

Kathleen Beckman
YOUR
Clearwater Vice-Mayor



HAPPY
SUMMERTIME!

Happy Summertime! June marks the official start of summer. Kids are out of school and our temperatures are climbing.

Remember Our Local Businesses

I hope you have a few fun events lined up this summer – travel or get-together to look forward to. And as those temperatures increase, remember you can always stop by one of our local establishments to cool off, like Rita's Italian Ice, Dairy Kurl or even the new Ben & Jerry's on Clearwater Beach.

Celebrate June Observances

June also marks a number of key dates including the beginning of Pride Month, Juneteenth celebrations, Father's Day, and World Oceans Day on June 8. Keep reading to learn more about these events and opportunities for you to become engaged in our community.

TAMPA BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM
PROTECTS OUR WATERS



The Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) is a federally directed intergovernmental partnership that aims to protect and restore the greater Tampa

Bay waters. I sit on the Executive Board of this organization and work to provide guidance to the Management Board about how best to allocate funds to protect our Bay and waters

COUNCIL WILL DECIDE HOW TO
SPEND \$22.5 MILLION IN ARPA
FUNDS



In May and June the city held four community meetings to learn how Clearwater

residents think the city should spend \$22.5 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

More Affordable Housing and Other Suggestions

Many residents indicated the need for more affordable housing options as a top priority. Other top choices included money for streets and sidewalks, start-up funding for the North Greenwood CRA, broadband upgrades and grants for education resources. Next comes public Council budget meetings to allocate funding. Please attend our Council meetings (or write/call) to weigh in on your priorities.

WORLD OCEANS DAY AIMS TO
EDUCATE



Did you know our ocean feeds billions of people, covers over 70% of the planet, absorbs over 50 times more carbon dioxide than our atmosphere, and provides 80% of the world's biodiversity?

Anchors Our Economy

Clearwater's beautiful environment anchors our tourism economy. Keeping our waterways

that feed into it.

Opportunities to Get Involved

The TBEP has numerous opportunities to learn more and get involved. Here is a link to their website: [TBEP](#). And they just added a new feature, "TBEP in the News." You might want to check that out, too. There's a great article "Is it ok to put dog poop in a neighbor's trash can?" That might make you smile or roll your eyes. You can also check out my informational PowerPoint here: [Overview of TBEP](#).

CLEARWATER SEEKS RESIDENT INPUT

You're invited to Community Workshop #3

North Greenwood Community Redevelopment Area Plan

LET'S PLAN FOR OUR BEST FUTURE. TOGETHER. PARTICIPATE.

At Workshop #3, the community will brainstorm ideas and strategies for creating a bright future for the North Greenwood Community Redevelopment Area (CRA).

WHEN: Monday, June 13, 2022
6:30 to 8:15 p.m.

WHERE: North Greenwood Recreation Center (Gym)
900 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.
Clearwater FL 33755

**Kids Activities
Ages 5 and up
Refreshments**



SAVE THE DATE Community Workshop #4
("How do we get there?")
Tuesday, AUGUST 2, 2022,
6:30-8:15PM

Para obtener informacion en Espanol, por favor comuniquese con
Karla Deas en karla.deas@myclearwater.com o 727-562-4567.

The City has hosted three of four scheduled workshops to engage residents in the North Greenwood Community

LEARN MORE & SIGN UP FOR UPDATES AT:
WWW.NGREENWOODCRA.COM

Redevelopment Area. The most recent one was on June 13. Please reach out to me if you were not able to attend this meeting, and I'll share my notes with you. To learn more you can visit ngreenwoodcra.com. The next CRA Planning meeting is Aug. 2, 6:30-8:15 p.m. at the North Greenwood Recreation Center.

SHOPPING WITH A VIBE HIGHLIGHTS JUNETEENTH

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF CLEARWATER & THE CLEARWATER URBAN LEADERSHIP COALITION

Saturday Morning Shoppe
SAT • JUNE 25TH

JUNETEENTH

MUSIC BY: DJ PUT'EM UP

VENDORS • SPOKEN WORD • FOOD TRUCKS
RAFFLES AND CASH PRIZES • SPADE TOURNAMENT
BOUNCE HOUSES • POETRY AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

WALTER C. CAMPBELL PARK
(NEXT TO JACK RUSSELL STADIUM)
501 N. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AVE., CLEARWATER, FL

I'm so excited about the positive energy around the "Shopping with a Vibe" market. Come support the market and entertainment in our community! Bring your lawn chair, visit the food trucks and support our local

clean, whether Gulf or Bay, streams or lakes or ponds, requires all of us to do our part.

June 8 was World Oceans Day, the United Nations day for celebrating the role of the oceans in our everyday life and inspiring action to protect the ocean and sustainably use marine resources.

Clearwater Celebrations

I am proud to say Clearwater organized two World Oceans Day events to highlight the importance of protecting our Ocean: a morning beach clean-up and an afternoon information session at our main library.

I started the day by participating in the waterside/beach clean-up at Sand Key Bayside Park. Volunteers collected over 160 pounds of trash! Grills, clothing, plastics, beverage containers, plastic bags, hundreds of cigarette butts and food wrappers, made it into our bags. Ocean Allies Founder, Sheri Heilman, attended and educated us on eco-friendly choices. You can learn more about this Clearwater based non-profit here: [Ocean Allies](#).

BEING PROACTIVE WITH BUSINESSES OF COLOR



There is a new organization in North Pinellas County called [Business Owners of Color Alliance](#), headed by [Dr. Michael Broom](#). It is in conjunction with North Pinellas Advocates for Racial Equity.

Connecting with Business Owners

There have been two meetings so far. In May, we discussed how to connect with more North County business owners of color. That's one reason I'm including their information here. Their next Zoom meeting is

entrepreneurs. The music is great! Plan to stop by on **June 25 between 3-8 p.m.**

scheduled for July 12, at 7 p.m.

[To Learn More...](#)

If you are interested in learning more, please connect with them at BOCA@NPARE.ORG. Future topics include: the needs of business owners of color; conversations with our political leaders; conversations with our economic development officials, local bank representatives and chamber of commerce.

A FUN NEW FEATURE!



In my interactions with residents, business owners and members of nonprofit

organizations, I meet some pretty amazing people in our community. I'd like to let you know about them.

People You Should Know

Last month I started a new feature on my website: "People You Should Know." This is a short Q&A profile of people to be celebrated in our community. This month I'm featuring The JillTed Florist, Clothes Line Too, (That's Christine Clifford, the owner above) and an eleven-year-old community volunteer who recently won a Bible Verse competition. You can read all about them here: [People You Should Know](#).

CLEARWATER CHOOSES RUTH ECKERD HALL AS COACHMAN PARK VENUE OPERATOR



Clearwater's \$84 million waterfront renovation, Imagine Clearwater, is well underway. Construction is going vertical, and crews are working hard to meet the July 2023 grand opening. Imagine Clearwater includes an extensive park with walkways, gardens, a playground and splash-pad, a cascading water stair feature, and a 4000 covered seat amphitheater (a rendering is above).

Negotiations are Underway

Managing an up to 9000 person entertainment venue requires specialized skills, and on May 19 City Council chose to begin management negotiations with Ruth Eckerd Hall. Once the contract is finalized it will go back before the Council for final approval.

DREW STREET RECEIVES OVERDUE IMPROVEMENTS



Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has been busy working along Drew St. Crews are repairing sidewalk gaps along the

south side of Drew from west of Lincoln to Betty Lane. The work began in May and is now close to complete. I know it's been a long time coming. I hope our neighbors who walk along Drew feel safer and more secure.

LET THE FIREWORKS BEGIN!

A STUNNING NEW ART EXHIBIT AT OUR CLEARWATER MAIN LIBRARY



The Clearwater Main Library is hosting a FREE exhibit of world renowned artist, Niki Butcher from

June 15- January 31, 2023. Niki's exhibit, "Daydreaming: Niki Butcher's Hand-Painted Photography" featuring over 60 images created over five decades, is both incredibly creative and stunningly beautiful. Stop by our Main Library, slow down a bit and lose yourself a bit in Niki's impressions of Florida's unique culture. Niki is the spouse of award winning photographer, Clyde Butcher, whose black and white photography was recently featured in our library. You can meet Niki and Clyde Butcher at the Clearwater Main Library on July 9th from 11 am – 1 pm. The event is free and open to the public. Learn more here: [Niki Butcher Clearwater Main Library Exhibit](#)



Plan to celebrate the Fourth of July on Monday, July 4 at BayCare Ballpark in Clearwater. The funtivities begin at 6 p.m. and include a concert by The Black Honkeys Band, activities and give aways for kids of all ages, concessions to purchase, and the largest fireworks display in stadium history! Tickets are only \$5 each and you can purchase them here: [Fourth of July in Clearwater.](#)

CLEARWATER SET TO CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH

CLEARWATER JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

First 200 attendees are entered into a drawing for complimentary hotel stay on Clearwater Beach.

The Artz 4 Life Academy, Clearwater Urban Leadership Coalition and city of Clearwater present:

A JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION
Saturday, June 18, 2022
12 – 4 p.m.

Walter C. Campbell Park
801 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.

Join dignitaries and community partners for this Family Friendly event in celebration of the Juneteenth Holiday. Free food, drinks, bounce houses, vendors, music, door prizes, live entertainment and more.

Juneteenth Historical Perspective
Dr. Joy Moore-Cruse, St. Petersburg College

Juneteenth Reenactment
Community Players

Expression in Dance
Daughters of the ELKS Presentation
Clearwater Historic Society

Poetic Expressions, Al Hajj Bilal F. Habeeb-ullah
Artz 4 Life Children's Ensemble
Pretti Enage Singer

A JOYFUL KICKOFF TO PRIDE MONTH



I was so proud of our City for organizing our flag raising and mural painting in front of the Municipal Services Building on June 1 to recognize the start of Pride Month. It was a joyful and well attended event.

On Saturday, June 18, from noon-4 p.m. at Walter C. Campbell Park, the City of Clearwater in collaboration with Artz 4 Life, the Clearwater Urban Leadership Coalition, and others, will hold a Juneteenth event to commemorate this holiday. Activities include dance, poetry, a Juneteenth re-enactment, free food and drinks, music, door prizes and more.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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