

The Newsletter for Clearwater's
Bright and Beautiful Employees and Retirees



City of Clearwater Fleet Places Fifth in Nation

By Heather Parsons

It takes a lot of grit, grime and knowledge to keep Clearwater's robust fleet operating at the highest level. The city's fleet team gets the job done each and every day. And national agencies continue to take notice.



For the fifth year in a row, **Clearwater's Fleet Division** continues to be recognized as one of the "100 Best Fleets in North America," this time ranking fifth in the nation out of 38,000 public fleets. The award was sponsored by the National Association of Fleet Administrator's 100 Best Fleets in the Americas and Governing Magazine.

"They're not just mechanics," said Perry Conzen, the city's fleet manager, of his team of more than 30 people. "They're technicians. Whether it be a fire truck, police car, garbage truck or mower, there's a lot more knowledge that's required in the pursuit of this work, versus years ago."

The Fleet Division repairs and maintains the city's fleet of approximately 1,800 city vehicles and equipment. This includes vehicles and equipment for Clearwater Police, Clearwater Fire & Rescue, Clearwater Solid Waste/Recycling, Clearwater Gas and Parks & Recreation. The fleet includes police cars, fire engines, pickup trucks, dump trucks, solid waste trucks, rescue vehicles, back hoes, loaders, trailers, trenchers, and small equipment, such as lawn mowers and plate compacters.

The 74,000-square-foot fleet shop is all under one roof and includes many divisions: Fire Department/Heavy Equipment, Police, Solid Waste, Medium Duty, and a small-engine shop. A lot can be happening at the same time between the different locations.

(continued on next page)

Employee Spotlight: Leo Garrison, Well-being Coordinator

By Heather Parsons

Meet **Leo Garrison**, the city's new Cigna well-being coordinator. He replaces Chris Baker and comes to us from Atlanta, where he served as a corporate wellness trainer for multiple organizations. He brings a wealth of healthful knowledge and a positive, can-do attitude.



An educator at heart, Garrison has a passion for building the mind-body-spirit connection. He has three bachelor's degrees: in education, psychology and theology. He is a certified personal trainer and a certified wellness specialist. Garrison is a published author of a book called "5 On 5," about a wellness challenge.

"My dad played football and was a swimmer," said Garrison. "He instilled health and wellness in me since I was a kid. I've always had a passion for fitness, which grew into wellness."

(continued on next page)

In This Issue

- *City Supports Cereal for the Summer Program* 2
- *Annual Records Destruction* 2
- *Transient Camp Cleanout* 3
- *Tough Drivers Bring It at Regional Road-e-o* 3
- *Personnel Corner* 4 & 5
- *Retirements, Sympathies & Births* 6
- *Service and Team Awards* 6
- *Cause for Applause* 7
- *Police Department Awards* 7
- *Diversity Day Celebration* 7
- *Fire & Rescue Awards & Recognitions* 7
- *Employees of the Month* 7
- *Meet New Clearwater Police K-9* 8
- *Successful Shredding Event Held* 8
- *Clearwater Celebrates Pride Month* 8

Fleet Fifth in Nation (cont. from page 1)

Technicians are required to buy their own tools. Some of those toolboxes, when empty, cost \$28,000. Then, they have to be filled with tools worth tens of thousands of dollars. In order to be hired, a technician must have a full set of tools, which is typically a rollaway box. It's a job requirement. Then, as they progress through the years, they buy new additional tools, with the city providing specialty tools and replacement tools, which is usual for fleet shops across the country.

"This isn't just a job," said Conzen. "We offer a lifelong career path. Most of our technicians are Automotive Service Excellence-certified, some are EVT-certified, and all have their specialties," said Conzen.

"Overall, we really appreciate the contribution that all the people involved make," said Conzen.

Leo Garrison Employee Spotlight (cont. from page 1)

That love of wellness is a part of Garrison's lifestyle. When he's not at work, he likes to lift weights, swim and play sand volleyball at Clearwater Beach. He also just joined a sand volleyball league in Gulfport. The move to Clearwater from Georgia has been a welcome change, he said.

His goals here at the city are to partner with city leaders and employees to help inspire a lifestyle of wellness, both mind and body. It's a team effort, he says.

"My journey has taken me down a path of deeper understanding of mental health, and that part of well-being is just as important as physical health," he said.

Garrison has three grown children and is a recent empty-nester. His oldest daughter is a mental health technician at an Atlanta hospital. He is a self-proclaimed master griller and likes to cook meat, seafood and vegetables on the grill.

He is excited to work with the city and said his life's call is to instill ambition and wellness in everyone he meets.

"It's great when who you are is what you do."

City Supports Cereal for the Summer Program

By Rob Shaw



The **Clearwater Police Department** and other city employees teamed up recently to help feed children breakfast during the summer.

The "Cereal For Summer" campaign, held in conjunction with Feeding

Tampa Bay and WTSP-Channel 10, collects cereal and other breakfast food donations for distribution to children across the Tampa Bay area, when they are not in school during the summer months. Many of those children typically get a free breakfast at school, and many might not get breakfast when they're not in school.

Collection boxes were placed at the police department, Municipal Services Building and the Main Library, with city employees from many different departments participating. The cereal was then dropped off May 6 in St. Petersburg during a live shot on Channel 10.



The Clearwater portion of the drive collected 972 pounds, which translates into 9,270 meals for children in the Tampa Bay area. Thank you to everyone who participated!



Annual Records Destruction

By Trish Zitouni

Were you aware that the city has a records storage facility? It is 4,000 square feet, managed by the **City Clerk's** office, and is housed within the city's Category 5 hurricane-rated gas facility. This is the retirement place for paper documents and microfilm to wait out their state-mandated retention periods. Until then, they are ready and available for legal review, audit, public request and digitization. Annually, once records have met their retention requirements, they are purged and destroyed. In recent years, the **Solid Waste Department** has provided the sweat, muscle and equipment needed to pull this off. June 2022 brought the biggest records purge to date, tackling 950 boxes of paper that weighed 24,000 pounds, divided among eight handlers and two drivers. That equates to roughly 1,000 pounds per person, per hour, spent loading and wheeling carts from the second floor.

The team included **Bryant Johnson, Tyrone Austin, Feth Benbelgacem, Eric Climes, Tiffany Collins, Sherrick Cuffie, Robert Reed, Erick Towns, Markise Wingfield, Edwin Martinez, and Rick Ottinger.** Honorable mentions go to **Earl Gloster and Mark Beery.**

The city is making strides to reduce paper records and move to electronic where possible. Some existing paper records have retentions of 50 years, and the digitization of long-term and permanent records leaves a paper trail. The Solid Waste Department will continue to play a key role in recycling these records when possible.

Due to the volume this year, it was decided to use the Pinellas County Incinerator, which is a waste-to-energy resource recovery facility, for the supervised confidential portion of disposal.

- It uses waste to produce 75 megawatts of electricity 24/7, enough to power 41,000 homes for a year.
- It also recovers 25,900 tons of metal for recycling annually, enough to build 20,000 cars.

Team Made of Up of Staff from Several City Departments Tackles Transient Camp Cleanup

By Allie Chandler

Parks & Recreation, with assistance from **Stormwater, Planning & Development, Solid Waste & Recycling, Public Utilities, Marine & Aviation, Traffic Engineering, Clearwater Police** and the **Homeless Outreach Program** partnered to clean multiple large transient camps that had occupied city green spaces along creeks and trails.



After code enforcement officers saw the transient camps, Homeless Outreach and Directions for Living representatives offered alternative housing options and offered resources such as gas, transportation passes, food and more.

At the first location near Stephenson's Creek, Traffic and Engineering and the Clearwater Police Department assisted with closing the road while Parks & Recreation operated heavy equipment to remove more than 60 yards of trash. Not only did the camp's location make it difficult to clean, but it also made it an environmental hazard. Debris was spilling into the creek each night when the tide would rise. Parks & Recreation employees also removed many invasive plant species, such as Brazilian pepper trees. Overall, the cleanup took four hours.



The second location covered almost two acres of land behind the Clearwater Solid Waste Transfer Station. The wetland area was too unstable for Parks & Recreation heavy equipment vehicles to navigate through naturally, so they built a temporary bridge using concrete blocks.

Parks & Recreation heavy equipment operators would scoop up mountains of discarded trash and load it into dump trucks, drive all the way around the trail via U.S. 19 and dispose of it at the Solid Waste Transfer Station. After hours of machine pickup, Solid Waste workers used grabbers to manually pick up all the tiny leftover pieces of debris. This cleanup took a week to complete.



The number of hours and labor for projects like these is invaluable. Thank you to the following employees who made this project possible:

Parks & Beautification

William Anderson
Paul Mack
John McDowell
Chancee Anderson
Brian DeWitt
Joel Donogan
Mike Ryder
Jimmie Evans
Pat Pothier
Randy Pothier
Steve Ussery
Edward Castillo
Kalie Elkins
Brian Lennon
Ali Ismailoski

Traffic

Charles Stephenson
Teddy Hordych
Aaron Cowan

Marine & Aviation

Larry Jones

Code Compliance

Stephen Della Volpe

Solid Waste

Anthony Hadley
Dexter Waters
Matt Henderson
Robert Reed
Darius Bryant



Tough Drivers Bring It at Regional Road-e-o

By Heather Parsons



The city's **Solid Waste Department** drove all over the competition at this year's Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Florida Sunshine Chapter Road-e-o. The event was held April 23 in Fort Myers, and featured the finest drivers in the industry.

Clearwater was well represented and took home the top prize and several others. Congratulations go to:

- **Alex Grant** – first place, Roll-off and "Top Gun" (best driver in the competition)
- **John Garakop** – first place, Automated Side-Loader
- **Joe Marshall** – first place, Tractor Trailer
- **Mike Campagna** – second place, Front-End Loader
- **Josh Burdo** – third place, Rear-End Loader
- **Terrell Smith** – third place/tie, Landfill Loader

Congratulations also go to **Mark Beery** and **Arnie Retzer**, who served as judges, and Clearwater's team coaches.

The competition consists of a written safety test, a Commercial Driver's License vehicle "pre-trip" inspection, and an obstacle course. For the obstacle course portion, drivers must perform an off-set driving maneuver, a right-hand turn through cones, parallel park their truck, back into an alley dock, drive through a serpentine course forward and backward, put their passenger side tires through two rows of tennis balls set 30 inches apart (rear tandem tires are 24 inches), and finish on a stop line as close as possible without going over the line.

The first and second place finishers will compete at the international road-e-o competition, which will be held Oct. 14-15, in El Paso, Texas. (SWANA Florida pays for competitors' airfare and hotel.) Congratulations!



Personnel Corner

April 4 through July 1, 2022

NEW HIRES.....

Ariana Amoroso, Aquatics Coordinator, Parks & Recreation

Alex Angeles Primero, Police Aide, Police

Mark Auger, Gas Technician Apprentice, Clearwater Gas

Melissa Baird, Police Telecommunicator, Police

Caroline Berry, Survey Assistant, Engineering

Stefan Burghardt, Customer Service Representative, Utility Customer Service

Logan Campbell, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Tacari Carpenter, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Noah Cassidy, Meter Reader, Utility Customer Service

Donald Cembrale, Police Telecommunicator, Police

Sara Clabaugh, Police Telecommunicator, Police

Eric Climes, Solid Waste Worker, Solid Waste & General Services

Betsy Cook, Personnel/Payroll Technician, Parks & Recreation

Rachel Craig, Police Telecommunicator, Police

Sheamus Danielson, Custodial Worker, Marine & Aviation

Jose Diaz, Streets & Sidewalks Technician, Parks & Recreation

Eric Distel, Parking, Facility & Security Aide, Engineering

Christopher Duncanson, Licensed Electrician, Solid Waste & General Services

Angel Durant, Library Page, Library

Kevin Flynn, Survey Assistant, Engineering

Derrick Fulton, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Robert Green, Human Resources Analyst, Human Resources

Justin Gregorich, Gas Technician Apprentice, Clearwater Gas

John Gurnsey, Parking, Facility & Security Aide, Engineering

Glenn Hannigan, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Maleah Hinkle, Recreation Supervisor, Parks & Recreation

Isaac Humphreys, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Austin James, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Kaitlyn Jones, Library Assistant, Library

Maciek Klosinski, Traffic Sign & Marking Technician, Engineering

Kristin Lafemina, Police Records Specialist, Police

David Larry, Solid Waste Worker, Solid Waste & General Services

Eric Lassiter, Wastewater Collections Technician, Public Utilities

Jayme Lopko, Planning Division Manager, Planning & Development

Thomas Lucas, Traffic Sign & Marking Technician, Engineering

Thomas Maimonis, Water District Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Sean McGowan, Customer Service Representative, Utility Customer Service

Jeffrey McManus, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Austin Nielsen, Engineering Technician, Clearwater Gas

Joey Norman, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator C, Public Utilities

Jo Peavler, Customer Service Representative, Utility Customer Service

John Pergantis, Police Aide, Police

Gage Prior, Police Records Specialist,

Police

Jennifer Ramirez, Customer Service Representative, Utility Customer Service

Robert Reed, Solid Waste Worker, Solid Waste & General Services

Michael Rempe, Marine Facility Operator, Parks & Recreation

Antonio Richardson, Water District Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Todd Robishaw, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste & General Services

Matthew Sammel, Marine Facility Operator, Parks & Recreation

Jeffrey Sears, Industrial Electrician, Public Utilities

Robert Sfero, Water Distribution Operator Trainee, Public Utilities

Zachery Skyrme, Recreation Leader, Parks & Recreation

Nolan Slone, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Alison Smith, Customer Service Representative, Clearwater Gas

Joel Stubleski, Police Cadet, Police

Antanay Tarrant, Human Resources Analyst, Human Resources

Nathan Vasquez, Fire Medic, Fire & Rescue

Kaitlin Wade, Library Page, Library

Colby Wade, Gas Technician Apprentice, Clearwater Gas

Darquez Whitfield, Wastewater Collections Technician, Public Utilities

Dezmond Whiting, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation

Aaron Wrona, Development Review Technician, Planning & Development

PROMOTIONS

- **Matthew Anderson**, Parks Senior Manager, Parks & Recreation
- **Mary-Kaitlyn Arnette**, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator C, Public Utilities
- **Tyrone Austin**, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste & General Services
- **Michael Beaver**, Police Sergeant, Police
- **Matthew Burgett**, Gas System Specialist, Clearwater Gas
- **Nathan Burnside**, Police Major, Police
- **Scott Burrows**, Procurement Analyst, Finance
- **Robert Buono**, Water Plant Operator B, Public Utilities
- **Jonathan Campbell**, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste & General Services
- **Jason Cantrell**, Plans Examiner, Planning & Development
- **Carlos Cardenas**, Building Construction Inspector, Planning & Development
- **Matthew Cargnel**, Senior Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation
- **Richard Chapman**, Network Engineer, Information Technology
- **Ahmad Cooper**, Streets & Sidewalks Technician, Parks & Recreation
- **Keister Crenshaw**, Senior Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation
- **Kyle Cresci**, Gas System Specialist, Clearwater Gas
- **Patricia DeMilo**, Executive Assistant, City Manager's Office
- **Sarah Fletcher**, Senior Library Assistant, Library
- **Gretchen Fowler**, Police Telecommunicator Supervisor, Police
- **Charlie Gordon**, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste & General Services
- **Oral Grant**, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation
- **Tim Grosso**, Skilled Tradesworker, Solid Waste & General Services
- **Jerry Hahn**, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator A, Public Utilities

- **Fred Hemerick**, Water, Reclaim & Wastewater Collection Division Manager, Public Utilities
- **Malcolm Holmes**, Senior Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation
- **Derelle Houser**, Network Engineer, Information Technology
- **Colton Jacobs**, Senior Recreation Leader, Parks & Recreation
- **Todd Johnson**, Police Major, Police
- **Jennifer Jones**, Senior Librarian, Library
- **Todd Kuhnel**, Lead Engineering Specialist, Engineering
- **Gregg Kunz**, Gas Technician, Clearwater Gas
- **Kelsey McCray**, Senior Recreation Leader, Parks & Recreation
- **Michael McGlockton**, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator B, Public Utilities
- **William Mock**, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator C, Public Utilities
- **Keith Robertson**, Senior Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation
- **Tamela Root**, Recreation Leader, Parks & Recreation
- **Mercedes Lang**, Police Telecommunicator Supervisor, Police
- **David Melton**, Stormwater Technician, Engineering
- **Leslie Moran**, Library Assistant, Utility Customer Service
- **Joel Morley**, Police Lieutenant, Police
- **Samantha Moullet**, Neighborhoods Division Manager, City Manager's Office
- **Rebecca Mulder**, Code Enforcement Division Manager, Planning & Development
- **Alyssa Poole**, Senior Customer Service Representative, Clearwater Gas
- **Lloyd Rice**, Recreation Leader, Parks & Recreation
- **David Scrivener**, Recreation Manager, Parks & Recreation

- **Thomas Shepherd**, Senior Librarian, Library
- **Kervin St. Aimie**, Public Utilities Infrastructure Maintenance Division Manager, Public Utilities
- **Tom Stewart**, Network Analyst, Information Technology
- **Quang Trinh**, Senior Network Analyst, Information Technology
- **Jorge Trinidad**, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste & General Services
- **Michael Walek**, Police Deputy Chief, Police
- **Stephen Wannos**, Police Lieutenant, Police
- **Alexander West**, Industrial Pretreatment Inspector, Public Utilities
- **Jessica Wilke**, Billing Specialist, Utility Customer Service
- **Dianna Woodcock**, Senior Accounting Technician, Finance
- **Heather Wright**, Business Systems Analyst, Information Technology

WELCOME BACK

- **Amer Abuobeid**, Business Systems Analyst, Clearwater Gas
- **Rosemary Davis**, Staff Assistant, Parks & Recreation
- **Pierce Franklin**, Solid Waste Worker, Solid Waste & General Services
- **Tabitha Green**, Library Assistant, Library
- **John Grosso**, Building Construction Inspector, Planning & Development
- **Mindy Hewitt**, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator C, Public Utilities
- **John Margnelli**, Police Officer, Police
- **Leonardo Ramirez**, Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation
- **Eric Towns**, Solid Waste Worker, Solid Waste & General Services



RETIREMENTS

- **Robert Ackerman**, Building Construction Inspector, Planning & Development
- **Jeffrey Adkisson**, Police Officer, Police
- **Sabrina Chute**, Information Technology Manager, Information Technology
- **Benjamin Coccia**, Senior Plans Examiner, Planning & Development
- **David Dalton**, Police Major, Police
- **Glenn Daniel**, Water, Reclaim & Wastewater Collection Division Manager, Public Utilities
- **Janet Dorough**, Division Controller, Clearwater Gas
- **Michael Hatch**, Police Officer, Police
- **Veronica Josef**, Senior Staff Assistant, Engineering
- **Tracy Kimball**, Police Communication Manager, Police
- **Jada McCree**, Senior Staff Assistant, Library
- **Jeffrey McHughes**, Police Telecommunicator Supervisor, Police
- **Levi Outley**, Senior Parks Service Technician, Parks & Recreation
- **Louis Pirman**, Senior Gas Technician, Clearwater Gas
- **David Prior**, Police Records Clerk, Police
- **Katie Rosa**, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, Solid Waste & General Services
- **Jeffrey Rosenbaum**, Building & Maintenance Supervisor, Solid Waste & General Services
- **Charlie Sims**, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator C, Public Utilities
- **Scott Smith**, Customer Service Supervisor, Customer Service
- **Steven Squillante**, Police Sergeant, Police
- **Todd Still**, Water Distribution Foreman, Public Utilities
- **Roy Thomen**, Land Development Arborist, Planning & Development
- **Joe Trowell**, Recreation Facilities Support Custodian, Parks & Recreation
- **Charles Warrington**, Executive Director of Gas System, Clearwater Gas
- **Kevin White**, Fire Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

Sympathies

To the family, friends and colleagues of these retired city employees who recently passed away:

- **Winfred Caudill**, retired Fire Lieutenant, on May 31
- **John Coombs**, retired Gas Technician II, on May 19
- **Willie Floyd**, retired Solid Waste Worker, on May 10
- **James Johnson**, retired Utilities Mechanic, on April 24
- **Douglas King**, retired Drafting and Mapping Technician, on June 14
- **Joan Martell**, retired Police Senior Staff Assistant, on March 6
- **James McGee**, retired Solid Waste Supervisor II, on May 16
- **Paul Reese**, retired Police Sergeant, on April 22
- **Thomas Sewell**, retired Gas System Assistant Director, on April 19

Service Awards

20 YEARS

Joelle Castelli, Public Communications Director, Public Communications

David Clark, Plans Examiner, Planning & Development

Anthony Gomillion, Fire Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

John Klinefelter, Fire Division Chief, Fire & Rescue

Deborah Lemon, Senior Recreation Leader, Parks & Recreation

Eric Matherly, Lead Gas Technician, Clearwater Gas

Jada McCree, Senior Staff Assistant, Library

Delaney Mulholland, Gas System Specialist, Clearwater Gas

Jon Russell, Gas Safety & Regulatory Compliance Coordinator, Clearwater Gas

Brian Swartz, Firefighter, Fire & Rescue

Kevin White, Fire Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

25 YEARS

Thomas Arruda, Senior Network Engineer, Information Technology

John Clarkson, Police Service Technician, Police

Lisa Figueroa, Police Office Specialist, Police

Yolanda Franklin, Police Records Specialist, Police

Cheryl Wood, Police Officer, Police

30 YEARS

Robert Pease, Police Officer, Police

35 YEARS

Valerie Hornbeck, Police Service Technician, Police

Jeffrey McHughes, Police Telecommunicator Supervisor, Police

Births

To **Brad Allen**, Police Officer, a son named Colton Brady born June 6, weighing 8 lbs. 3 oz.

To **Ben Bieber**, Police Officer, a son named Adam Emmett born June 3, weighing 7 lbs. 10 oz. and 21" long

To **David Kurinsky**, Police Officer, a son named Kai Jaxson born April 26, weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. and 20" long

Bi-Monthly Team Award

MAY/JUNE 2022

2022 Clearwater Comic Con Team

The team members include:

Sandy Clayton, Freda Dixon, Kayla Grant, Brent Jones, Meredith Kambic, Dora Monterroza, Ramon Pires, Michael Robinson, Ural Robinson, Thomas Sherpherd, Christa Smith, Aline Watson, Johnareus Young and Jordan Paradowski

Cause For Applause



Matt Anderson, parks senior manager, received the Loren Westernberger Award from the Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture during the annual Trees Florida Conference. The award is given to an individual who has practiced the professional principles of arboriculture to better the environment for future generations.

Belinda Darcy, police social services specialist, was recognized with the Distinguished Victim Services Award recently by Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody as part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. She was one of three victim advocates statewide who were honored.



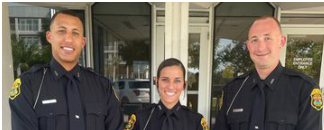
Paul Roskey, recreation supervisor, received the inaugural William B. Horne II 2021 Employee of the Year award. Roskey won the Employee of the Month award in December 2021 for reacting quickly and administering CPR after a man collapsed at the McMullen Tennis Complex. Paramedics credited Paul with saving the man's life.

The 2021 Team of the Year was awarded to the **Water Distribution Team** from **Public Utilities** for their work to repair a major water main break at Coachman Park last year. Team members include **Fred Hemerick, Deane Murray, Ike George, Keron Johnson, Torey Castleberry Sr., Dan McGuinness** and **Michael Vacca**.



The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council presented the **Clearwater Gas System** with the Economy and Energy Partner Award during the 28th annual Future of the Region Awards Ceremony held in April. This award recognizes the city's ongoing energy partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

Congratulations to the new members of the **Clearwater Fire & Rescue Department** Recruit Class 25. Welcome to the team, **Logan Campbell, Glenn Hannigan, Isaac Humphreys, Nolan Slone** and **Nathan Vasquez**.



Congratulations to the **Clearwater Police Department's** three newest recruits, **Joel Nina, Michele Perry** and **Owen Reich**, who graduated from the police academy recently.

Diversity Day Celebration

The **Diversity Leadership Council** held its annual Diversity Day celebration at the North Greenwood Recreation Center recently. Attendees enjoyed musical performances from different cultures, activities and a choice of lunch from various food trucks.



Fire & Rescue Awards & Recognitions

Congratulations to Lt. **Jason Haynor** on being named the recipient of the 2022 Clearwater Rotary Public Safety and Service Award. The honor is given annually to a firefighter who goes above and beyond in the community.



Congratulations to **Nathan Ballouz** for being named 2021 Firefighter of the Year.



Congratulations to **James Desaulniers** for being named 2021 Fire Medic of the Year.

Congratulations to these **Peer Challenge Coin** recipients:

- Beach lifeguard **Tim Hancock**
- Beach lifeguard **Logan Weinzierl**
- Firefighter **Mike Jones**
- Driver-Operator **Michael "Red" Billian**



Police Department Awards

The Clearwater Police Department's Awards Selection Committee recently awarded the following:



Letter of Commendation

- Officer **Seth Stiers**
- Officer **Marcos Valdez**

The following were honored in May at the Belleair Country Club during a meeting of the Clearwater Rotary Club.

44th Annual Joseph F. Cornelius Family Foundation's Outstanding Police Officer of the Year Award

- Major **Nathan Burnside**



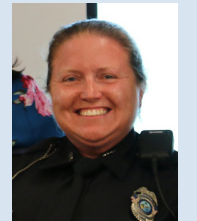
45th Annual Joseph F. Cornelius Family Foundation's Outstanding Police Officer of the Year Award

- Officer **Nicholas Milillo**



Rotary's 2022 Public Safety and Service Award

- Officer **Elizabeth Neris-Ruiz**



Employees of the Month

APRIL 2022

William Eddy
Senior Parks Service Technician
Parks & Recreation



MAY 2022

Mitchell Arnold
Parks Service Technician
Parks & Recreation



JUNE 2022

Ramon Pires
Recreation Center Manager
Parks & Recreation





CONNECTION

P.O. BOX 4748 • CLEARWATER, FL • 33758-4748
(727) 562-4681

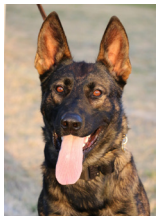
Frank Hibbard, Mayor
David Allbritton, Councilmember
Kathleen Beckman, Councilmember
Mark Bunker, Councilmember
Lina Teixeira, Councilmember
Jon Jennings, City Manager

MyClearwater.com



Meet New Clearwater Police K-9 Named Kryz

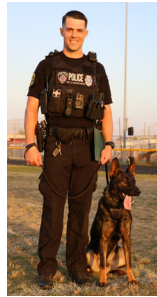
By Rob Shaw



The **Clearwater Police Department** has a new four-legged crime fighter working for the agency. **Kryz**, and his two-legged partner, **Officer Adrian Kwiatkowski**, graduated from K-9 school together in April at Pinellas Park High School, alongside dogs and law enforcement officers from other surrounding agencies. K-9 school runs 16 weeks and is designed to teach the dogs and handlers how to work together as a team.

Kryz is a little over a year and a half old. His passport from Hungary says he is a German shepherd, but it's believed he also has some Belgian Malinois in him. His talents include jumping over really high obstacles and finding items for which he is searching. At home, he likes to relax and play with another family dog.

The police department now has five K-9s on its team, which is led by Sgt. **Rob Main**. All of the K-9s live with their handlers in addition to working alongside them.



Successful Shredding Event Held

By Rob Shaw



The **Clearwater Police Department** and the city's **Solid Waste Department** teamed up in April to offer shredding of paperwork and collection of unwanted prescription medication.

The event was held at Countryside Mall. Residents were able to drive through and drop off documents or pills. Clearwater residents were lined up as early as 90 minutes before the event was scheduled to start.

Detectives from the economic crimes unit, alongside **police aides** and **police volunteers**, joined **solid waste workers** at the event.



More than 29,000 pounds of paper was shredded, and 400 pounds of cardboard was collected. They also gathered a total of 690 pounds of prescription drugs.

Clearwater Celebrates Pride Month

City of Clearwater staff members celebrated Pride month with a flag-raising and mural painting event in front of the Municipal Services Building on June 1.



REMINDER



City offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, in observation of Labor Day.

Connection

is produced bimonthly by the Public Communications Department.

Joelle Castelli

Executive Editor

Krystie Epperson

Editor/Designer

Contributors

Kelly Adkisson, Allie Chandler, Alyssa Gagliardi, Billie Kirkpatrick, Robert Napper, Heather Parsons, Rob Shaw, Michelle Sheldon, Leah Turpack & Trish Zitouni



If you have a story idea, article, personnel news, or photos to share, please e-mail them to the Editor at krystal.epperson@myclearwater.com or call 562-4681. Let us know what you'd like to see in the next Connection!