

The 2023 Great Tornado Drill Winners Announced

Pinellas County Government employees participated in the 2023 Great Tornado Drill on February 8, with social media posts that included the hashtag #PCTornadoDrill to prove their dedication to tornado safety. As is traditional, a panel of judges from Communications and Emergency Management chose two of the best posts. This year's selection was difficult, as participants demonstrated stellar "duck and cover" techniques.

The Pinellas County Winners of the 2023 Great Tornado Drill are:

- [Human Resources](#)
- [Human Services](#)

Three winners were chosen from the public, and they will receive a NOAA Weather Radio. They are:

- Anita Clark
- Kacy Little
- Lake St. George Elementary School

A third category was added this year to award the best First Responder submission. The winner this year is Pinellas Park Fire Department.

Thanks to all who participated in the Great Tornado Drill. The public attention that it receives helps to educate more people about tornado safety. The drill gives everyone an opportunity to plan ahead, identify safe spaces to take cover in the event of a tornado, and practice emergency communications methods in classrooms, offices, and other daytime gatherings.

Information on how to stay safe during a tornado can be found at www.ready.gov/tornadoes.



Employees from Human Resources practice their duck and cover skills both from in the office and at home.



Employees from Human Services with their trophy.



Employees from Human Resources with their trophy.

 **Fredricka Kotey**
@FredrickaKotey
#PCTornadoDrill Pinellas County Human Services-Clearwater

Employees from Human Services run to take cover during the Great Tornado Drill.



2:43 PM • Feb 8, 2023 • 726 Views



2:43 PM • Feb 8, 2023 • 726 Views

Reminder: Complete DAPA By February 24

All employees need to complete their Disaster Assignment and Preparedness Assessment (DAPA) in [OPUS](#) by February 24. See [page 5](#) for more information.

Botanical Gardens and Heritage Village Host Pinellas African American Heritage Celebration



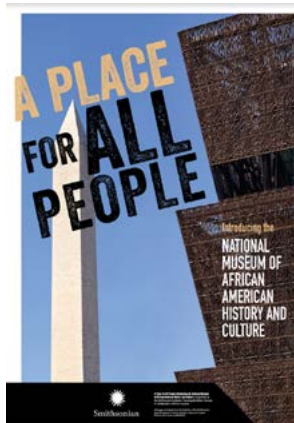
Back after nearly 10 years! The [Pinellas African American Heritage Celebration](#) (PAAHC) is a one-day festival at the Florida Botanical Gardens and Heritage Village in Largo on **Saturday, February 25 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Showcasing Black history and culture, the goal of this festival is to exhibit the diversity within Pinellas County. The event will highlight the many talents of the students within Pinellas County Schools, talented local artists, entrepreneurs, and restaurateurs.

Browse a mini-market of Black artisans, entrepreneurs, and businesses, and enjoy live performances, including jazz, gospel, and R&B. Experience both visual and performing art exhibitions by Pinellas County youth and local artists, and keynote speeches from local historians and politicians. Food trucks will be on-site, featuring African American-inspired cuisine, and new this year, a children's activity area.

The event is free to the public and all ages are welcome. Free parking is located at 12211 Walsingham Road, Largo and 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo.

In partnership with the PAAHC and in honor of Black History Month, **Heritage Village** will feature the exhibit *A Place for All People: Introducing the National Museum of African American History and Culture*, a commemorative poster exhibition celebrating the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Based on the inaugural exhibitions of the museum, the posters highlight key artifacts that tell the rich and diverse story of the African American experience. This exhibit is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with the museum and is currently on display in Heritage Village's Madeira Beach Cottage and will be there until **Sunday, April 30**. The exhibit is free to the public and open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.



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The Pen



Photos from previous Pinellas African American Heritage Celebrations

From Kimberly Crum, HR Director



Kimberly Crum
Director of Human Resources

It may seem too early in the year to talk about hurricane preparedness, but it is never too soon to be prepared. As County employees, we all serve a vital role during a disaster. To ensure that the County is prepared, all employees need to review and complete the Disaster Assignment and Preparedness Assessment (DAPA) from Emergency Management each year to lock in their roles during an emergency. This assessment ensures appropriate coverage in all areas of the County. I encourage you to complete your DAPA by the February 24 deadline if you haven't already done so. It's also critical that we each [make a personal preparedness plan](#) for ourselves and for our families.

Continuing in the spirit of disaster preparedness, I wanted to congratulate Emergency Management on another successful Great Tornado Drill. They were able to combine important education, "Duck and Cover" safety protocols, and make it a fun experience for citizens and departments to participate. I am pleased to share that your Human Resources team took home one of the department prizes and we will proudly display our trophy in our offices!

One of our key goals is to keep expanding benefit options for you and your family. We added five new voluntary benefits in the last two years and modernized our two new dental offerings this year. We are excited to partner with [Jet Dental](#) to bring pop-up dental clinics to multiple work sites across the County, making getting a dental checkup more convenient. See [page 4](#) for dates and locations.

If you are on the Pinellas County medical plan, the deadline to complete your [biometric screening and health assessment](#) this year has changed to November 30. I encourage you to complete both items early in order to save \$500 on your medical plan premium in 2024.

As February is Black History Month, I invite you to join me and members of your Human Resources team on February 25 at Florida Botanical Gardens for the [Pinellas African American Heritage Celebration](#). Black History Month goes beyond the history books to recognize the important stories of countless men and women who have made a difference in our world. I hope to see you at the Florida Botanical Gardens and Heritage Village as we support our many talented employees coordinating the festival.



Q. How do I view my total compensation?

A. Total compensation includes your annual wages, as well as benefits you receive from Pinellas County. To view your Total Compensation Statement, view our [OPUS Screenshots Guide](#). You can also view a [Total Compensation Statement Sample](#) to see what the statement entails.

Q. What do I need to do if I have secondary employment outside of Pinellas County?

A. Employees who hold an additional job(s) outside of Pinellas County need to submit a request in [OPUS](#) for outside employment. Once you log in, select *PIN Employee Self Service* then *Outside Employment*. Employees who do not have access to OPUS may use the hard copy form: [Request for Outside Employment or Enterprise](#). View our [Request for Outside Employment or Enterprise webpage](#) for more information, such as determining if there is a conflict of interest.

Q. How do I update my mailing address?

A. To update your address, log in to [OPUS](#) and select the *My Personal Information* tile or click the 3 lines in the top left, select *PIN Employee Self Service*, then click *Personal Information*. Click the *Update* button next to *Mailing Address* to make a change.

2023 Biometric Screening & Health Assessment Deadline Change

Due to Quest's reporting schedule and year-end processing requirements, complete your 2023 [biometric screening and health assessment](#) between **January 23 and November 30**. Employees who prefer the Physician Results Form are encouraged to upload, rather than fax, it **before November 1** to allow for longer processing time. A biometric screening scheduled directly through the Pinellas Quest portal is the preferred method, as it is quick, paperless, and always free. If you prefer to use the Physician Results Form and have your doctor order the blood work as part of your annual physical, you do not have to wait 365 days to schedule an appointment. The medical plan runs on a calendar year, which means insurance will cover the cost of the visit and preventive lab work any time during the year. For step-by-step instructions, see the [Direct-to-Quest Help Guide](#) and [Physician Results Form Help Guide](#).



Need to confirm you completed both steps in 2022? Use the [Completion Help Guide](#).

Email wellness@pinellas.gov or call (727) 464-3367, option 1 if you have questions.

YOUR TOTAL REWARDS

Health • Wellness • Retirement • Compensation

The Pen

Sign Up for Onsite Dental Clinic

We are excited to partner with [Jet Dental](#) to bring pop-up dental clinics to multiple worksites across Pinellas County, making getting a dental checkup more convenient.



Services provided include a full preventive appointment including X-rays, cleaning, and a comprehensive exam by a dentist, cavity fillings, and scaling and root planing (for gum disease). Jet Dental is in the Cigna network, so a preventive dental exam is covered at 100% for employees on the County's dental plan. Additional services are subject to the same co-pays and co-insurance as a traditional dentist visit. Employees not on the County's dental plan are encouraged to check with their insurer to determine if Jet Dental is part of their provider network. Each appointment typically lasts less than 1 hour.

Jet Dental will be at the following locations from 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.:

Public Works, March 23

22211 U.S. Highway 19 North, Clearwater

Annex Building, March 27

400 South Fort Harrison Avenue, Clearwater

Parks & Conservation Resources, April 6

12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo

Justice Center, May 2

14250 49th Street North, Clearwater

Solid Waste, May 30

3095 114th Avenue North, St. Petersburg

Express Scripts Partners With GoodRx

As of January 1, 2023, employees enrolled in the Express Scripts plan are automatically enrolled in a GoodRx plan which



combines the Express Scripts pricing with the GoodRx discount card. No action is needed on your part. Your prescription claims will be passed through the Express Scripts system to apply a lower price from GoodRx, if available. Present your Cigna ID card as usual which includes Express Scripts information. You will not receive an ID card from GoodRx.

Coming Soon: OnSpot Dermatology Mobile Bus

We are excited to partner with OnSpot Dermatology to bring a mobile dermatology bus to multiple Pinellas County worksites. Stay tuned for dates and locations.



2023 Benefits Partners

DENTAL

[Cigna](#)
(800) 862-3557

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)

[Cigna](#)
(800) 862-3557

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT (FSA)

[TASC](#)
(800) 422-4661

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT (HSA)

[HSA Bank](#)
(800) 357-6246

LIFE INSURANCE

[Securian Financial](#)
For questions, call Benefits
(727) 464-3367

MEDICAL/BEHAVIORAL/ MENTAL HEALTH

[Cigna](#)
(800) 862-3557

PRESCRIPTION

[Express Scripts](#)
(866) 544-9221

VISION

[EyeMed](#)
(866) 939-3633

VOLUNTARY IDENTITY PROTECTION BENEFIT

[AIP](#)
(800) 789-2720

VOLUNTARY LEGAL ASSISTANCE BENEFIT

[ARAG](#)
(800) 247-4184

VOLUNTARY SUPPLEMENTAL MEDICAL BENEFITS

[Aflac](#)
(800) 433-3036

Take Care of Yourself



In the [February To Your Health newsletter](#), you will find:

- Soul Food: Cuisine Steeped in Community, Family, Tradition, and Love
- Under Pressure
- Wellness Webinars & Events
- The Heart Truth: Salt vs. Sodium
- February Group Fitness Class Schedule

Annual Disaster Assignment and Preparedness Assessment (DAPA) Update Closes February 24

Have you completed your 2023 Disaster Assignment and Preparedness Assessment (DAPA) in OPUS?

All employees are required to update their assessments by February 24. Just like timecards, supervisors are notified of their employees' DAPA submissions. The supervisor must also review and approve each submission by the 24th.

Reminder: DAPA may be updated at any time during the year, as needed.

Every County employee is assigned as either Department Essential or County Essential to support Pinellas County during a disaster. Please discuss available positions with your supervisor if you are not sure which one to select.

Here's your action list:

- **Make a personal preparedness plan** for your home, family, and pets in case of a disaster. Visit the [Emergency Management website](#) to get started.
- **Discuss your disaster assignment with your supervisor.** There are three time periods to choose job assignments: Pre-Disaster, During-Disaster, and Post-Disaster. The time periods are detailed in the [Employee Job Aid](#) and the [Standard Operating Guide](#). Only positions that are active during the specific time period will be available to select. If you select a County Essential position, see [County Essential Disaster Assignments](#) for assignment descriptions. If you are requesting a full or partial exemption, be prepared to upload a signed/approved PDF copy of the [Request for Disaster Assignment Exemption Form](#).
- **Complete the DAPA assessment in OPUS by February 24.**

DAPA is quick and easy to complete. Here's what to do:

1. Log in to [OPUS](#) (users can access OPUS through their OKTA accounts or the provided link).

2. Select the Disaster Assessment tile or select from the PIN Employee Self Service.
3. You will see five sections to be completed.



Reminder: For employees who completed the 2022 DAPA, sections 1, 3, and 4 will contain your previously entered responses. Review these responses for accuracy in addition to completing sections 2 and 5 before submitting. If updates are needed in these sections, use the "Update" button to make changes.

- **Section 1: Disclaimer** Choose your response. If your response is "No", stop the assessment and speak to your supervisor.
- **Section 2: Disaster Assignments** Choose your disaster assignments for each time period. You must have a signed Exemption Form before selecting Exempt or Partial Exemption for any time period.
- **Section 3: Preparedness** Respond to the two questions regarding host homes and childcare.
- **Section 4: NIMS Training** You may have some, all, or no training. You may upload your training certificates before submission.
- **Section 5: Verify** Review your responses and, if correct, choose the 2023 year. **Phone Number** - Enter the phone number where you can be reached for disaster activation notifications.

Be sure to upload any supporting documents before submission to your supervisor.

Find instructions and additional information on [Emergency Management's Intranet](#). If you have any questions, please see your [Disaster Assignment Coordinator](#).

R'Club Childcare During Declared Emergencies

Attend an R'Club Virtual Open House Info Session: March 30 or April 4

- Pinellas County is pleased to partner again with R'Club Child Care, Inc. for childcare when schools and childcare services are closed for an extended period of time due to a major emergency or disaster situation.
- Once available, **R'Club will provide childcare services (ages 2 months through 12 and special needs children through age 22) for all employees.**
- **Childcare services are only effective during the period of recovery (in the case of a hurricane, it is after the storm subsides) during the state of emergency.** If an employee needs the services once the state of emergency is lifted and schools have resumed, they will need to work with R'Club directly to complete a regular registration.
- As the DAPA results are compiled, Department and County Essential employees who indicate the need for childcare will be contacted with more details on the partnership with R'Club and the opportunity to pre-enroll if interested. View the [R'Club Employee FAQ](#).
- Interested in signing up for R'Club services in 2023? To learn more and sign up, attend a virtual open house on [Thursday, March 30 from 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.](#) or [Tuesday, April 4 from 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.](#) R'Club staff will be available to answer questions. **Please register in advance.**



Employees' Advisory Council



to continually improve the Pinellas County classified employees' quality of work life

Become an Employee Advocate

The EAC needs your help. Would you like to be an [Employee Advocate](#) and help fellow employees resolve disputes?

You don't need special expertise—just a caring heart, a diplomatic manner and approval from your supervisor. Advocates are provided the necessary training.

The role of an advocate is to assist an employee with a grievance or disciplinary action. The advocate meets with the employee in person or by phone to listen and offer advice. If needed, the advocate does research, such as requesting personnel records, and attends disciplinary or appeal hearings to represent the employee.

Since advocates are employees who work full-time, it's understood that they will not always be available. With a rotation schedule, advocates only accept if their work

load permits. The more advocates in the program, the less often they will be called upon for help. Even when an advocate is assigned a case, the time load should not exceed three hours per week. Some situations will require only one or two phone conversations, while others may take more time.

The Employee Advocate Program is an important resource, and it depends on employees who are willing to help others. It's a great opportunity to assist your fellow employees and also to learn more about Pinellas County Government and sharpen your communication skills.

If you are interested in signing up, contact EAC Chair Lisa Arispe at (727) 464-4862 or by [email](#).

The Pen

Support Heart Health Awareness Month at Tax Collector Offices

This February, the Pinellas County Tax Collector offices have their hearts in a good place as they team up with the [Florida Heart Research Foundation](#) to raise awareness and funds for heart-healthy living.

Heart Health Awareness Month has been celebrated in Tax Collector offices for many years, promoting awareness about heart disease by raising funds for education and research here in Florida. Employees share heart-health facts, join in National Wear Red Day on the first Friday in February, and raise funds for the Florida Heart Research Foundation through customer donations and the sale of specialty Florida Heart merchandise.

Throughout February, the Tax Collector's Office is hoping to make their customers' hearts soar with a great selection of merchandise available for purchase such as sunglasses, socks, drawstring backpacks, cooling towels, bracelets, and more. All proceeds are sent directly to the Florida Heart Research Foundation for use in education and awareness efforts. Anyone who makes a voluntary contribution of \$1 or more will also receive a special thank you gift this month.

Customers will also be offered the option to switch to the Stop Heart Disease specialty license plate. The renewal revenue goes directly to the foundation for research, educational programs, and prevention grants. During

February, this plate will be eligible for a rebate of up to \$85 to cover most of the first-year fees.

"Our team always enjoys Heart Month because this partnership allows us to give back to our community, not only financially, but also by helping others make healthier, and possibly lifesaving, choices," Tax Collector Charles W. Thomas said.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), for both men and women, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S. Cardiovascular disease claims a life every 34 seconds. Heart disease costs our nation about \$229 billion each year.

The Florida Heart Research Foundation is an international leader in cardiovascular research and education. Since its founding in 1944, the foundation has focused on innovative research efforts to further understand heart disease and its causes, prevention, and treatment. It also funds heart disease education and prevention efforts like Heart Health Awareness Month.



Merchandise available at Tax Collector offices to support Heart Health Awareness Month

Kids Tag Art Pinellas Celebrates Local Students

On January 26th, the Pinellas County Tax Collector’s Office celebrated local 5th grade students and teachers at the 8th Annual Kids Tag Art Pinellas Awards Ceremony.

For the first time since 2020, students and teachers were celebrated in person instead of virtually while still offering a live stream of the event on YouTube. Pinellas County Tax Collector Charles W. Thomas, his team, members of the Pinellas County Schools Visual Arts Department, and a few VIP-level presenters celebrated the award-winning tag art designs. More than 400 students, teachers, and parents were present while awards were presented to over 155 students, including the top student and teacher artists of the year.



Lauren's Kids Sponsor winner, Daniel N. from Brooker Creek Elementary with Tax Collector Charles W. Thomas

“I am beyond excited that we were able to honor these students in a live ceremony again,” Thomas said. “Although the main purpose of the program is to raise money for local elementary art classrooms, this event is my favorite part of the program. It is truly rewarding to see the excitement on the students’ faces! It’s wonderful to be able to celebrate these students and their achievements.”

This program is a partnership between the Pinellas County Tax Collector’s Office, Pinellas County Schools, and generous community sponsors. Funds are raised for local elementary

school art classrooms through donations and by selling artwork – unique, front-facing license plates – designed by Pinellas County 5th graders and teachers. These plates

are available to [purchase online](#) with 100% of the proceeds returning to the participating art classrooms.

Out of over 2,300 unique entries, 154 were selected to receive an Award of Excellence by a judging panel of retired art teachers. Program sponsors were also invited to select student winners – either by choosing a favorite from the Award of Excellence designs or by submitting a fun theme for students to participate in from which the sponsor selects a winner. The third annual teacher art contest winners were also announced and celebrated at the ceremony.

The Tax Collector Choice Award, the highest award of the program, is personally selected by Thomas. This year’s winner was Lilyanna Gonzalez from Plumb Elementary. Lilyanna had a unique digital design of a frog, using different hues of green and skilled shading techniques.



Tax Collector Choice Award winning artwork by Lilyanna G. from Plumb Elementary

“Selecting a winner is never easy because there are so many amazing creations. However, I ended up selecting Lilyanna’s frog design because, not only does it remind me of the tree frogs we see here in Pinellas, but it’s obvious she spent a lot of time on this due to the attention to detail and all the great shading work,” Thomas explained. “She is clearly a very talented young artist, and I am honored to be able to recognize her accomplishment.”

Since its inception, more than \$280,000 has been raised by Kids Tag Art Pinellas for local elementary art classrooms and programs. The winning tags from each year are put on display at tax collector offices throughout the County.

Congratulations to all the winners! The [full awards ceremony](#) is available for the public to view.

The Pen

Employee Spotlight



Melissa Hughes

Position: Tax Operations Specialist

Department: Tax Administration – Tax Collector’s Office

How long with Pinellas County?
3 1/2 years

How long have you been in this position?
1 1/2 years

Have you had any other positions with Pinellas County?

Tax Technician at Gulf to Bay and North County branch offices.

Describe your job in 25 words or fewer: I handle all aspects of property tax for the Tax Collector. I assist customers with payments by mail, phone, and email.

Best part of job: The best part of the job is working with such amazing people. We have so much support from our co-workers and our leadership team!

Most challenging part of job: We have frequent process improvements and enhancements happening and that can be challenging at times. I try to keep a positive attitude about these changes because it shows that the Tax Collector is dedicated to forward motion and continuous improvement.

Most memorable moment? When I was at the Gulf to Bay office, I had a famous actor at my desk for a title and registration after moving to Florida. He was very nice and kind enough to take a couple of photos with us. I also had a day when I helped triplets get their driver licenses!

What do you do in your free time? I like to travel, go camping, watch movies, and spend time with my dogs (Aster & Idgie).

National Engineers Week 2023



Since 1951, the third week in February is celebrated as [National Engineers Week \(EWeek\)](#). The week is dedicated to raising public awareness of engineers' positive contributions to quality of life.

We hope you enjoy these employee spotlights as part of the celebration.

Employee Spotlights



Anita Wang

Position: Engineer 2

Department: Public Works – Capital Improvements

How long with Pinellas County?

I've been with the County almost 3 years, working in the Capital

Improvements division of Public Works, with a focus on stormwater engineering.

Describe job in 25 words or fewer: My job duties vary from day to day, but mainly I work with County staff and consultant engineers to ensure our capital projects have the proper drainage to support the County's commitment to flood protection and water quality. I also help coordinate our grant applications for state and federal funds.

Favorite County project so far: The Joe's Creek Restoration and Greenway Trail project is an ambitious regional capital improvement project with the underlying goal of improving the quality of life for our underserved residents in Lealman. I like it because of

what it's providing to the community and because it includes so many different engineering elements like drainage, environmental, transportation, safety, and sustainability. We are still in the early phases, but I think it's going to be great project for Pinellas County.

Best part of job: I get to work with very smart, kind, and highly competent folks in the industry, both internally and externally. Everyone gives their best during teamwork. Every day I get to learn something from someone, which makes the job quite fun.

Most memorable moment? When we hosted State grant reviewers at a field visit to Joe's Creek. We were able to show the reviewers our wide-ranging efforts from Public Works leadership to operational maintenance, all coordinated successfully within a very short timeframe. It really demonstrated the agility of the Public Works Department and everyone's willingness to help each other.

What do you do in your free time? I enjoy walking my dog and playing the piano.



Gunner Mitchell

Position: Civil Engineer

Department: Utilities

How long with Pinellas County?

4 1/2 years

Have you had any other positions with Pinellas County? Utilities Maintenance Worker, Management Intern, Engineering Technician 1, and Executive Assistant 1.

Describe job in 25 words or fewer: I work on projects related to pipeline replacement and rehabilitation, satellite leak detection, and the future of biosolids management with the development of the Regional Resource Recovery Facility.

Best part of job: My coworkers are a huge plus, but I mainly take pride in the fact that we are crucial to

ensuring Pinellas County distributes clean drinking water, while also doing the environmentally just task of collecting and treating wastewater to reclaim water standards.

Most challenging part of the job: Currently, the most challenging part of my job is learning the internal financial workings of our engineering projects. Thankfully I have a great resource of coworkers that are always willing to help and answer my questions.

Most memorable moment? My most memorable moment was working out in the field cleaning and televising County sewer mains for my first 7 months with the County. That line of work, to say the least, is unforgettable.

What do you do in your free time? Tend to my urban farm. I'm growing veggies, fruit, herbs, and will hopefully raise chickens soon!

The Pen

[Employee Spotlights continued from page 8](#)



Jeff Antonacci

Position: Engineer 3

Department: Public Works – Capital Improvements

How long with Pinellas County?

I have been at Pinellas County Public Works for 2 years 3 months,

having relocated from Springfield, IL where I worked for 30 years as a consultant, a contractor, and a design and traffic engineer for the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Describe job in 25 words or fewer: I am a Senior Transportation Engineer for Capital Improvements, managing the Pavement Preservation Program, as well as other roadway and drainage improvements.

Favorite County project so far: The Pinellas Trail South Gap project because it is helping to finish the final gap in the Pinellas Trail loop.

Best part of job: I enjoy identifying complex problems and successfully engineering solutions.

Most challenging part of the job: Ensuring that residents understand all the considerations and challenges that go into engineering capital projects.

Most memorable moment? Arriving at work my first day and looking out across Clearwater Bay from my office in downtown Clearwater. For someone that has lived in the Prairie State and Land of Lincoln his whole life that was simply amazing.

What do you do in your free time? I enjoy exploring my new home state, going to the beach year-round and attending baseball games in the spring and summer.

The Pen



Alyssa Thompson

Position: Civil Engineer

Department: Utilities

How long with Pinellas County?

2 years

Have you had any other positions

with Pinellas County? I started as a Work Planning Coordinator for the Utilities Engineering Division. I reviewed sanitary sewer CCTV videos and provided condition assessments on pipes and manholes for repair and rehabilitation contracts.

Describe job in 25 words or fewer: I manage infrastructure projects for department pump stations, testing laboratories, and water and wastewater treatment plants.

Best part of job: The best part of the job is that there is always something new to learn. Our work here covers a broad range of topics and we are always changing to adapt to the world today. I learn something new almost

every day, and I think that will continue for the rest of my career.

Most challenging part of the job: The most challenging part of the job is that every project is unique and sometimes challenges arise that I haven't dealt with before. It's important to adhere to the planned budget and schedule, so I have to decide what the best course of action may be. As a new engineer, I don't always have the answers, but I have a great support system in my department to guide me.

Most memorable moment? Any time I get to tour one of our facilities or learn what our maintenance and operations staff do in their roles. I always learn so much from them and it's fascinating to learn about the hands-on work that goes into wastewater treatment, water reuse, and providing clean drinking water.

What do you do in your free time? I enjoy reading, cooking, walking or biking local trails and parks, traveling, and trying new restaurants.

BCC Issues Engineers Week Proclamation

At the February 14 meeting, the Board of County Commissioners issued a proclamation recognizing the third week of February as Engineers Week.



Back row from left to right: Commissioner Chris Latvala, Commissioner Dave Eggers, Commissioner Charlie Justice, Commissioner Rene Flowers, and Commissioner Brian Scott. Front row from left to right: Engineer 3 Craig Osmanski (Utilities), Chair of the BCC Janet C. Long, and Engineer 3 Nancy Lamagna (Public Works).

Introducing the Office of Resilience & Asset Management

The Sustainability and Resiliency Program is now integrated into the Office of Asset Management. To reflect the new makeup of the department, the Office of Asset Management has been renamed the **Office of Resilience and Asset Management (RAM)**.

The Office of Resilience and Asset Management comprises three programs:

- The **Enterprise Asset Management Program** oversees a wide range of County resources, from street signs to bridges to County buildings. The program helps our departments implement County policies related to their assets and reports on the state of the County's resources.
- The **Energy and Water Conservation Program** champions efficient management and conservation of the County's energy and water resources by researching potential conservation projects, developing best management practices and providing support to County departments.
- The **Sustainability and Resiliency (S&R) Program** strives to make Pinellas County more resilient to current vulnerabilities and future conditions, promote the sustainable use of resources, and reduce our overall carbon footprint through internal practices and external community services.

County Administration chose to merge these three programs because their goals closely align and support each other. They will all be contributing to the County's Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan (SRAP).

The S&R Program will complete the SRAP this year. Part of the plan focuses on more efficient use of County resources, which are managed by the Asset Management Program. The Energy and Water Conservation Program also plays a key part – working toward the goal of reducing the County's total energy consumption and shifting to 100% clean, renewable energy.

For more information or questions regarding these programs, please contact the following team members, or access the [RAM SharePoint homepage](#).

- Jeremy Waugh, Director, Office of Resilience and Asset Management
- Steven Alston, Enterprise Asset Management Program Administrator
- Hank Hodde, Sustainability and Resiliency Program Administrator
- Kelly Grabovac, Energy and Water Conservation Program Administrator

County Saves Thousands By Converting to LED Streetlights

Pinellas County's switch to LED streetlights on several of our roads has saved the County nearly \$129,000 per year in electricity costs, according to a recent analysis completed by Pinellas County Energy and Water Conservation Program staff.

In 2017, the County's Public Works Department replaced more than 1,600 streetlights along major roads with energy-efficient, metered LED lights. Metered lights allow tracking of electricity use and costs.

Energy and Water Conservation Program staff analyzed data on nearly 200 of the lights to estimate total energy and cost savings. They found that the switch to more energy-efficient streetlights saved about 1.9 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year – about a 54 percent decrease in energy use. This not only saved nearly \$129,000 per year in energy costs but also reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing 290 gas-powered cars from the road for a year.

The analysis also found that converting to LED streetlights reduces the need for repairs and maintenance, which reduces the County's overall operations and maintenance

costs by about 48 percent. It's estimated that the return on investment per streetlight is about 1,744 percent!

The Energy and Water Conservation Program completed this analysis with the technical assistance and expertise of Public Works employees **Jeff Dyar, Matthew Withum, and Aaron Swartzbeck**. The streetlights in this study represent only a portion of Pinellas County's LED streetlights. To learn more about Pinellas County's efforts to reduce energy use, visit <https://pinellas.gov/energy>.

The Energy and Water Conservation Program would like to hear about, and track, other conservation projects across County operations. If your department is working on an energy or water conservation project, or if you have an idea for a conservation project, please let us know.



Your Learning Opportunities

Learn Today. Be Ready for Tomorrow.

Pinellas County supports a learning culture for all employees. For more information, visit [Organizational & Talent Development](#) or call the team at 464-3367, option 2.

Human Resources Learning Path Employee Spotlight Tim Walker

Are you looking for guidance to help you reach your career goals? Interested in a structured and blended learning program designed specifically for you? If so, the Organizational & Talent Development team would like to invite you to learn more about our Learning Paths Program.

Our Learning Paths Program offers participants the opportunity to pursue their career goals by completing a learning journey that aligns with their professional goals. Employees who are looking to enhance their real skills can choose from one of three learning paths.

Those looking to assemble a solid foundation of knowledge can get started with our Core Learning Path. If you are looking to acquire the necessary business competencies to prepare for a supervisory position, you'll be encouraged to join the Emerging Leader Learning Path. Individuals who are looking to sharpen their managerial skills should consider the Evolving Leader Learning Path.

All these paths offer the appropriate amount of knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to be successful. Flexible by design, these paths include a mix of instructor-led and self-paced learning opportunities using our online learning portal, ULearnIT.

Tim took advantage of this program early and started his Learning Path journey in October 2020 by submitting a [Learning Path Inquiry Form](#). After attending a one-hour information session and submitting a [Learning Roadmap](#), Tim was off and running.

He worked diligently to complete his Evolving Leader Learning Path in 18 months. Yet, Tim saw value in continuing and decided to pursue his Core Learning Path which he completed five months later. Lastly, Tim felt it was important to capture the trifecta of learning and turned his focus to finishing his Emerging Leader Learning Path three months later.

With the support of his leadership and steadfast dedication to his career goals, Tim was able to achieve a significant milestone of his career in just 26 months.

We caught up with Tim and members of his team to speak with them about how his accomplishments have positively enhanced the work that they do every day.

How long have you been with Pinellas County and in your current position?

Almost six years – I started as a Traffic Field Investigator in March 2017.

Describe your job in 25 words or less:

I perform field inspections and traffic studies relative to traffic safety. We use traffic analyzers that monitor

vehicle speeds/volumes, deploy cameras to observe motorist and pedestrian movements, as well as performing other observational studies to determine if additional traffic calming equipment is warranted.

Why did you begin your Learning Path journey?

I wanted to develop my personal and professional growth to enable me to prepare for future opportunities.

What is your most memorable moment during your Learning Path journey (for example: an a-ha moment, an activity, a strategy)?

I found the *Myers-Briggs Type Indicator* course interesting and was surprised to find how much my self-assessment aligned with my psychological “type”. *Powerful Public Speaking* was a course that was intimidating at first but left me with better presentation and influencing skills.

Which acquired skills, knowledge, or abilities have you utilized the most?

My position requires a lot of citizen interaction so courses like *Dealing with Difficult People* and *Conflict Resolution* have helped me learn to recognize different conflict styles and keys to resolving issues.

Have you shared your Learning Path journey with anyone on your team? In your organization?

I try to share aspects of what I have learned with my co-Traffic Investigator. The Learning Paths are now part of our Career Ladders, so I can offer advice on classes that may suit their career goals.

Would you recommend Learning Paths to others? If so, why?

Yes. I would always encourage someone to continue their education and self-improvement journey, not only for fostering new career prospects but for personal development for your own growth, as well.

James Cannon, Engineering Specialist Supervisor, had this to say about Tim:

What changes in Tim's performance have you observed?

I would say he's more confident in his decision making and stronger at completing his tasks. Tim's always been a motivated individual wanting to learn and excel. He may approach his challenges a bit differently now and always strives for excellence.



Human Resources Learning Path Employee Spotlight continued from page 11

How has Tim demonstrated what he learned while completing his Learning Paths?

He has gotten stronger with his written correspondence and attention to detail has noticeably improved. We have received several kudos from citizens that he has interacted with as part of his investigations.

Has he shared his new knowledge/skills with others on your team? If so, how?

Tim works closely with our other Traffic Investigator Kevin Ware, and I am confident that he shares his knowledge and skills with Kevin. I am fortunate to have them both.

Jeffrey Thompson, Engineering Section Manager offered these observations:

What changes in Tim's performance have you observed?

I've only known Tim for less than a year now, but I have observed Tim over this time as one who is genuinely interested in improving his knowledge, skills, and competencies with each passing day.

How has Tim demonstrated what he learned while completing his Learning Paths?

Tim has demonstrated what he has learned. I meet with Tim, as well as the entire Traffic Engineering staff, on a bi-weekly basis. The investigations Tim completes requires him to:

- Listen to customer complaints to understand what needs to be investigated (which sometimes involves dealing with difficult people)
 - Manage his time wisely while completing the investigation
 - Clearly communicate the results
 - Persuade management on next course of action
- Tim does all the above extremely well.

Has he shared his new knowledge/skills with others on your team? If so, how?

Tim shares his new knowledge/skills with others on his team by doing everything mentioned above extremely well, as his actions speak louder than his words.

Thomas Washburn Transportation Section Manager had these closing words about Tim:

Tim has been a great addition to the County and Public Works. He is organized and very good at explaining complicated issues to the public – we often get kudos from citizens regarding their interaction with him. Tim always takes the opportunity to increase his knowledge and skills, and his completion of these learning paths is a clear indication of that. Congratulations, Tim!

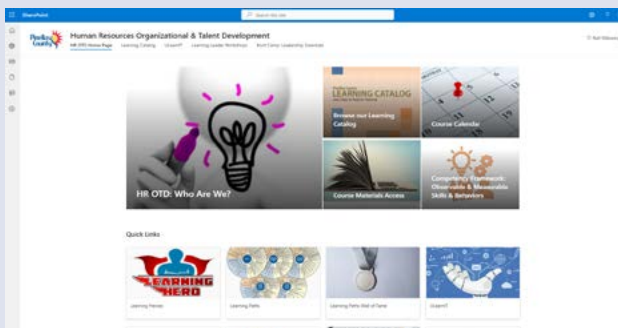
The Pen

New, Modernized SharePoint Site

Did you know Organizational & Talent Development's SharePoint site was updated? Why not [take a look?](#)

Our modernized 2023 Learning Catalog allows you to view courses alphabetically, by Learning Path, by platform, and by competency. We still have the Featured Courses listing for offerings coming up soon with available seats. If you'd rather browse our courses by date, why not click on our Course Calendar to get a monthly view. Any way you view our catalog you can click on a course title to find out more – when it is, how long it is, what the purpose and learning objectives are, and quick links to the course materials and EBS (OPUS) registration.

Watch for our new site navigation video...coming soon! Be sure to update any shortcuts, bookmarks, or favorites and click "Not Following" at the top of the page to ensure you are now following and you have quick access.



THE RECORD KEEPER

Retention Codes

When packing your records for storage, it is very important to have records with similar dates and retention code durations in the same box. For example, if a box has one record with 25-year retention but the rest of the records only have 3-year retention, the entire box would need to be kept for 25 years. That means that records that should have been destroyed after 3 years would still be available and utilize storage space.

If you have questions about retention codes, please contact Records Management at (727) 464-5555.



Consumer Protection Department Spotlight

What services are offered by the department?

Consumer Protection is a division within the Human Services Department. We work to find solutions that restore fairness and ensure legal compliance through investigation, regulation, and education. We have four core areas of responsibility:

Mediation of Consumer Complaints

- Our goal is to assist the parties in reaching a satisfactory resolution to their civil dispute. The mediation process is conducted through telephone contacts and informal hearings which are held at our offices, the consumers residence, or the business location.

Criminal Investigation of Consumer Fraud

- Criminal charges may result in punishment for the offender and possible monetary reimbursement through court-ordered restitution. We work directly with the State Attorney's Office Consumer Fraud division for prosecution of these cases.

Regulatory oversight and enforcement of 12 County ordinances

- License: Bingo, High Prescribing Health Clinics, and Adult Use establishments
- Monitor: Towing, Human Trafficking Public Awareness Signs, Tenant Bill of Rights, Price Gouging during a State of Emergency, Charitable Solicitations, Moving Services, Fortunetelling, Drug Paraphernalia, Infectious Disease Elimination Program

Consumer Education

- Educational presentations on a variety of consumer topics are given to local schools, civic groups, and at community events. Our goal is to prevent you from becoming a victim of a scam.

What projects is the department currently working on?

- **Human Trafficking Public Awareness sign compliance visits** - hundreds of locations are visited each year to ensure the required Human Trafficking awareness signage is properly displayed at cosmetology salons offering nail services, adult use establishments, and locations offering massage services. The signs alert employees and the public about the existence, remedies, and protections related to human trafficking.
- **Leveraging new financial analysis software** that will aid in reducing the time needed to analyze financial statements obtained during the course of consumer fraud investigations.
- We are preparing for **National Consumer Protection Week** (March 5-11, 2023)! We'll have Investigators available at multiple locations throughout the County conducting presentations on how to protect yourself from fraud, identity theft, and scams.

What are some achievements of the department within the last year?

- The Department implemented a new record management system utilizing the Accela platform which has allowed us to automate many processes. The new system also simplified the online complaint submission process for consumers.
- Consumer Protection conducted 77 outreach and/or speaking engagements to provide residents with information on a variety of consumer topics.
- In August, Pinellas County adopted a new Tenant Bill of Rights ordinance to protect vulnerable renters. Consumer Protection is responsible for investigating complaints alleging lawful source of income violations. The ordinance prohibits discrimination against renters based on their source of income, including housing vouchers.
- Four investigators obtained their Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) certification. In the fraud fighting industry this is a highly regarded designation which requires a minimum of two years of fraud-related work, completion of the CFE coursework to learn more about financial transactions and fraud schemes, law, investigation, fraud prevention and deterrence, and then pass the CFE exam.
- In the summer of 2022, a major case was resolved in court involving a pool contractor who allowed their license to expire and continued to take large deposits from over 25 consumers, with little to no work completed. The investigation lasted many months, involved the interviews of numerous witnesses and the review of thousands of documents. This resulted in criminal charges being filed against the contractor for scheme to defraud, unlicensed contracting, and failure to secure worker's compensation coverage. The contractor plead guilty to all of the charges, was ordered to 20 months in jail and an additional 10 years of probation. They also agreed to pay back victims over \$56,000 in restitution.

What do you enjoy about working in the department?

- **Julie Longen (Investigator):** What I love most about my job is the fact that I am able to really help people who have been victimized. In a perfect world, by investigating complaints and providing prosecutors with the information that they need to bring the perpetrators of a crime to justice, I play a role in



Consumer Protection employees

Consumer Protection Department Spotlight *continued*

helping to make the victim whole again both financially and by participating in the criminal justice process. Even though we are all very good at our jobs, it doesn't always work out that way in the end. But, it sure is awesome when it does!

- **Greg Parker (Investigator):** First, I enjoy the great relationship our department has working together and the assistance we provide to Pinellas County residents. Second, the longevity of our staff makes it feel like a family. We all celebrate and help each other with work and life challenges. Finally, the variety of ways and people we assist, not only Pinellas County residents, but all the people who visit and patronize our businesses.
- **Angela Van Hook (Investigator):** I have a great group of co-workers that I'm happy to also call friends. I love being able to help people, especially those most vulnerable to crime and scams.

What do you want people to know about the department that most people don't know?

- All the investigation and education services provided by Consumer Protection are free!

- Consumer Protection has the authority to investigate consumer transactions countywide. This allows our office to have a big picture view of what's happening in Pinellas County.
- We investigate complaints that are civil or criminal in nature, which can include home improvement, home solicitations where consumers are visited by salespeople who often use high pressure or aggressive sales tactics, telemarketing scams, fraudulent motor vehicle sales, billing disputes, and other types of fraud.

How can employees reach out to the department?

- You can call and speak to an Investigator at (727) 464-6200
- Email us at consumer@pinellas.gov
- File a complaint with us at our [website](#)
- Visit us at the Pinellas County Justice Center (co-located in the State Attorney's Office) 14250 49th Street North, Suite 1000, Room 2, Clearwater

BCC Issues Human Trafficking Prevention Month Proclamation

At the January 31 meeting, the Board of County Commissioners issued a proclamation recognizing the month of January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month.



*Back row from left to right: Commissioner Chris Latvala, Commissioner Dave Eggers, Vice Chair of the BCC Kathleen Peters, Commissioner Charlie Justice, Commissioner Rene Flowers, and Commissioner Brian Scott.
Front row from left to right: Chair of the BCC Janet C. Long, Chief Investigator Doug Templeton (Pinellas County Consumer Protection), Task Force NGO Supervisor Misty La Perriere (Selah Freedom), and Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator Major Nathaly Patterson (St. Petersburg Police Department).*

Don't Fall for Google Voice Scam



Before you buy or sell something online, you should beware of the Google Voice scam. Google Voice is a free online phone service used to make phone calls and send/receive text messages. To sign up for Google Voice, prospective users must provide a verification code sent via text message by Google. Scammers try to convince you to share your verification code with them to create a fake account in your

name, which they then use to scam others. With the Google verification code, a person can take control of your telephone number, and send/receive calls and texts pretending to be you. It could also prevent you from receiving calls and texts.

There are different variations of the scam, but all have the same devastating outcome to the victim.

- **Buyer or Seller:** Scammers pose to be interested buyers or sellers on online marketplaces. They express interest in purchasing/selling the item to you, but first want you to verify your identity through Google Voice by having you provide them your Google verification code.

- **Good Samaritan:** Posing as a good samaritan, the scammer contacts you stating they found your lost pet, long lost family member, or stolen jewelry. To make sure they are contacting the correct person, they ask you to confirm your name and phone number using Google Voice and your Google verification code.
- **For Rent:** Scammers contact individuals that are advertising rooms for rent. The scammer then asks the person to provide the Google verification code to prove they are legitimate.

To avoid falling victim to a Google Voice scam, never share any verification code with someone you don't know or trust, especially if you didn't initiate the contact. If your telephone number is claimed by a scammer, visit [Google Voice](#) to learn how to reclaim your number.

For more information on scams, to file a complaint, or check the complaint history of a business, call Pinellas County Consumer Protection at 727-464-6200 or visit [Consumer Protection](#).

The Pen



National Consumer Protection Week: March 5-11

Pinellas County Consumer Protection is preparing for National Consumer Protection Week 2023, which takes place March 5 through March 11. National Consumer

Protection Week (NCPW) is a coordinated campaign that encourages consumers nationwide to learn more about the rights, responsibilities and resources available to them as consumers. Consumer Protection joins federal, state and local government agencies nationwide to celebrate NCPW. In recognition of the week, events have been planned, including educational presentations and a free shredding event.

For more information and a list of the events, call Pinellas County Consumer Protection at 727-464-6200 or visit [Consumer Protection](#).

Upcoming Blood Drives



Did you know that one blood donation can save up to three lives? You can donate whole blood, red blood cells, platelets or plasma. Please consider donating! Walk-ins are welcome or [schedule an appointment](#).

Airport

14700 Terminal Boulevard, Clearwater
March 16, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

STAR Center

7887 Bryan Dairy Road, Largo
March 28, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Find it Fast: HR from A to Z



Our [A to Z Index](#) was viewed 23,000 times last year!

- Find what you need on the Human Resources website quickly and easily. Access the A to Z link on the left-hand side of any Human Resources web page.
- New items are added to the listing frequently. Let us know if you have items to add by emailing AskHR@pinellas.gov.

Welcome Aboard

New employees listed are for January 2023.

Board of County Commissioners

Administrative Services

Bryan Best Claims Adjuster 1
 William Carrington HVAC Mechanic
 Lillian Flores Administrative Support Specialist
 David Lyle Electronics Specialist 1
 Mark Toffler Fleet Mechanic 2

Animal Services

David Anderson Animal Services Representative
 Hannah Borries Animal Services Representative
 Karri Hopkinson Animal Services Assistant
 Allison Rogers Animal Services Assistant

Building & Development Review Services

Guy Shoemaker Development Project Manager 1

Communications

Telma Bruzzo Project Coordinator-Project Management

Housing & Community Development

Lindsey Latorre Community Development Specialist 2

Human Services

Edwin Elliott-Cherry Veteran Services Officer 1

Office of Management & Budget

Samantha Wexler Grant Worker C

Parks & Conservation Resources

Amanda Austin Office Specialist 1
 Eric Boettcher Environmental Specialist 1
 Kimberlynn Martin Curator of Education
 Zachary Moran Park Ranger 1

Public Works

Nathan Lane Maintenance 1
 Nicole Maloney Environmental Specialist 2
 Sunney Mayfield Environmental Specialist 1
 Damon Petters Field Inspector 1
 Areeee Smith Section Manager 2

Safety & Emergency Services

Caleb Baker 911 Public Safety Telecommunicator
 Jeffrey Bonar 911 Trainee Under-Fill
 Alexander Gonzalez 911 Trainee Under-Fill
 Kenneth Grimes Department Administrative Manager
 Magdalyn Herd 911 Trainee Under-Fill
 Jessica Jeffery 911 Trainee Under-Fill
 Tracy Kimball 911 Public Safety Center Supervisor 1
 Adara Mahdi 911 Trainee Under-Fill
 Logan Ottenmiller 911 Trainee Under-Fill
 Sabrina Pezzula 911 Trainee Under-Fill
 Jordan Reiersen 911 Trainee Under-Fill
 John Taylor 911 Trainee Under-Fill

Utilities

Herbert Estes Water/Wastewater Plant Operator 1
 Hailey Kammerer Work Planning Coordinator
 Dalton Martin Trainee Under-Fill A
 Jamaya Mcswain Utilities Maintenance Specialist 2
 Marcos Oliveira Education Support Specialist
 Olivia Rehberger Laboratory Technician
 William Roberts Elec/Mech Technician 1

Business Technology Services

Victor Che Application Development, Senior
 Ryan Olshefski Endpoint Specialist
 Michael Pearlman Manager Information Technician
 Luke Schlachter Endpoint Specialist
 Robert Thoits Endpoint Analyst

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Bridgette Cason-Reece Record Specialist 1
 Jack Christmann Fiscal Records Specialist
 Payton Dearsman Records Specialist 1
 Rebecca Tamboe Record Specialist 1

Property Appraiser's Office

Calvin Kimura Property Appraiser 2

Tax Collector's Office

Marla Ferguson Tax Technician 1
 Michelle Fowler Tax Technician 1
 Edward Fox Tax Technician 1
 Andrew Graziano Tax Technician 1
 Kevin Hine Tax Technician 1
 Chardeau Newton Tax Technician 1

The Pen



January New Employee Orientation via Zoom



Promotions

Promotions listed are for January 2023.

Board of County Commissioners

Administrative Services

Jeff Crandall.....Electronics Specialist 2
 Katie Janssen.....Manager of Purchasing Support
 Paige Walton Manager of Purchasing Operations

Airport

Jodey Stambaugh.....Craftworker 2

Animal Services

Dana Whitaker.....Animal Control Officer 1

Building & Development Review Services

Danielle Batt Code Enforcement Officer 2
 Andrew Devereux.....Mechanical Inspector 3
 Leila KheireddineSection Manager 1

Contractor Licensing

Lisa Ossie.....Administrative Support Specialist 2

Office of Management & Budget

Audrey Ables..... Budget & Financial Management Analyst 1

Parks & Conservation Resources

Joe Garces.....Park Ranger 1

Public Works

John Taylor Project Coordinator – Project Management
 Eric Vittoria.....Trainee Under-Fill B
 Ryan Whitaker..... Automotive Equipment Operator 2

Safety & Emergency Services

Scott Miller..... 911 Public Safety Center Supervisor 1

Utilities

Stephen McClellandCustomer Services Analyst

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Lisa Enos..... Records Specialist, Senior
 Don Robinson.....Business Analyst

Human Resources

Danielle Holland..... Department Administrative Manager

Tax Collector's Office

Geetha Chandrasekaran..... Tax Technician 3
 Colby Cole..... Tax Technician 3
 Christopher Cordero Torres Tax Technician 3
 Helen KendallManager, Tax Collector
 Carrie Little Tax Technician 3
 Faye Lopez..... Tax Technician 3
 Britney Niraj..... Tax Technician 3
 Kellie Vanpatten Tax Technician 3

The Pen

Couples Celebrate Their Love During the Clerk's 17th Annual Valentine's Day Wedding Ceremony

Couples eagerly awaited their chance to say “I do” on the most romantic day of the year. The [Florida Botanical Gardens](#) was a beautiful backdrop for couples as they professed their love for one another. During the Clerk's 17th Annual Valentine's Day Wedding Ceremony, 25 couples were married, and 26 couples renewed their wedding vows.

In addition to the group wedding ceremony, love was in the air across our Clerk's office locations as 24 weddings were officiated across our downtown Clearwater office and North County and St. Petersburg branch locations.

Clerk employees Leena Delli Paoli and Meagan Collins serenaded couples with romantic love songs during the ceremony.

“I enjoy meeting couples participating in the event for the first time and seeing returning couples who've made this their own Valentine's Day tradition,” said Ken Burke, Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller. “It's a day I look forward to every year, and I'm grateful for every couple who shared their special day with us and we wish them a lifetime of love and happiness.”

Following the ceremony, couples celebrated with bundt cakes and refreshments provided by local sponsors.

Photos from the event can be viewed on the [Clerk's website](#). A video recording of the ceremony will soon be available on the [Clerk's YouTube channel](#).



Service Anniversaries

Service anniversaries listed are for January 2023.

35 YEARS



Joseph Morrissey
County Attorney's Office

30 YEARS



Sue Cimmino
Parks and Conservation Resources



Timothy Closterman
Supervisor of Elections

Unavailable for Photo

30 Years

Lou Rivera
Clerk of the Circuit Court

25 Years

Joseph DeMoss
Public Works

20 Years

Sean Hannigan
Public Works

25 YEARS



David Wion
Business Technology Services

20 YEARS



Emily Magyar
Parks and Conservation Resources



Deborah Reed
Utilities

3 TO 15 YEARS

15 Years

Jay Hester..... Tax Collector's Office
Jason Jones..... Utilities

10 Years

Joseph Boggs..... Public Works
Richard Kamensky Clerk of the Circuit Court
Joseph Lofaso..... Business Technology Services
Wayne Longhurst Solid Waste
Marla Overton..... Clerk of the Circuit Court
Celina Poppa..... Clerk of the Circuit Court
Lori Poppler..... Clerk of the Circuit Court

5 Years

Dillon Bean..... Safety and Emergency Services
Derrick Bennett Public Works
Rhonda Bowman Public Works
Cory Burgauer..... Parks and Conservation Resources
Justin Carboni..... Public Works
Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes..... Public Works
Brian Derr..... Communications
Jershalim Espinoza Utilities
Denzel Lopez Clerk of the Circuit Court
John Lubick Safety and Emergency Services
Krupa Patel..... Human Services
Rajgopal ReddyReddy Business Technology Services

Alexandra Rieman..... Public Works
Markell Riley..... Clerk of the Circuit Court
Eric Teitelbaum..... Parks and Conservation Resources
Derek Weaver..... Administrative Services
Clinton Whitman Public Works
Debra Whittaker .. Building & Development Review Services

3 Years

Vanessa Aarons..... Public Works
Nicholas Arnold Clerk of the Circuit Court
David Bonnemann..... Safety and Emergency Services
Elyssa Dean Tax Collector's Office
Kallie Gradascovic..... Tax Collector's Office
Christine Joyner Public Works
Robin Kluth Clerk of the Circuit Court
Mikki Kolokithas Safety and Emergency Services
Jonathan Mucci..... Tax Collector's Office
Nousheen Rahman..... Pinellas Planning Council
Desire Ramos Clerk of the Circuit Court
Erin Rickenbach..... Tax Collector's Office
Daniel Schutzsmith Business Technology Services
Jennifer Scism Tax Collector's Office
Kshitish Seet Business Technology Services
Carol Taylor Tax Collector's Office
Angela Votaw Clerk of the Circuit Court

Retirements

Retirements listed are for January 2023.

Over 38 Years



Ronald Medlock
Fleet Mechanic 2,
Fleet Management

Over 34 Years



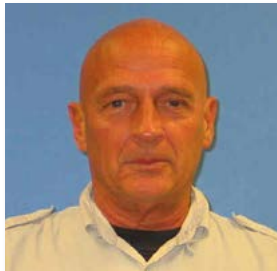
John Boscarino
Program Coordinator,
Business Technology Services

Over 20 Years



David Hansen
Project Coordinator-Technical,
Utilities

20 Years



John Hobson
Animal Control Officer 2,
Animal Services

Over 18 Years



Carl Graham
PAO Exemptions Technician,
Property Appraiser's Office

18 Years



Stella Mansfield
Administrative Support Specialist 1
Communications

Over 14 Years



Eugenia Nikolopoulos
Court Adjunct,
Justice Center

Retirees Unavailable for Photo

Over 38 Years

David Browning, *Craftworker, Administrative Services*

Over 35 Years

John Segrete, *Building Division Chief, Building & Development Review Services*

Over 34 Years

Sharon Klapka, *Property Records Supervisor, Property Appraiser's Office*

Over 23 Years

Marie Ruiz, *Records Specialist 2, Clerk of the Circuit Court*

REPCO News

The next REPCO lunch meeting will be March 13, 2023 at Applebee's Restaurant located at 5110 East Bay Drive in Clearwater. The meeting begins at noon; please arrive early to order your meal prior to the start of the meeting. A representative from City of Largo Police Department, Problem Oriented Policing Unit, will be providing a presentation on crime prevention. If you have any questions, contact Rudy Garcia at rdgarcia@verizon.net or (813) 855-3466.

The Pen Extra

Your Source for Employee Info

Employee and family news including kudos, weddings, births, graduations, memorials, and classified ads. Send your news to employee.communications@pinellas.gov or call (727) 464-3367.

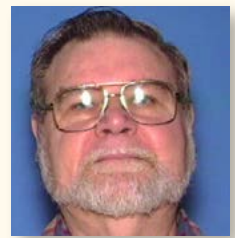
Gone but not Forgotten

The Pen is saddened to report the passing of the following retirees:



Gerald Heckathorne, 82, of St. Petersburg, passed away on January 17, 2023. Heckathorne retired in 2003 as an Automotive Equipment Operator 3 with Parks & Conservation Resources after over 40 years of service with Pinellas County Government. [View his obituary.](#)

Larry Jenkins, 84, of Dunedin, passed away on January 15, 2023. Jenkins retired in 2004 as an IT Senior Systems Technician with Business Technology Solutions after 33 years of service with Pinellas County Government. [View his obituary.](#)



Arthur McKay, 74, of Clearwater, passed away on December 29, 2022. McKay retired in 2011 as a Plumbing Inspector 2 with Building & Development Review Services after 28 years of service with Pinellas County Government. [View his obituary.](#)

Brenda Paulus, 79, of St. Petersburg, passed away on December 29, 2022. Paulus retired in 2010 as a Claims Adjuster with Risk Management after 25 years of service with Pinellas County Government. [View her obituary.](#)



Lora Strong, 65, of Spring Hill, passed away on December 30, 2022. Strong retired in 2019 as an Engineering Technician 2 with Building & Development Review Services after over 29 years of service with Pinellas County Government. No obituary was found.

Laura Todd, 68, of Allenhurst, GA, passed away on January 1, 2023. Todd retired in 2016 as a Board Reporter with the Clerk of the Circuit Court after 3 years of service with Pinellas County Government. [View her obituary.](#)



Andy Wilson, 68, of Clearwater, passed away on January 26, 2023. Wilson retired in 2021 as an Extension Specialist, Senior with Extension Services after 34 years of service with Pinellas County Government. No obituary was found.

Welcome



Charlotte Elaine Collins, 8 lbs. 4.2 oz. and 21 inches long, was born on January 31. Charlotte is grandmother Tonya Collins' (Clerk of the Circuit Court, Criminal Court Records) third grandchild and first granddaughter.