

Kathleen Beckman

YOUR

Clearwater Councilmember

Monthly Newsletter

January 2024



Happy January!
Happy New Year!

There is no better time to commit to a fresh start than the first day of the New Year! From making toasts on New Year's Eve to making resolutions on New Year's Day, the start of yet another year marks an opportunity for positive change. The new year stands before us like the next page in a book, waiting to be written. I hope the next chapter of your "story" is filled with good health, happiness, and all the success you dream of. On January 1, pick up that pencil and begin to write your next chapter, and whether you choose to focus on health, education, finances, family, or any number of things – I wish you and your family all the best in 2024.

People You Should Know
Miranda Heitz
Artistic Director at MZ Dance Company



Miranda Heitz has been dancing since she was 3 and training professionally nearly all of her life. She is Royal Academy of Dance certified and has won national awards for her performances in modern, ballet, jazz, and tap. Miranda is the **Artistic Director** of the Clearwater dance studio, **MZ Dance Company** that she owns and operates with her husband, **Matthew Heitz**.

The mission of MZ Dance Company is to “...nurture and prepare passionate dancers of all ages and backgrounds with a professional classical dance education. We are invested in creating a whole well-rounded person, because who you are as a person is encouraged just as much as your talent is here at our studio. We are a non-discriminatory company and pride ourselves of accepting and loving our dancers from all different backgrounds and ability levels. You are free to be yourself here and creating a safe space atmosphere is very important to us.”

MZ Dance Company dancers performed at our Clearwater Coachman Park tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 1. The crowd was enthralled with their performance and were especially captivated by a young dancer who performed on the Cyr wheel, an acrobatic apparatus consisting of a single large ring. I had the pleasure of interviewing Miranda and visiting her at her studio at **1969 Sunset Point Road**. Click here to read my [interview with Miranda Heitz](#) and learn more about MZ Dance Studio.

Actions Taken for Cost Savings on New City Hall



At our Dec. 19 City Council meeting the Council voted unanimously to approve a contract with **Ajax Building Company, LLC** for **Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR)** services for the City Hall construction and Municipal Services Building (MSB) Renovation Project.

With an aging City Hall, constructed in 1964, the City has been investigating the need for upgraded infrastructure. The need has become more pressing in recent years, as asbestos and structural challenges forced the City to vacate the old City Hall. The building has since been demolished, and the site is slated for private redevelopment.

In September 2022, the City Council approved **Wannemacher Jensen Architects (WJA)** to design a new facility. In June 2023, WJA presented the City Council with three options. The Council unanimously selected the site plan that combines a renovation of the City’s existing MSB with a new City Hall located on the city-owned parcel immediately south of MSB. **This design will be one of the lowest cost and most efficient in Pinellas**

County.

On November 16, 2023, Council approved **Broaddus and Associates** to provide **Owner's Representative** services on the project. Broaddus is currently assisting with the CMAR agreement negotiations and progression of city hall design documents and stakeholder feedback. **Broaddus will ensure that the project is delivered on schedule and on budget.**

Congratulations to Clearwater's "People to Watch" Gloria Campbell and Marilyn Turman



Congratulations to **Clearwater Urban Leadership Coalition** leaders, **Gloria Campbell** and **Marilyn Turman** for their steadfast leadership in advocating for a Community Redevelopment Area designation for the North Greenwood community in Clearwater. They were recognized in a Dec. 28 **Tampa Bay Times** editorial "**11 Tampa Bay people to watch in 2024.**" Gloria and Marilyn have worked tirelessly to engage and inform Clearwater residents, leaders, and stakeholders about the social and economic necessity of the CRA

designation. After the official designation in May of 2023, both women have continued to do the work of ensuring the North Greenwood CRA Plan gets off to a great start and has measurable success. As community leaders and activists, these two women have set the bar remarkably high. (From Left: **Gloria Campbell, Marilyn Turman**, and fellow CULC leader, **Muhammad Abdur-Rahim**)

Recreation Centers Offer Many Activities to Help You Stay Fit and Healthy



Are you making New Year's resolutions to get in better shape, improve your fitness or lose weight? If you are, you should take advantage of our five rec

centers, the Long Center and the McMullen Tennis Center. You can take part in many activities and make new friends as well. We are so fortunate to live in a city with so many premier recreational facilities! Here is a list of the facilities available in Clearwater:

- **Countryside Rec Center**: Giant playground; outdoor basketball court
- **Morningside Rec Complex**: Playground, lighted tennis and basketball courts, outdoor pool, gym, fitness center
- **North Greenwood Rec and Aquatic Center**: playground, gym, pool, fitness center
- **Ross Norton Rec and Aquatic Complex**: Indoor basketball courts, fitness center, seasonal pool
- **Clearwater Beach Library and Rec Center**: Pickleball courts, social hall available for events
- **Long Center**: “Aging Well Center” with activities and services promoting a high quality of life for older adults
- **McMullen Tennis Complex**: hard and clay courts, pickleball courts, locker rooms, showers, walking trails
- **The Aging Well Center**: Our mission is to serve as a resource that facilitates services and activities promoting a high quality of life for our Clearwater community’s older adults. **Healthcare Programs**: Silver&Fit; Active&Fit; Renew Active; One Pass; SilverSneakers and Prime. Eligible members receive Free access to recreation amenities - some restrictions apply.

To use any of our centers for free or at a reduced rate, you must register in person and obtain a **Clearwater Recreation Card**. These are available to residents and non-residents.

A Clearwater recreation card provides access to all of Clearwater's premier recreation centers, pools, athletic facilities, and other recreational programs at a reduced rate or for free. By purchasing a recreation card, you can not only improve your physical health and well-being by staying active, but also engage in social activities and meet new people who share similar interests. Recreation cards are available to residents and non-residents. You must apply in person at a Rec Center.

El plan estratégico de Clearwater está disponible en español!

Clearwater's Strategic Plan is Available in Spanish!

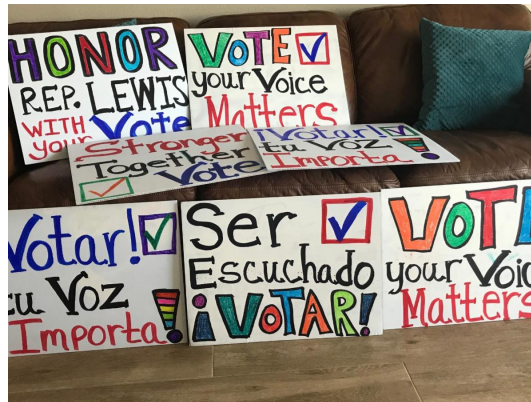
MISIÓN

Clearwater se compromete a prestar servicios municipales de calidad, sostenibles, y rentables que fomenten y mantengan un entorno residencial y económico saludable.

GOBIERNO DE ALTO RENDIMIENTO	OPORTUNIDADES ECONÓMICAS Y DE VIVIENDA	BIENESTAR DE LA COMUNIDAD	GESTIÓN MEDIOAMBIENTAL	SERVICIO PÚBLICO SUPERIOR
<p>Objetivo: Prestar Servicios Eficientes y Eficaces Optimizando los Activos y Recursos de la Ciudad.</p> <p>Objetivos:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Promover tratamientos de medición basados en pruebas para mejorar continuamente el rendimiento municipal y promover una gobernanza responsable. 1.2. Mantener la infraestructura pública, los sistemas de movilidad, los terrenos naturales, los recursos medioambientales, y los elementos históricos mediante estrategias de gestión sostenibles. 1.3. Adoptar nuevas tecnologías de servicio para las instalaciones y comodidades públicas e identificar las tecnologías necesarias para mantenerlas en el nivel de servicio. 1.4. Fomentar comunidades seguras y saludables en Clearwater mediante servicios de primera clase en cuestión de seguridad pública y respuesta en casos de emergencias. 1.5. Adoptar una cultura de innovación que impulse la mejora continua y sirva con éxito a todos nuestros clientes. 	<p>Objetivo: Fomentar una Economía Próspera y Diversificada Que Promueva Oportunidades para Todos.</p> <p>Objetivos:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Reforzar las iniciativas públicas privadas que atraigan, desarrollen, y mantengan sectores empresariales diversificados. 2.2. Cultivar un clima empresarial que atraiga el espíritu de emprendimiento, incentive la inversión local, apoye a las empresas con raíces en el Lago Anclote y fomente el crecimiento de los empleos de alta calidad. 2.3. Promover a Clearwater como un destino público de entretenimiento, experiencias culturales, turismo, y eventos deportivos regionales. 2.4. Apoyar programas de vivienda asequible que promuevan la estabilidad de los hogares y reduzcan la incidencia de personas sin hogar en Clearwater. 2.5. Facilitar asociaciones con instituciones educativas e investigación para fomentar las oportunidades de desarrollo de la fuerza laboral. 	<p>Objetivo: Desarrollar Comunidades y Vecindarios Emprendedores En Los Que Todos Puedan Prosperar.</p> <p>Objetivos:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. Apoyar la identidad del vecindario mediante servicios y programas que fortalezcan el orgullo y la pertenencia de la comunidad. 3.2. Preservar la habitabilidad de la comunidad mediante normas de desarrollo. 3.3. Promover estrategias de recuperación y divulgación que fomenten la participación de las partes interesadas, mejoren la educación de la comunidad, y reanuden la confianza pública. 3.4. Incentivar la participación ciudadana mediante el compromiso cívico y el voluntariado para construir comunidades más inclusivas, y comprometidas. 	<p>Objetivo: Implementar Soluciones Prácticas y Sostenibles Emprendedoras para una Comunidad Saludable y Resiliente.</p> <p>Objetivos:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1. Apoyar estrategias prácticas de resiliencia climática basadas en la ciencia para proteger los recursos naturales y culturales de los impactos asociados con el aumento del nivel del mar. 4.2. Adoptar prácticas de uso de recursos sostenibles y de reducción de desechos para garantizar una Ciudad dinámica para las generaciones actuales y futuras. 4.3. Promover la conservación de los bosques urbanos y los espacios verdes públicos para promover la biodiversidad y reducir nuestra huella de carbono. 4.4. Desarrollar redes de transporte accesibles y activos que mejoren la seguridad de los peatones y reduzcan las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero en toda la ciudad. 	<p>Objetivo: Promover una Fuerza Laboral Diversa y Talentosa Mediante Oportunidades Educativas, el Bienestar de los Empleados, y un Compromiso Profesional Cualitativo.</p> <p>Objetivos:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1. Atraer y conservar al personal de máxima calidad mediante el mantenimiento de un programa de remuneración competitiva. 5.2. Fomentar el desarrollo profesional mediante oportunidades de educación para los empleados, capacitaciones basadas en las habilidades, y la planificación de la sucesión en el liderazgo. 5.3. Generar el alto organizacional mediante el compromiso colaborativo y la toma de decisiones inclusivas para producir resultados de valores compartidos. 5.4. Mejorar la salud y la productividad de los empleados mediante un enfoque integral respecto al bienestar en el lugar de trabajo y los recursos de bienestar.

Great News! The city’s Strategic Plan is now available in Spanish on the My Clearwater website. Check it out at: [Clearwater Strategic Plan](#). You can also sign up for Clearwater’s digital newsletter composed in Spanish. Sign up to receive the FREE Spanish newsletter focused on our Hispanic community here: [Spanish Language Newsletter](#).

Are You Registered to Vote in Our Upcoming Election?



At our next election, on **Tuesday, March 19, 2024** voters will elect three members to the City Council –mayor and seats 2 and 3. Voters will also vote on a referendum to change our elections from March to August, including a change from a plurality to a majority, which is expected to impact the cost of city elections and turnout. You can read about the candidates and the referendum language here: [Clearwater Election 2024](#). Additionally, the **March 19, 2024** election will also serve as the presidential preference primary in Florida.

If you’re not sure whether you’re registered to vote, visit the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections at: [VotePinellas.com](#). You can request a mail ballot, too. **Registration deadline is Saturday, Feb . 3.**

The ManGrove
Supports Men's Health and Wellbeing



Greenwood Grove is a new Clearwater non-profit located in North Greenwood. Their mission is to restore confidence in their community by restoring the quality of life for the people who live in it. Greenwood Grove is offering a new program called "**The Mangrove**" that is a free weekly program to empower men by focusing on their health and well-being. **Call 727-755-7885 or email: GreenwoodGroveClw@gmail.com** to learn more.

Clearwater Main Library Re-Opens January 2



The Clearwater Main Library has been closed since Sept. 6 when a fire sprinkler pipe failed, causing a significant amount of water to flow into the building from the third-floor ceiling of the library's south end. Under our insurance plan, nearly all of the repair/replacement costs are covered.

The building and fire sprinkler system are now completely repaired, new drywall has been installed, the walls are painted, and the carpet has been cleaned. Doors will be open for normal operating hours of **10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and noon - 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.** To learn more about our amazing libraries visit **MyClearwaterLibrary.com**.

Please Sign Up to Help with Our Annual
Point in Time Count

2024 POINT IN TIME COUNT VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION OPEN



Help us make sure every neighbor counts in 2024. Let's #EndHomeless together.

DATE
THURSDAY,
JANUARY 25, 2024

TIME
3 HOUR SHIFTS
AM & PM SHIFTS AVAILABLE

SIGN UP TODAY

www.bit.ly/2024PIT



**JOIN US ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25**



Become a community hero by volunteering for this year's Point in Time Count. The **Pinellas County Continuum of Care** needs volunteers to help count sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. Through this HUD mandated count, Pinellas County receives federal government funds. An accurate count is critical to maximize our funding. Please click the link below to learn more and volunteer for a shift on Thursday, January 25. You can join me, if you'd like! Click here to learn more/volunteer for the **2024 Pinellas County PIT Count.**

Mark Your Calendar 2024 Is Off to a Great Start!



Jan. 6, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Grand Opening of **A Mother's Arms** 714 N. Fort Harrison Ave. Clearwater.

Jan. 10, 9 a.m. Special Council Work Session: **Citywide Housing Educational Workshop**

Jan. 15, 9 a.m. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Annual Breakfast, North Greenwood Recreation Center. The annual breakfast will be followed by the NAACP's MLK Jr. Day March from N. Greenwood Recreation Center to Coachman Park to participate in a rally, beginning at 12:30 p.m. to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jan. 19, 11 a.m. Though most of the nation extols the virtues of trees in April, each state observes Arbor Day at the time considered best for tree-planting in its particular region. In Florida, Arbor Day is the third Friday in January. The Clearwater Garden Club will celebrate both Arbor Day and the 100th Anniversary of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. on Jan. 19 you can learn more here:

[Clearwater Garden Club 100th Anniversary 405 Seminole St. Clearwater](#)

Feb. 24 and 25, Clearwater Sea Blues Festival, Coachman Park, Enjoy live music from national recording artists, shop local vendors, and try seafood and craft beer from area businesses. **It's free, but you must get a ticket for admission.** Learn more about this year's event at: [Clearwater Sea Blues Festival.](#)

March 29- April 14, Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival, Clearwater Beach, Take free sand sculpting classes, enjoy live music and fireworks, sample food from local vendors. **You can get tickets now** for the **Sand Walk** at: [Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival.](#)

Check **The Sound** for upcoming concerts at **The Sound Amphitheater in Coachman Park** (Styx, Willie Nelson, Air Supply and more!)

Ruth Eckerd Hall also has a variety of entertainment lined up at both **Ruth Eckerd Hall** and the **Nancy and David Bilheimer Capitol Theater** in downtown Clearwater.

Clearwater is Hiring! Come Work with Us!



The City of Clearwater has job openings in a number of areas, including human resources, parks and recreation, communications, procurement and public utilities. Check out all the openings at: [City of Clearwater Jobs.](#)

Thank You for Your Interest and Support

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.

Important Links:

[My Clearwater Magazine](#)

[Upcoming City Meetings](#)

[City of Clearwater Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[PSTA Veterans Ride Free on Public Transportation](#)

Contact Information:

Kathleen Beckman: 727-580-0948

kathleen.beckman@myclearwater.com

City Council Office

600 Cleveland St., Suite 600

Clearwater, FL 33755

Visit my Website



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Clearwater City Council | 600 Cleveland St, Suite 600, clearwater, FL 33755

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