



December 2023 ROSS Newsletter



Fairway Gardens & Paradise Trail



A month filled with love, humanity and gift giving events like Christmas and New Year's Eve. December is the last month of the year, one of seven months with the length of 31 days and has the shortest daylight hours of all months.



Sunday, December 24, 2023 (Christmas Eve)

Monday, December 25, 2023 (Christmas Day)

Sunday, December 31, 2023 (New Year's Eve)



2023 FREE Holiday Events in Pinellas County



Countryside's Reindeer Lane

Saturday, December 2, 2023
9:30am - 11:30am

Countryside Recreation Center
2640 Sabal Springs Drive
Clearwater, FL 33761

Follow the reindeer tracks around the Recreation Center Lane. Play reindeer games, collect prizes and toys, enjoy photo opportunities and eat delectable snacks along the way. At the end of the trail, you may even find and take photos with Santa Claus. The first 200 participants will receive a special treat. This is a FREE event and space is limited.



Ho-Ho Holiday Party & Hayride

Friday, December 8, 2023
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Morningside Recreation Complex
2400 Harn Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33764

Get in the holiday spirit with some goodies, games, arts, and crafts and more. Take your picture with Santa, create a take-home craft, play on inflatables, win prizes playing games and end the night with a hayride!



Winter Holiday Social

Friday, December 15, 2023
4:00 PM-6:00 PM

North Greenwood Recreation Complex

900 N. MLK Jr. Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33755
(727) 442-5355



Come out and enjoy your holiday season with us:

- ◆ Pictures with Santa Claus
- ◆ Line Dancing
- ◆ Face Painting & balloons
- ◆ Food & hot cocoa
- ◆ Games, music, bounce houses, and more!



Clearwater 2nd Annual Holiday Pet "Paw-Parade"

Sunday, December 17, 2023
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Bring your furry loved ones to wag, woof, walk, and celebrate the holidays along Cleveland Street during this pet friendly parade. Dress in your holiday finest for pet and family photos with Santa and the Grinch.

Station Square Park
612 Cleveland Street
Clearwater, FL 33755

For more information or to register, visit

www.pawsonparadeparty.com



Hope Villages Food Pantry

Ralph Richards—Front Lobby

Tuesday, December 12, 2023


9:30 AM-12:30 PM



Contact the ROSS Coordinator at (727) 446-1045!




Enjoy free parking all day on weekends and after 6 p.m. on weekdays at city parking garages and on-street parking in Downtown Clearwater. For parking information, visit myclearwater.com/parking.




HOLIDAY SCAMS


Avoiding Scams During the Holidays in 2023!



SCAM ALERT



Don't become another statistic!




By some estimates, nearly 75% of Americans experienced at least one type of holiday scam last year.

Americans lost over \$281 million to online shopping and non-delivery scams last year alone — with many of these taking place over the holiday season.


For more information, visit www.aura.com/learn/holiday-scams

- ◆ Research charities before you donate.
- ◆ Only use gift cards as gifts.
- ◆ Stick to the most reputable online stores as much as possible this time of year.
- ◆ Ignore emails and texts from people you don't know, and never click on unfamiliar links.
- ◆ Research the company before giving them your personal info.
- ◆ Track deliveries through the delivery company's official website.
- ◆ Create a secret family "passcode" to use on calls as a way to ensure the person you're speaking with is legitimate.
- ◆ Do your due diligence before purchasing.
- ◆ Don't trust anyone who offers you free money or gifts - especially if you never entered the giveaway.



Common Scams To Avoid this Holiday Season:

1. Fake charities that steal your money
2. Gift card scams (including empty gift cards)
3. Lookalike online stores
4. Phishing emails from companies you trust
5. Fraudulent seasonal job offers
6. Missed delivery notification texts scams
7. Grandparent scams
8. Social ads promoting fraudulent items
9. Popular holidays gifts at low prices
10. Holiday travel & online airfare scams
11. Fake online giveaways & surveys
12. Online gift exchange scams
13. Public Wi-Fi hacking
14. Mail & package theft
15. Shoulder surfing & card skimming




Family E-Learning Coaching

We want your child to succeed whether learning in the classroom or at home.


Our Family E-Learning Coaching Team provides free computer technology service and education. We can help with Wi-fi connections, email and programs designed to help your child complete his/her schoolwork online.

Do you need assistance setting up learning technologies provided by Pinellas County Schools?


Submit an E-Learning Technology Support Request at:
<https://bit.ly/PCSFamilyELearning>

We're available during the day and evening. 


For more information, contact **Andrea Lypka (E-Learning Program Manager)** at (727) 588-4816, ext. 2141 or andrea.lypka@pinellaseducation.org




PCS CONNECTS



Pinellas Education Foundation
Inspired minds transform lives




Grease Disposal



Pouring fats, oils, and grease down the drain this holiday season can cause serious and expensive pipe blockages. The Solid Waste Recycling Drop Off Center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To participate, please follow these steps:

1. Place leftover cooking greases, frying oils, meat drippings and bacon fats into a container.
2. Bring the grease to the city's Solid Waste/Recycling drop-off center at **1701 N. Hercules Ave, Clearwater, FL 33765**
3. Pour the contents of the container into the large barrel that is on-site. Take the empty container home or place it in the trash afterwards, as a container with a layer of grease inside is not recyclable.



CLEARWATER
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL. SAY TO REACH

For more information call (727) 562-4920 or visit myclearwater.com/recycling



CLEARWATER FREE CLINIC
Health care for uninsured families

FREE Healthcare services for the uninsured!



Address:
1218 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-447-3041

Clinic Hours:
Monday-Thursday
8:30 AM-6:00 PM

Clearwater Free Clinic is a volunteer driven non-profit, non-government medical facility that provides primary health care at no cost to those who do not qualify for government assistance and who cannot afford private medical care.

www.clearwaterfreeclinic.org

Services include:

- ◆ Primary/Specialty care
- ◆ Women's care
- ◆ Diabetic/Nutrition programs
- ◆ Medication services
- ◆ Ophthalmology
- ◆ Pediatrics
- ◆ Behavioral Health