanning from St. Leo in the North to Gulfport in the South, this organization works closely with and is supported by, the Florida League of Cities in representing the interests of West Central Florida's municipalities to the Florida Legislature, Governor's office, and state agencies. I, along with others on the Executive Team will meet with our State legislators to advocate for home rule legislation



## Clyde Butcher Photo Exhibit at Clearwater Main Library



"It is my hope that the vision I give to you of the Everglades will inspire you to love and protect it for generations to come." This is the overriding sentiment artist/photographer Clyde Butcher expressed at the Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> grand opening of an impressive exhibit of his photography at the Clearwater Main Library. I was lucky to meet Clyde, his wife and daughter while

participating in "grand opening" events. Clyde's black and white monumental photographs have been exhibited in museums around the world and are now on display in a unique gallery on the ground floor of the Clearwater Main Library, 100 N. Osceola. The exhibit is FREE! Free parking, too. The exhibit focuses on "America's Everglades." When Clyde moved from California to Florida in 1980 he was mesmerized by the mysterious and beautiful habitat of the Everglades. When he heard the Everglades were in danger of dying, he began using his images to help the people of Florida understand the beauty of the environment they would lose if nothing were done to save the Everglades. In my conversation with Clyde, he was emphatic about the need to take actions now to combat climate change – to do all we can to protect beautiful natural habitats here in Florida and elsewhere. He is a true environmentalist; I admire his determination to educate. This free exhibit runs thru May 31.

## It's Planting Time!

We might be bombarded with images of snowflakes, hot-chocolate and the holidays, but it's planting time in Florida. Our Clearwater Community Garden is in full-swing and it's time to plant. I've got my tomatoes, cabbage, peppers, broccoli and herbs planted. Check them out

and policy that is crucial to our region. This will be my first visit as an elected official; I'm excited and will report on the outcome in December's newsletter. You can learn more about the [Suncoast League of Cities here: SLC](#). Also, I'm happy to report that Clearwater's Communication Department has constructed a "Legislative Priorities" page for our City website - you can access it here: [Clearwater Legislative Priorities](#). I've advocated for more ways to educate residents and encourage them to communicate with their State representatives who make legislation that impacts us and our quality of life. The State often has a heavy hand in controlling what a city can do – I think that needs to be reigned in. Your voice matters and will help us protect/advocate for homerule. Thank you to our Communications Director, Joelle Castelli, for designing this informative page.



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.



**Important Resources and Updates**

The City of Clearwater is updating its current resident discount parking program. Qualified residents may be eligible to receive 50% off parking anywhere in Clearwater through the ParkMobile app, in addition to a waived transaction fee of \$0.35, effective Oct. 1. In order to enjoy the discount program, residents need to register here:

[myclearwater.com/parking](http://myclearwater.com/parking)

Information here about ARPA and how funds may be used. This will be an important discussion for Council and staff. [American Rescue Plan Act](#) (\$22.4 MILLION for Clearwater) I'll be asking for it to be discussed at



here: [Clearwater Community Garden](#) - if you'd like to learn more, to secure a plot, or to donate.

## A Night of Appreciation and Remembrance



On Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> the Community Service Foundation sponsored Lake Belleview's Neighborhood Association Community Dinner. The dinner was hosted by Ed Thiebe and this year's honorees included Clearwater Police Officer James Frederick Jr. for his community relationship building, Ross Norton Recreation employee Paul Kleeman, for his work creating an after-school program in partnership with the Clearwater Marine Aquarium focusing on ecosystems, and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium Sea Turtle Conservation Program Team that volunteers monthly to help keep the Lake Belleview clean. Also honored was Valerie Ingram Hinkley, who served as President of the Lake Belleview Neighborhood Association. Sadly, Val passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 12. I had the privilege of knowing Val and working with her. She was dedicated to her community, compassionate and inspiring. I will miss her, but I know she would be proud of the important work that continues and the community leaders who follow in her footsteps. I was honored to be asked to give closing remarks – and thank the members of this community for their extraordinary involvement, determination, and dedication.

## WE HAVE AN ELECTION COMING UP!



We have an election coming up! Voters will be voting on two City Council seats – this is Democracy in action. Be sure to check your voter registration; you'll want to sign up to VOTE BY MAIL. There will be NO in-person NO EARLY VOTING for Clearwater's City Council elections on

March 15, 2022. You either vote by mail or vote on March 15. Check your voter registration and request a mail ballot here: [Votepinellas.com](http://Votepinellas.com).

an upcoming Work Session.

This is the compact our Council signed that articulates our priorities related to our housing crisis. I plan to reference it frequently. [Advantage Pinellas Housing Compact - Addressing the Need for More Affordable Housing](#)

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](#)

The City recently installed a live web-cam facing Coachman Park where residents can view construction progress 24/7. Check it out here: [Imagine Clearwater Web-Cam](#)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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