



December 2024 ROSS Newsletter



Barbee Towers & Ralph Richards Tower



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.



Tuesday, December 24, 2024 (Christmas Eve)

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 (Christmas Day)

Tuesday, December 31, 2024 (New Year's Eve)



Barbee Towers & Ralph Richards



Hope Villages Food Pantry
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
9:30 AM-3:30 PM



FL Dream Center Food Distribution
Tuesday, December 17, 2024
1:30 PM-4:30 PM



Salvation Army Silver Bells Gift Distribution
Thursday, December 19, 2024
Barbee Towers
1:30 PM-3:30 PM



Ralph Richards
3:30 PM-4:30 PM



Neighborly Transportation Group Shopping

Group shopping trips are available **every other Thursday (or bi-weekly)** for residents who are registered (must be at least 60 years or older)!

Thursday, December 12th @ 9:15 AM - Walmart
Thursday, December 26th @ 9:15 AM - Publix

- ◆ Please sign up prior to the scheduled trip date!
- ◆ Pick up and drop off at your location!



Contact the **ROSS Coordinator** for details at (727) 446-1045, ext. 248 or email swhite@clearwaterhousingauth.org



December 2024 Holiday Events in Pinellas County!



The Polar Express Experience @ The Baycare Sound @ Coachman Park
Friday, December 13, 2024
4:30 PM - 9:00 PM



The Polar Express Experience is a **FREE** family-friendly event that includes a variety of games, activities, and crafts while enjoying falling snow on the plaza. It concludes with a **FREE** screening of the Oscar-nominated animated movie, *The Polar Express*, starring Tom Hanks.

Market Marie's Holiday Extravaganza @ Coachman Park
Saturday, December 14, 2024
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Shop local for your holiday gifts at Coachman Park at the "The Market Marie's Christmas Spectacular" brought to you by the 12 Days of Christmas - Clearwater Beach. Santa, Mrs. Claus, the Grinch, Cindy Lou Who and a festive pet PAWrade will be part of this month's Market!

Light It Up Clearwater: New Year's Eve Fireworks Show @ Clearwater Beach
Tuesday, December 31, 2024



Come and join us on New Year's Eve, relax with your toes in the sand, watch one of our world-famous sunsets, grab a bite to eat and then ring in the New Year with fireworks at midnight!

Our Best Holiday Wishes!

**May you be
Changed by love!
Filled with peace!
Touched by miracles!**



Avoiding Scams During the Holidays in 2024!



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
- ◆ Ignore emails and texts from people you don't know
- ◆ Research the company before giving them your personal info.
- ◆ Track deliveries through the 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 giveaway.



Common Scams To Avoid this Season:

1. Fake charities taking 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. Delivery notification texts scams
7. Grandparent scams
8. Social ads promoting fake items
9. Popular gifts at low prices
10. Holiday travel & online airfare scams



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.



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



Diabetes Educational Empowerment Program (DEEP) Virtual Classes

Mondays: December 16, 2024-January 20, 2025, 6pm-8pm

Fridays: December 27, 2024-February 7, 2025, 2pm-4pm

Join DEEP, a six-week program (once a week, two-hour classes) that teaches you how to manage diabetes through lifestyle changes including better nutrition and physical activity. The goal of the program is to empower you to take charge of your diabetes, avoid complications, and improve self-management skills.



Registration is required. To enroll or for more information, call (855) 269-4777 or e-mail at GetHealthy@baycare.org



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