

This morning, 2-1-22 I received an email from Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition President Carl Schrader informing me that I made an error - I would say an egregious error, in linking an edited version of the CNC Candidate Forum in my January 22 Newsletter. I am so very sorry this happened and the link has been corrected here. My sincerest apologies. PLEASE USE THE CORRECTED LINK BELOW.

Kathleen Beckman  
*YOUR*  
Clearwater City Councilmember



### Fresh Starts - Setting Goals- and Getting to Work!

The new year signals new beginnings. The photo is of the first sunset of 2022! I'm happy to be "back to work" with regular Council meetings and the business of moving our city forward in the effort to continually improve. I'm excited to complete our strategic planning

and formalize an updated [Strategic Plan](#); I'm looking forward to the start of both the [Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan](#) update as well as the [Economic Development and Housing Strategic Plan](#) update. Our Clearwater 2045 Comprehensive Plan is moving forward and should be completed and formally adopted by the end of this year. Keep an eye out later in the year for further opportunities for public comments. The Comprehensive Plan details the long-term vision and future direction of our community. It sets priorities and outlines strategies for orderly and balanced growth through economic, social, physical, environmental and fiscal development of the city.

Last year Clearwater adopted Greenprint 2.0, a powerful environmental and sustainability document that has many attainable and measurable goals. You can see a list of [Greenprint's goals and timeline](#) here; it is imperative that our City operate deliberately to reduce carbon emissions and pollution, save our city money and protect our health, economy and quality of life. [Greenprint 2.0](#), along with the [Pinellas County Housing Compact](#), are the most recent and I would argue, most critical "guiding documents" that the City has adopted or signed onto. Please become familiar with them and voice support for measures (ordinances, budget decisions and partnerships, to name a few) that help us reach these necessary goals.

## New Year and New Council

Boy oh boy – two years fly right by. Our last City Council election was on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2020, and I was proud to earn 49% of the

## Meeting with Legislators - Advocating for Clearwater



On Tuesday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> I, along with Oldsmar Commissioner, Dan Saracki met with 8 legislators from

our region to discuss the legislative priorities of the 25 member cities of our Suncoast League of Cities, where I serve as 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President. The photo is of me and Commissioner Saracki meeting with State Representative Andrew Learned (center). 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. 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](#). Note: Bills change daily - especially "big ones" like SB 620 and 280, The net-metering bill continues to receive widespread criticism. Smoking in public places (allowing cities to regulate) is moving along as is the private property rights to prune, trim and remove trees. The League works hard to oppose or significantly shape harmful preemption bills. I'll try to keep you updated via my Councilmember FB 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.

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



vote (with three opponents) for my seat. I remember being so nervous in public forums but working hard to be prepared. The last statement I made during our last candidate forum was, "If you want something different, you need to vote for someone different." I hope you feel I'm living up to that statement. Since my election I've established a

[Councilmember website](#); I send out monthly digital newsletters, I've held a number of meet-and-greets (working around Covid and sweltering temperatures) and I meet residents every week, whether at HOA meetings, walk-n-talks, in their front yards, at volunteer and community events, or City advisory board meetings. I am out in public all the time. Recently, I committed to going door to door for three hours each week to inform residents of our upcoming election and ask what's important to them. The photo above is me doing voter outreach on South Hibiscus St. To me, this is what it means to serve as your Councilmember. It's what it takes to do the job well and to have a pulse on our community's concerns. With this upcoming election, be sure you know about all six candidates for the two seats that are up for election. Watch the Candidate Forum sponsored by the Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition on Jan. 24. Here is link to the [Candidate Forum video](#). There are at least two more candidate forums planned, one is sponsored by the North Pinellas/Clearwater NAACP and is being held on Feb. 28th and the other is being sponsored by the City. Details about the City sponsored forum are still being finalized and can be found here: [Clearwater Election Update](#). I'll send out a short reminder when I have more information about how to tune in to these two forums.

## DREW STREET UPDATE



At the January 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting I made a motion, which passed unanimously, that Council direct our City Attorney to draft a resolution asking FDOT and the County to immediately lower the speed limit on Drew Street,

West of Hercules. Residents have been begging for safety improvements to Drew St. for years. These include speed reductions, widening lanes, installing flashing crosswalks, repairing and installing sidewalks, and adding and improving bus stops. Here is the link to an article specifically on Drew: ["In Clearwater an improved Drew St. is in sight after years of inaction"](#) by Tracy McManus. While Drew St. improvements are being discussed and shaped, speed can and should be reduced immediately. I hope this is a step to make that happen sooner, rather than later. Here is a link to a *Tampa Bay Times* story by Michaela Mulligan on the record breaking casualties on Pinellas County roads, ["To Cross Pinellas Roads is a Risk."](#)

## ARTICLE/PODCAST OF THE MONTH:

[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](#)

## WE HAVE AN ELECTION COMING UP!



### Step-by-Step Instructions if you care about Clearwater

REGISTER TO VOTE  
CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION  
SIGN UP TO VOTE BY MAIL  
VOTE!

Our election on March 15 will have NO EARLY WALK-IN VOTING. That means, if you want to vote, you either request a mail ballot and vote by mail (all postage is pre-paid) – or you can drop your mail ballot off – in person – at any SOE office; Court St. is the closest office for us. Or... you vote in person on Tuesday, March 15 from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. at your polling location. Polling locations have not yet been finalized. They will be consolidated. You'll need to be informed about this. I would advise you NOT limit your option to only voting in person. What if your car breaks down, what if you're ill or a family member needs you? What if you simply forget? **Don't leave your vote to chance. Vote by mail.** Be sure your voice is heard. Here is the link to the [Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections](#) website where you can register, check registration, and request a mail ballot.

Thank You!



If you have a moment you might want to listen to this interesting Ted Talk from 2018 on the future of cities. It is titled "[How we can design timeless cities for](#)

[our collective future](#)" by Vishaan Chakrabarti.



The Sunday, Jan. 30 edition of the *Tampa Bay Times* devotes nearly all of Section A (5 pages) to the second article in a series on the effects of climate change in the Tampa Bay region. Here is a link to the Jan. 30 article: "[Rising Threat: Part 2 Already at Risk](#)" by Zachary T. Sampson and Langston Taylor. The article focuses on science that tells

us even weak hurricanes can cause huge storm surges that will have devastating effects in our community. Local Journalism is the Fourth Pillar of our Democracy- Sign up for a subscription here: [Tampa Bay Times Subscriptions](#).

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Thank you to the [Clearwater Urban Leadership](#)

[Coalition \(CULC\)](#) for honoring the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, Jan 16<sup>th</sup> at Cherry Harris Park. The traditional NAACP/City MLK Jr. Breakfast was cancelled due to COVID. However, the Sunday event went forward because it was outdoors. Hotdogs and hamburgers were expertly cooked by Mr. Ervin. Ms. Sandra Rooks, who is the Director of the African American Museum housed at the Robinson Challenge building next to the park, opened the doors for all to view the exhibits. The presentations kicked off with an overview from Ms. Gloria Campbell who is a leader in the CULC. A number of candidates who are running for local, State and national office also attended and introduced themselves to voters. And finally, The North Pinellas League of Women Voters were there to register voters and answer questions. It was a very informative, enjoyable and empowering event.