

## Recognizing Our Telecommunicators



Every year during the second week of April, telecommunications personnel in the public safety community are honored. This week-long event, [National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week](#), initially set up in 1981 by the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office in California, is a time to celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public. It is a week that should be set aside so everyone can be made aware of their hard work and dedication.

Our telecommunicators answer calls for help within 10 seconds of someone ringing into the 9-1-1 system and provide the caller with critical information and access to emergency responders. They save lives every day while dealing with the utmost stressful times for our citizens. They provide compassion and understanding, no matter the situation. **Our telecommunicators answer approximately 572,000 9-1-1 calls per year and about 209,000 non-emergency calls per year.**

Thank you for all the sacrifices you make to create a better and safer world for the public.

## Employee Spotlights



**Tony Glasz**

**Position:** Public Safety Telecommunicator

**How long with Pinellas County?**

I've been with the County and in this position for 8 years.

**Describe job in 25 words or fewer:**

Helping people with police, fire, and/

or medical emergencies or non-emergencies in a calm, professional, and caring way.

**Best part of job:** Knowing that you have helped someone.

**Most challenging part of the job:** 12 hour work days, 44 hour work weeks.

**Most memorable moment?** Reading the kind words of recognition for my work that led to receiving the Morrioni 9-1-1 Telecommunicator Award.

**What do you do in your free time?** I spend time with my wife and son, go to theme parks, hike, take vacations, watch TV and movies, walk dogs at the SPCA, and play video games.

**What do you think is the most rewarding part about being a 9-1-1 telecommunicator?** The knowledge of doing an important public service that sometimes assists in saving lives.



**Joseph Motil**

**Position:** Public Safety Telecommunicator

**How long with Pinellas County?**

I've been with the County and in this position for 1.5 years.

**Describe job in 25 words or fewer:** Fast-

paced, challenging, rewarding!

**Best part of job:** Being part of an excellent team. We have some really wonderful and dedicated people as part of the entire 9-1-1 team.

**Most challenging part of the job:** Trying to calm down a really traumatized and excited caller during critical events like cardiac arrest or domestic in progress. These calls are very time-critical.

**Most memorable moment?** Receiving recognition from the Department Chaplain in reference to a serious medical event concerning a family in his parish.

**What do you do in your free time?** Spend time with my family, go to the beach, and bike.

**What do you think is the most rewarding part about being a 9-1-1 telecommunicator?** Having spent 20+ years as a FireMedic with Tampa Fire Rescue and now on the other side of the equation in the 9-1-1 Center, the most rewarding part is when someone just simply says, "Thank you". We see/hear people at some of the worst times of their lives and when you make a difference and they say those two words, it means the world.

[National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week 2023 Employee Spotlights continued from page 1](#)



**Denise Rostek**

**Position:** Public Safety Telecommunicator

**How long with Pinellas County?** I've been with the County and in this position for 2 years.

**Describe job in 25 words or fewer:**

A telecommunicator receives emergency and non-emergency calls from the citizens. Telecommunicators obtain vital information from people in need of assistance. They are responsible for efficient response to emergency and non-emergency calls once the call is processed.

**Best part of job:** The best part of the job is knowing you are getting help to the person in need whether it be for law, fire, or medical emergencies.

**Most challenging part of the job:** Obtaining pertinent information in a timely manner from a caller that is in distress.

**Most memorable moment?** A great outcome in helping a mother with her child that was choking.

**What do you do in your free time?** I enjoy spending time with my children and grandchildren. I also enjoy boating and the beach.

**What do you think is the most rewarding part about being a 9-1-1 telecommunicator?** Being able to save lives by giving instructions to a family member or bystander to assist with CPR until paramedics arrive.

## BCC Issues National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Proclamation

At the March 28 meeting, the Board of County Commissioners issued a proclamation recognizing the week of April 9-15, 2023 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.



Back row left to right: Commissioner Chris Latvala, Commissioner Dave Eggers, Vice Chair of the BCC Kathleen Peters, Commissioner Charlie Justice, and Commissioner Brian Scott  
Front row from left to right: Andrea Jordan, Lead Public Safety Telecommunicator; Chair of the BCC Janet C. Long; and Judith Weshinsky-Price, 9-1-1 Public Safety Center Director

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## Public Service Recognition Week Coming Up May 7-13

During Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW), join us in recognizing the amazing work of more than 3,000 dedicated employees who work for Pinellas County Government. Celebrated since 1985, PSRW is a nationwide public education campaign honoring the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees. Each year, the President and Congress designate the first full week of May (May 7-13, 2023) as PSRW and activities are held nationwide in celebration of public employees who put service above self.



The Pen

## County Employees Eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

If you are employed by a government (federal, state, or local) and certain non-profit organizations, you may be able to receive student loan forgiveness under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

Pinellas County employees with at least 10 years of service may be eligible for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program which forgives the remaining balance on direct student loans after 120 qualifying monthly payments under an approved repayment plan. The 10 years of employment and payments do not have to be consecutive. The U.S. Department of Education determines eligibility.

Upon request, Human Resources will complete the employer information on page 2 of the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness form](#) to verify your employment with Pinellas County. Visit our webpage for [steps to follow](#).

For questions on the program or form, visit [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 433-3243.



**Q. Am I able to do my own employment verification?**

A. Yes, Pinellas County employees may enter an employment verification release in OPUS. This is the fastest option for [employment verification](#) as the information is sent from OPUS to the requestor immediately upon completing the release. View the

[OPUS Employment Verification Release Guide](#) to view the steps including screenshots.

**Q. What are class specifications and how do I view them?**

A. A class specification is a broad description that encompasses the general duties of various jobs within the classification. The specific job or position description is maintained by the department, as it contains more detailed information about the duties of the individual position. Class specifications for positions under the Pinellas County Government Unified Personnel System, which includes the 10 Appointing Authorities, can be viewed on the [Class Specifications webpage](#).

The Pen

## Food Trucks on Wednesdays



Connect with your co-workers during Food Truck Wednesdays at two County locations.

You can order at the truck, or pre-order up to 3 days ahead, pay and select a pick-up time using each location's unique link. The cuisine rotates each week for variety. You can also sign up for email reminders of which truck is coming each week using the links below.



### Clearwater Campus

Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
400 South Fort Harrison Avenue

Enjoy your lunch in a shady picnic area in front of the Annex building. View the [Clearwater Campus Food Truck Schedule](#) and pre-order if desired.

### STAR Center / Raytheon

Wednesdays 10:30 - 1:30 p.m.  
7887 Bryan Dairy Road, Largo

West parking lot near Raytheon main entrance. View the [STAR Center/Raytheon Food Truck Schedule](#) and pre-order if desired.

## Office is Now Microsoft 365



### What's happening?

- The Office app has changed to the Microsoft 365 app.
- The web app is accessed at a new URL, [www.microsoft365.com](http://www.microsoft365.com), instead of the former URL, Office.com.
- Users of the Windows and mobile versions of the app will use the Microsoft 365 app represented by a new icon instead of the Office app represented by the Office icon.

### When did this happen?

- Changes began rolling out to customers of the Office web app (Office.com) in November 2022. This was part of a phased rollout, so not every customer received the update at the same time.
- Office.com has recently begun automatically redirecting to microsoft365.com.

### What about Office mobile apps?

- The Office mobile apps for iOS and Android and the Office app for Windows have updated to become the Microsoft 365 app.
- In November 2022, users of these Office apps started seeing in-product messaging notifying them of the upcoming change.
- In January 2023, these apps started automatically updating to become the Microsoft 365 app.
- Users will see the new Microsoft 365 icon on their device home screens instead of the Office icon.



# YOUR TOTAL REWARDS

Health • Wellness • Retirement • Compensation

## OnSpot Dermatology Bus at Multiple Worksites



In partnership with [OnSpot Dermatology](#), we are bringing a dermatology bus to multiple worksites across Pinellas County, making getting a skin

checkup more convenient. Services provided include skin cancer screening; diagnosis and treatment for skin conditions including psoriasis, eczema, melanoma, lesions, moles, rashes, and more; biopsy and cryotherapy procedures; and Mohs surgery for skin cancer.

A routine skin screening is typically brief (under 15 minutes) if you've never had atypical moles or skin cancer. Other issues or treatments may take longer.

OnSpot is in-network for employees on the Pinellas County medical plan. Please check with your provider if you are on another plan.

The OnSpot Dermatology Bus will be at the following locations on the following dates:

- **Parks & Conservation Resources, April 25**  
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo
- **Clearwater Courthouse, May 1 (NEW)**  
315 Court Street
- **Public Works, May 2 (NEW)**  
22211 U.S. Highway 19 N., Clearwater
- **Solid Waste, May 4**  
3095 114th Avenue North, St. Petersburg
- **Tax Collector, South County, May 10**  
2500 34th Street North, St. Petersburg
- **Clerk of the Circuit Court, North County, May 17**  
29582 U.S. Highway 19 N., Clearwater
- **Tax Collector, Mid County, June 1**  
13025 Starkey Road, Largo

For more information and to register, visit [OnSpot Dermatology Bus](#).

## 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.** 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. **You can also complete the health assessment at any time during the year.** For step-by-step instructions, see the [Quest Help Guide](#) and [Physician Results Form Help Guide](#).

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



## Sign Up for Onsite Dental Clinic



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

- **Justice Center, May 2**  
14250 49th Street North, Clearwater
- **Solid Waste, May 30**  
3095 114th Avenue North, St. Petersburg

For more information and to register, visit [Jet Dental](#).

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### 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 [April To Your Health newsletter](#), you will find:

- Meet Our New Wellness Technician, Cole Martin
- Achoo! "I'm Not Sick, it's Just my Allergies!"
- Wellness Screenings, Webinars & Events
- Healthy Nutrition, Healthy Skin
- Group Fitness Class Schedule

## Meet Our Temporary Claims/Customer Service Representative



Lisa Rhea is a Claims/Customer Service Representative employed by our medical administrator, Cigna, to assist Pinellas County employees. Lisa will be assisting employees temporarily until a permanent representative is selected.

### **What is your background?**

I have over 28 years of experience in the benefits field. Before working for Cigna, I was a Human Resources Benefits Manager for 12,000 employees for 6 years. I love my job and am known for pursuing every possible avenue to resolve an employee's question or claim.

### **How can you help employees?**

I assist Pinellas County employees with navigating Cigna benefits by resolving claims issues and providing resources related to medical, dental and pharmacy coverage.

### **What is something you practice daily?**

Gratitude/prayer and walking.

### **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

Time with grandchildren, hiking, whitewater paddling, and

volunteering at the SPCA. Also in the last 5 years, I have developed a love for plants. I've been known to rescue plants and propagate more. At one time I had over 75 plants inside and outside my house.

### **How can employees contact you?**

I can be reached by telephone or email, or if preferred, set up a virtual appointment. For your privacy, please **email only from your personal email address.**

- Email: [PinellasClaims@cigna.com](mailto:PinellasClaims@cigna.com)
- Phone: (727) 464-4555, option 1
- Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **Can you tell us a little more about yourself?**

I live in east Tennessee and love everything about this state – I love to travel when I can through the Appalachian and Blue Ridge mountains. I've had a dog for 13 years who is now a senior and am currently fostering a dog from an overcrowded shelter. I have a daughter who is married and lives in Charleston, SC with two adorable grandchildren.

See our other [Cigna Onsite Representatives](#).

## Clerk's Office Hosts Annual Operation Green Light Event

On March 24th, the Clerk's Office held its annual driver's license reinstatement event, Operation Green Light, to help drivers save money and get back on the road. The event aims to help customers pay overdue court and traffic fines on cases while saving up to 25 percent on collection fees. During the event, eligible customers could inquire about payment plan options to have their license reinstated. Following the event, over 500 cases were placed on a payment plan, and over 150 citizens were deemed eligible for reinstatement. Special thank you to all Clerk employees who worked to ensure the event was successful.



## HR: Here to Help You

### PHONE

Call the HR main line at **(727) 464-3367**:

- **Press 1 for Benefits, Wellness or Retirement**, or
- **Press 2 for all other inquiries** and one of our team of HR Representatives will assist you.

### EMAIL

Email us at [AskHR@pinellas.gov](mailto:AskHR@pinellas.gov), and one of our team members will help you. For benefits inquiries, please email at [employee.benefits@pinellas.gov](mailto:employee.benefits@pinellas.gov).

### SURVEY

Providing excellent customer service is our priority. After getting assistance from one of our staff or our website, please take a brief Customer Satisfaction Survey at [www.pinellas.gov/hr/survey](http://www.pinellas.gov/hr/survey).

**Human Resources**  
*Helping U Succeed*

## Department of Solid Waste Achieves APWA Accreditation

The [Department of Solid Waste](#) (DSW) received accreditation from the [American Public Works Association](#) (APWA) for its commitment to continuous improvement of solid waste operations and services to the community.

APWA accreditation is earned by showing compliance with best practices for public works agencies.

The accreditation process is rigorous — employees worked for over 2 years to gather information needed and satisfied over 230 criteria. To earn this accreditation, DSW’s policies and procedures were reviewed and verified by APWA, proving DSW is committed to staying at the forefront of new advances. For example, to maintain

accreditation, DSW is required to review its 30-year [Solid Waste Master Plan](#), which outlines 28 strategies to help reach the vision of zero waste to landfill by 2050, every 4 years.

Department of Solid Waste Director Paul Sacco said, “Achieving APWA accreditation validates the Department of Solid Waste’s culture to promote excellence in the operation, programs, and our employees. I’m thankful to every team member that supported this effort. It was a heavy lift that required the strengths of many. Specifically, I want to acknowledge and express my appreciation to **Rick Clarke**, Solid Waste Program Supervisor, who was the department’s APWA champion throughout the entire submission process.”

### BCC Awards the Department of Solid Waste

At the April 11 meeting, the Board of County Commissioners awarded the Department of Solid Waste the APWA Accreditation Award. They also awarded **Rick Clarke**, Solid Waste Program Supervisor, with the Employee Recognition Award.



Back row left to right: Commissioner Chris Latvala, Commissioner Dave Eggers, Vice Chair of the BCC Kathleen Peters, Commissioner Rene Flowers, and Commissioner Brian Scott  
Front row from left to right: Rick Clarke, Solid Waste Program Supervisor; Chair of the BCC Janet C. Long; and Paul Sacco, Department of Solid Waste Director



Back row left to right: Commissioner Chris Latvala, Commissioner Dave Eggers, Vice Chair of the BCC Kathleen Peters, Commissioner Rene Flowers, and Commissioner Brian Scott  
Front row from left to right: Barry Burton, County Administrator; Rick Clarke, Solid Waste Program Supervisor; and Chair of the BCC Janet C. Long

## Public Works Employees Receive Awards From APWA

Public Works Deputy Director **Paul Dean** was named APWA West Coast — Professional of the Year, Administrative Management.

Additionally, Public Works is proud to announce that 3 employees have received scholarships from the APWA West Coast: **Eduardo Estremadoyro** (Survey & Mapping), **Alexandra Rieman** (Environmental Project Coordinator), and **John Rieman** (Transportation).

Public Works Deputy Director Paul Dean (left) receives the Professional of the Year, Administrative Management Award from APWA West Coast



Eduardo Estremadoyro (left) receives a scholarship from APWA West Coast



John Rieman (left) and Alexandra Rieman (right) receive a scholarship from APWA West Coast

The Pen



## Tax Collector Offices Make a Splash With Donate Life Florida

This April, also known as National Donate Life Month, Tax Collector employees are raising awareness and funds for a very important cause — lifesaving organ donation — by partnering with [Donate Life Florida](#).

To help increase awareness and encourage residents to join the cause throughout the month, Tax Collector employees will wear fun Donate Life “Make a Splash” t-shirts on designated days, collect donations for the cause, and highlight the Donate Life specialty license plate, currently available as a pre-sale voucher. The hope is that in making a splash throughout April, more customers will register as organ donors.

“Our organization has partnered with Donate Life for many years now and we take a lot of pride in being able to assist with their crucial, lifesaving cause,” said Pinellas County Tax Collector, Charles W. Thomas. “We know organ donation can enhance and even save many lives, and we

are happy to support this cause again this year.”

According to Donate Life, approximately 115,000 men, women, and children are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants. For 2021, 70% of Florida counties

had donor registration rates of 50% or higher (including Pinellas!), and 96% of all registrations for 2021 came from driver license transactions. This is why Tax Collector offices make such great partners with Donate Life.

Find more info about the Pinellas County Tax Collector’s Office at [pinellastaxcollector.gov](http://pinellastaxcollector.gov) or on their Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages, @PinellasTC.



Customers can purchase pre-sale vouchers for the Donate Life specialty license plate.

The Pen

### Employee Spotlight



**Rebecca Fleshman**

**Position:** Tax Technician 1

**Department:** Tax Collector’s Office, North County Branch

**How long with Pinellas County?**

I have been with the Tax Collector’s Office for 2 years and 3 months.

**Describe job in 25 words or less:** My job is to assist the citizens of Florida transition through their many phases of life while they are living here.

**Best part of job:** The best part of my job is that I can encourage someone who may be in a negative mood or having a hard time in life. My training enables me to explain the whys/how’s of their concerns which creates a better understanding and a better overall visit. At other times, simply doing my job quickly and efficiently is all the customer needs to brighten their day or uplift their spirit.

**Most challenging part of the job:** It can be challenging when customers are in a bad mood and their concerns cannot be resolved in that moment, but I always try to empathize with them.

**Most memorable moment?** Memorable moments are made every day but if I had to narrow it down to just one, I would highlight a man who was licensed to drive despite having a prominent disability. He owned multiple cars and wanted them all registered with a personalized plate with a variation of his name. When I was successful in completing the task, he gave me the biggest smile and expressed his pleasure. His reaction reminded me that it’s truly the little things in life that make the biggest difference to our customers during difficult times.

**What do you do in your free time?** I love traveling abroad and having this career has given me the time and resources to do more of it with and without my children.

### Find it Fast: HR from A to Z



Our [A to Z Index](#) was viewed over 29,000 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 webpage.
- New items are added to the listing frequently. Let us know if you have items to add by emailing [AskHR@pinellas.gov](mailto:AskHR@pinellas.gov).

### Career Opportunities

Employees who introduce their friends or family members to career opportunities at Pinellas County may earn up to \$1,000 cash through our [Employee Referral Program](#).

Here’s a tip for current employees—every Tuesday we email a list of postings open only to current employees. Look for the email or bookmark the [Internal Career Opportunities](#) webpage.

Follow Pinellas County Government Careers on social media by clicking the icons below:



## National Volunteer Month 2023

April is designated as National Volunteer Month to recognize volunteers across the United States who dedicate their time to helping others. The Volunteer Services staff would like to express our sincere appreciation for the important contributions our volunteers and interns have made to our organization. Their willingness to use their talents and abilities has allowed us to continue serving the citizens of Pinellas County without interruption. Our volunteers and interns continue to contribute close to 7,000 volunteer hours a month.

**If you see a volunteer in your area, please express your thanks.** Their continued commitment, passion, and efforts make a difference in the community.



If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering with Pinellas County, visit [Volunteers in Pinellas](https://www.pinellas.gov/volunteers) for more information. If you would like to host a volunteer or intern in your area, contact Volunteer Services at [volunteers@pinellas.gov](mailto:volunteers@pinellas.gov).

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

## Volunteer Spotlights



### Michael Ballard

**Department:** Environmental Management

**How long have you been a volunteer with Pinellas County?** Over 4 years.

**How did you get started volunteering with Pinellas County?** I heard about

the program through a family friend. I started getting into photography at the time and wanted to be more involved in my community. I started helping by working on social media. Since then and 400+ hours later, I have gotten to work on water sampling, photographing numerous events and wildlife, helping gather materials for the new Water Atlas website, storm drain marking, as well as helping with the construction of the Ozona seawall.

**What motivates you to give back to the community?**

I believe that supporting our community is not only an important thing to do, but a necessary activity to create healthy connections. I think that by helping others, I am also able to help myself by gaining experience and skills. The feeling that you get when learning something new, completing a project, or even lending a hand to someone motivates me, as well.

**What is your favorite part about volunteering with Pinellas County?** My favorite part about volunteering

with the County is that you really feel welcomed when you are there. I am diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum and know that for a lot of people feeling welcomed and having the right accommodations can be a challenge. The County works with you individually and continually aims to better their programs to promote an inclusive workplace.

**Most memorable moment while volunteering with Pinellas County:** My favorite memory has to be in

2019 when I had the opportunity to shadow a Pinellas County worker visiting an active project site for the Lake Seminole project. It was fascinating to get an on-the-ground view into how complex and large-scale this operation is. The number of people and departments involved, to ensuring that locals in the community have the opportunity to give feedback, shows how involved the County is when it comes to helping preserve our local estuaries and bodies of water.

**What would you say to someone who is thinking about volunteering with Pinellas County?** I would say that it

is a great option for those who are looking to increase their knowledge, gain hands-on experience, and network with leaders in your community.

### Nick Hughes

**Department:** Environmental Management

**How long have you been a volunteer with Pinellas County?** Nearly 1 year.

**How did you get started volunteering with Pinellas County?** I heard about an internship opportunity with Environmental Management from another County employee who had worked with Julie Sims in the past.

**What motivates you to give back to the community?**

Gaining experience and connections in the environmental field while also enjoying the work I have the fortunate chance to do.

**What is your favorite part about volunteering with Pinellas County?** In the past when I had better

availability, it seemed like every time I came in there was something entirely different to work on. Now, while I only work with macros (which I love), it still seems fresh with cool new inverts to see under the scope.

**Most memorable moment while volunteering with Pinellas County:** Getting audited for water sampling

with Mark and Ali and being able to be a second on land runs.

**What would you say to someone who is thinking about volunteering with Pinellas County?** I would highly

recommend it, as the wide variety of experiences that the County has provided to me have been invaluable in helping me learn more about the environmental field and what kind of work I would like to do when I graduate.



[Volunteer Spotlights continued from page 8](#)



**Karen Lacorte-Nies**

**Department:** Parks & Conservation Resources, Florida Botanical Gardens

**How long have you been a volunteer with Pinellas County?** 17 months, 553.3 hours to date.

**How did you get started volunteering with Pinellas County?** I visited the Pinellas County website and spoke personally with the Pinellas County Volunteer Coordinator and the Guest Experience Manager at the Florida Botanical Gardens.

**What motivates you to give back to the community?** Preserving our valuable natural habitat for all to enjoy is key to a better quality of life. I want to offer my extensive business background to support the preservation of our natural resources and expand the use of our beautiful

County park system with programs that support education and conservation.

**What is your favorite part about volunteering with Pinellas County?** Helping guests enjoy their experience and elevate their appreciation for why conservation is so important.

**Most memorable moment while volunteering with Pinellas County:** An 8-year-old girl came to my welcome desk so excited because she wanted to show me a butterfly larvae that was on her hand. She wanted to “teach me” about the life of a butterfly!

**What would you say to someone who is thinking about volunteering with Pinellas County?** It is a very rewarding way to spend a day or a couple of hours that will enrich your life!

The Pen



**Margaret Rosar**

**Department:** Parks & Conservation Resources, Brooker Creek Preserve

**How long have you been a volunteer with Pinellas County?** Since July of 2015.

**How did you get started volunteering with Pinellas County?** Shortly after moving to Pinellas County, I started attending classes and going on hikes at Brooker Creek Preserve. I was really impressed by the knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff members and volunteers. A Brooker volunteer who was in my YMCA yoga class encouraged me to become a volunteer.

**What motivates you to give back to the community?** We are fortunate to have this large wilderness area in our densely populated County. I’m proud to play a role in the efforts to showcase and protect the preserve.

**What is your favorite part about volunteering with Pinellas County?** My favorite part is interacting with visitors of all ages. I enjoy meeting people who come from different states and countries. I also enjoy chatting with the locals who are repeat visitors.

**Most memorable moment while volunteering with Pinellas County:** One of my encounters with a family in the Education Center is quite memorable. They told me that a loved one had recently died, and that the preserve was one of their favorite places. They said it was comforting to walk the trails and view the Education Center exhibits, which touched my heart.

**What would you say to someone who is thinking about volunteering with Pinellas County?** I would tell prospective Pinellas County volunteers that volunteering is fun, educational, and very fulfilling!



**Julie Wade**

**Department:** Parks & Conservation Resources, Brooker Creek Preserve

**How long have you been a volunteer with Pinellas County?** 14 years

**How did you get started volunteering with Pinellas County?** I attended a

guided hike at Brooker Creek Preserve and immediately wanted to join the team and become a volunteer.

**What motivates you to give back to the community?** We’ve been given this beautiful world and it’s up to all of us to take care of it and pass it on the best we can!

**What is your favorite part about volunteering with Pinellas County?** Helping and inspiring young people to appreciate and take care of the natural resources we have.

**Most memorable moment while volunteering with Pinellas County:** Seeing the excitement in children when they discover something new about their world.

**What would you say to someone who is thinking about volunteering with Pinellas County?** Do it, do it, do it!

# Mentoring Opportunities for Employees Under County Administration

Pinellas County employees have a strong history of community support. Employees are permitted to volunteer in the community during work hours using paid administrative leave, if their schedule allows, with approval from their supervisor and department director.

If interested, complete a [Community Involvement Volunteer Program Request Form](#) and submit it to your supervisor for approval.

The following are approved volunteer activities:

- [5,000 Role Models of Excellence](#) — Meet with a group of male students to develop social, ethical, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth through academic support, resources, activities, and guidance.
- [Girlfriends of Pinellas County](#) — Meet with a group of female students to develop self-discipline, self-esteem, self-reliance, and leadership skills through academic support, resources, activities, and guidance.
- [Lunch Pals](#) — You can be the inspiration, laying the foundation and building blocks of hope through mentoring. Become a Lunch Pal Mentor in a Pinellas

County school. Meet with a student in person for 30 minutes once a week at lunchtime. It's easy, fun, and impactful.



- [School-to-Work with Big Brothers Big Sisters](#) — School-to-Work is a three-way partnership between the local school districts, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay, and our corporate and community partners to provide one-to-one mentoring in the workplace for high school juniors and seniors to help improve graduation rates.
- [Take Stock in Children](#) — Meet with a student in grades 6-10 who will receive a four-year scholarship at graduation. Students will benefit from the additional presence of a caring, consistent, and committed adult to encourage their academic success.

For more information, visit the [Community Involvement Volunteer Program SharePoint page](#) (internal link for employees).

The Pen

## Night at the Ballpark

BayCare Ballpark  
601 N. Old Coachman Road,  
Clearwater



Enjoy a fun night out at the ballpark on **Saturday, June 17** with family, friends, or co-workers at a discounted rate. The game is at 6:30 p.m. and gates open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15.50 per person (children 4 & under are free) and can be purchased in advance by calling Dan Madden at (727) 712-4403 or the day of the game at window #2 at the west box office off of Old Coachman Road. Your Pinellas County ID is not required—simply identify yourself as part of the Pinellas County group.

Your tickets include seating in the Hot Corner Cafe, food and drinks from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., and \$3.00 draft beer. Enjoy post-game fireworks!

## 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](#).

### Clearwater Courthouse

315 Court Street (west parking lot)  
**April 25, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

### STAR Center

7887 Bryan Dairy Road, Largo  
**May 25, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

### Tax Collector, South County

2500 34th Street North, St. Petersburg  
**May 17, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

## The Pen

A monthly publication by  
Pinellas County Human Resources

**Would you like to put something in the Pen?**

[Submit News to the Pen](#)

[Submit a Classified Ad to the Pen](#)

Contact us with questions at  
[employee.communications@pinellas.gov](mailto:employee.communications@pinellas.gov).

## Property Appraiser to Host Circle of Heroes Dive Trip



Pinellas County Property Appraiser Mike Twitty will be leading a group of scuba divers to the Circle of Heroes Veterans' Memorial, the world's only underwater Veterans' memorial, located off the coast of Clearwater.

County employees and their family and friends are invited to join.

The trip is planned for **Saturday, May 27** at 8 a.m. This is a two-tank trip, so this will include a second dive site. Book your trip directly with the operator at [2 Tank Scuba Dive Trip](#). When booking, be sure to include the group name *PCPAO* to ensure that everyone is put on the same boat. You can also learn more about the [dive operator](#). The boat leaves the dock from 198 Seminole Street in Clearwater at 8 a.m.

**All divers must hold an Open Water scuba diver certification.**

### Pricing:

- 2-Tank Trip (Circle of Heroes & second dive site) – \$125 (Includes weights, no tanks)
- Full Equipment Package no Wetsuit – \$50 (Includes air tanks, BCD, regulator set with dive computer, mask, fins & snorkel)
- Full Equipment Package with Wetsuit – \$60 (Includes air tanks, BCD, regulator set with dive computer, mask, fins, snorkel & wetsuit)
- 2 Aluminum Air Tanks – \$20
- Wetsuit – \$15

Note: in addition to booking with the operator, all Pinellas County Government divers will also need to sign the waiver from Pinellas County Risk Management. After booking, send an email to [PAOcommunications@pcpao.gov](mailto:PAOcommunications@pcpao.gov) with your name and the names of any guest divers in your group for a headcount. You will be sent the waiver form to complete and return.

## Beware of Rental Property Scams

Finding the right rental property within your budget can be challenging. While considering location and cost, you should also consider that the rental listing may be a scam. Have you ever found a rental listing that seemed too good to be true? Behind that posting, there is likely a scammer waiting to take advantage of you. Scammers often advertise rentals that don't exist or aren't available to trick people into sending money or giving out personal information. Here's what you should know before you start your search.

**Multiple listings** — Look out for multiple listings on the same property. Scammers often copy listing details or hijack a real rental or real estate listing, then change the email address or other contact information and place the modified ad on another site. Often the property is for sale and the scammer lists it as a rental. **What to do** — Search the listings you're interested in to see if they appear elsewhere online and if it contains the same contact information.

**Price is way below** — Everyone loves a good deal, but if a property is listed well below market value, there's something wrong. Rental scammers will often list a property at a low price to get prospective renters interested. **What to do** — Research rental prices in the desired area for similar size properties/units and amenities that you are looking for as a comparison.

**Deposits** — To secure the property, scammers will pressure prospective renters to pay a deposit and first month's rent. Red flags should go up if you're asked to pay by cash, gift card, cryptocurrency or send a wire

transfer. These forms of payment are all the same as sending cash and there is no way to accurately trace the payment or get the money back. **What to do** — Often properties have a website with a resident portal where you pay your rent online. Otherwise, consider paying by credit card, personal check, or money order, so you have a record of where your money went.



**Not available to show the property** — Scammers have numerous reasons why they're not available to show you the property, but the real reason is they don't have an actual rental property. **What to do** — You should be able view the property before making any kind of payment or providing personal information and request a tour before submitting a rental application.

If you've fallen victim to a rental scam, report it to your local law enforcement agency. You can also report fraudulent listings to the site(s) where the listing is posted.

For more information on how to protect your personal information, 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](#).



# 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.

## Grow With Pinellas County Government

Source: [Indeed](#)

Even if you're completing your role's assigned duties, you can further take control of your professional life by actively managing your career. This process involves establishing goals relevant to your skills and advancing your professional development. By implementing successful career management strategies, you can secure the job you want and enjoy other benefits like increased job satisfaction and a healthy work-life balance.

### What is career management?

Career management is the process of optimizing your professional development and growth. It requires you to be proactive and capitalize on opportunities instead of relying on your manager or colleagues to help you achieve your goals. Career management usually begins by outlining the goals you want to achieve. Then, you can evaluate your professional skills and create a plan that allows you to develop your expertise.

### Why is managing a career important?

Career management:

- Supports continuous learning
- Promotes healthy work-life balance
- Encourages professional advancement
- Gives you a competitive advantage
- Fosters career satisfaction

### Steps for managing a career

Managing a career requires goal setting, strategic planning and regularly assessing your progress. The steps below outline how to apply these elements to manage your career more effectively:

1. **Identify your long-term goals.** Consider what kind of work or role interests you as a long-term career. Identify what you want your professional life to look like in the future.
2. **Create a plan.** Knowing your long-term aspirations can help you set a measurable goal that supports advancement and development in your professional life. After setting your goal, create smaller objectives or milestones that help you progress towards your goal.
3. **Participate in advancement opportunities.** Take advantage of any opportunities that support your development and advancement. For instance, take advantage of any internship, volunteer or skill development opportunities that can enhance your experience and add to your qualifications.

4. **Use the right tools.** When you need assistance or additional support as you develop in your career, take advantage of any resources and tools leaders, coaches or mentors provide.
5. **Learn new skills.** Learning from others in your area of interest can give you different perspectives on your goals and your overall development. Support can also give you valuable insight into different strategies you can apply to reach objectives and achieve your goals.
6. **Complete additional training.** Complete professional development and training programs or any additional education you need to move towards your long-term goal.
7. **Measure your progress.** When you set your goal initially, create a timeline for the milestones you meet that support your achievement.
8. **Make adjustments.** One of the biggest benefits of managing your career development is that if you experience an undesirable outcome, you can make adjustments to how you accomplish objectives.

### Tips for managing a career

As you create a plan for your professional growth, consider the following points for additional insight into effectively managing your career:

- **Ask for constructive feedback.** As you learn more about your desired career field, ask for regular feedback from your supervisors or team leaders.
- **Find unique opportunities.** Learning about different classifications in your career field can give you the insight you need to create objectives that you're excited to work towards.
- **Seek leadership roles.** Take on leadership roles at work or in team projects to develop your ability to collaborate, delegate, organize, plan and direct others in a professional setting.
- **Reflect on your progress.** Evaluate your progress regularly to understand where you can apply different skills or strategies that help you improve and develop. For example, if you give a presentation at work, take time to reflect on the effectiveness of your delivery by considering aspects like your communication and interpersonal skills.

Want to know more about how to take control of your career within Pinellas County Government? Attend [Managing Your Career](#) (internal link) on April 25 to learn strategies to turn your career planning into actionable goals.

# Welcome Aboard

*New employees listed are for March 2023.*

## Board of County Commissioners

### Administrative Services

Brenda Leigh.....Procurement Analyst Assistant  
Edward Sliney .....Craftworker 1  
James Wareham .....Craftworker 1

### Building & Development Review Services

Ethan Blatt..... Environmental Specialist 2  
Chelsea Carter ..... Environmental Specialist 1  
Robert Dryden ..... Building Plans Examiner

### Communications

Chelsea Damthongmivanh.... Administrative Support Specialist

### Convention & Visitors Bureau

Sierra Arana..... CVB Sales Representative

### County Commissioners' Office

Kelly Loude..... Executive Assistant 1

### Human Services

Catherine Sharp.....Human Services Case Manager 1

### Economic Development

Benjamin Hyde.....HVAC Systems Technician

### Parks & Conservation Resources

Jarek Johnson..... Maintenance Crew Leader  
Christophoros Spiliotopoulos .....Park Ranger 1

### Public Works

Daniel Battle ..... Maintenance 1  
Steven Burnett ..... Professional Surveyor and Mapper  
Patrick Climo ..... Tree Trimmer 1  
Dizzmond Kelly.....Spray Technician  
Daniel LeBerth ..... Mosquito Control Technician 1  
Benjamin Magno..... Mosquito Control Technician 1  
Dan Mirabile .....Section Manager 3  
Sarah Nappier ..... Environmental Specialist 1  
Maria Platow ..... Administrative Support Specialist  
Savira Solomon ..... Maintenance 2  
Timothy Williams..... Maintenance 1  
Tamond Wright..... Automotive Equipment Operator 1

### Safety & Emergency Services

Laureen Ahern .....911 Telecommunicator Trainee  
Jennifer Barlow .....911 Telecommunicator Trainee  
Breanna Bodine .....911 Telecommunicator Trainee  
Joseph Brownlee-Carpenter.....911 Telecommunicator Trainee  
Trinity Clem .....911 Telecommunicator Trainee  
Angela Husted..... Application Analyst  
Mariah Malcolm .....911 Telecommunicator Trainee  
Justin McGreevy .....911 Telecommunicator Trainee

### Utilities

Bob Barry..... Project Coordinator-Administrative  
Jason Corcoran..... Electrical/Mechanical Technician 1  
Robert Gundrum ..... Trainee Under-Fill A  
Scott Johnson ..... Budget & Financial Management Analyst 2  
Synchi Matthews..... Trainee Under-Fill A  
Steven Mitchell..... Trainee Under-Fill A  
Wendi Skinner..... Customer Services Specialist

## Business Technology Services

Mark Bolden ..... Application Developer, Sr.

## Clerk of the Circuit Court

Angela Antonacci.....Fiscal Records Specialist  
Madyson Barber.....Customer Information Specialist 1  
Richard Bogue-Varea .....Fiscal Records Specialist  
Jacquelyn Boudreau.....Fiscal Records Specialist  
Kiley Carlin.....Customer Information Specialist 1  
Jennifer Chandler .....Customer Information Specialist 1  
Lidija Crnkic.....Customer Information Specialist 1  
Tom Dougherty.....Business Analyst  
Madison Gasper.....Records Specialist 1  
Roni Lloyd.....Customer Information Specialist 1  
Abigail Nygaard .....Fiscal Records Specialist  
Wendy Showman .....Fiscal Records Specialist  
Melinda White.....Assistant Manager, Finance Division

## County Attorney

Derrill McAteer..... Senior Assistant County Attorney

## Human Resources

Cole Martin .....Wellness Technician

## Property Appraiser's Office

Haley Barnett..... Property Records Assistant  
Katherine Buono..... Property Records Assistant  
Edna Dervisbegovic ..... Property Records Assistant  
Gillian Viola ..... Property Records Assistant

## Supervisor of Elections

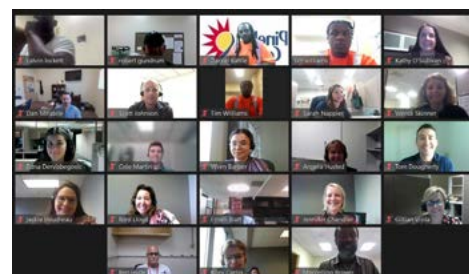
Caitlin Mitchell ..... Administrative Support Specialist 1

## Tax Collector

Kathleen O'Sullivan..... HR Generalist



*March New Employee Orientation via Zoom*



## Promotions

Promotions listed are for March 2023.

### Board of County Commissioners

#### Administrative Services

Keith Ash..... Property & Stores Clerk 3

Gary Kistner..... Electronics Specialist 1

#### Airport

Chad Moore..... Craftworker 1

#### Convention & Visitors Bureau

Lisa Dozois..... Film Coordinator

#### County Commissioners' Office

Tony Stillo ..... Executive Aide

#### Human Services

Cameron Ehmig..... Human Services Case Manager 1

#### Parks & Conservation Resources

Michael Screen..... Craftworker 1

#### Public Works

Christopher Griggs..... Snr Dept Administrative Manager

Matthew Hill..... Environmental Specialist 1

Daniel Torres..... Project Coordinator-Administrative

#### Utilities

Kelvin Bostick..... Operations Manager

Daniel Nunez..... Accountant 2

Chance Walton..... Accountant 2

### Business Technology Services

Vikas Kurich..... Manager, Information Technology

### Clerk of the Circuit Court

Kenya Aguiar..... Records Specialist, Senior

Kevin Balys ..... Jury Coordinator

Courtney Boersema ..... Fiscal Records Specialist

Heather Thrippleton..... CCC Budget Analyst

### Property Appraiser's Office

Alexander Luca..... Director of Exemptions

### Supervisor of Elections

Tania Ochoa..... Administrative Support Specialist 1

The Pen

## Park Clean-Up by the Git-R-Dunn Team Keeps Employees and Citizens Safe

A hearty well done to **John Mize, Ralph Jordan, Ralph Frye, Alex Flake, Pete Provatas, Shawn Gardner, and Jason Vanleuven**, all members of the Git-R-Dunn Team, who took the time to clean up the William E. Dunn Conservation Park by removing significant amounts of underbrush, trash, dead trees, and debris. Their efforts ensure both safety and security for plant personnel as well as the citizens of Pinellas County by the removal of overgrowth which had become havens for reptiles,

meddlers, and other inappropriate activities. Led by John Mize, his team's efforts reflect great credit on W. E. Dunn, Utilities Operations, and the Utilities Department in providing world-class customer service to the citizens of Pinellas County and achieve the Utilities Department's vision — "to be the premier water utility focused on exceeding customer expectations through value driven, innovative services!" Well done!





# Service Anniversaries

Service anniversaries listed are for March 2023.

## 45 YEARS



Charles Toney  
Utilities

## 35 YEARS



Cynthia Haumann  
Clerk of the  
Circuit Court

## 25 YEARS



Mary Chaniel  
Property Appraiser's  
Office



Susan Gaydos  
Utilities

## 20 YEARS



Miguel Rubio-Resendiz  
Utilities

## Unavailable for Photo

### 30 Years

Richard Swift  
Public Works

### 20 Years

Kathleen Abner  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Daniel Delgado  
Parks & Conservation Resources

## 3 TO 15 YEARS

### 15 Years

Paula Beecher..... Tax Collector's Office  
Marc Gillette ..... Supervisor of Elections  
Sherry Wallace ..... Tax Collector's Office

### 10 Years

Alison Brissette..... Property Appraiser's Office  
Stephen Ficarrotta..... Utilities  
Nancy Halvorsen ..... Business Technology Services  
Joseph Kovach ..... Public Works

### 5 Years

Teresa Adkins..... Business Technology Services  
Martha Andrews..... Animal Services  
James Ardes..... Utilities  
Jared Austin..... Pinellas Planning Council  
Kim Dubich ..... Tax Collector's Office  
Cara Duck ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Petra Dvorakova..... Human Services  
Brittany Gray ..... Parks & Conservation Resources  
Noralvys Hancock..... Utilities  
Thomas Hargett..... Administrative Services  
Jenniva Hernandez ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Dustin Hinkle ..... Supervisor of Elections  
Charles Jeffries ..... Utilities  
Matthew Klank ..... Tax Collector's Office  
Frank Krasovic ..... Public Works  
Christine Kulpa..... Animal Services

Steven Lamagna..... Public Works  
Frank Matzelle ..... Tax Collector's Office  
Stephen McClelland ..... Utilities  
Karen McLaughlin ..... Housing & Community Development  
Zachary Milewsky ..... Safety & Emergency Services  
Shannon Mills ..... Office of Management & Budget  
Joe Riddle ..... Housing & Community Development  
Danielle Shibe..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Michael Williams..... Public Works  
Joshua Wilsey ..... Public Works  
Robinette Wilson ..... County Attorney

### 3 Years

Joel Adams..... Public Works  
Lance Byrne ..... Administrative Services  
Timothy Calvit..... Utilities  
Meagan Dailey..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Emily Davis ..... Solid Waste  
Gary Dorsey..... Utilities  
Charlie Jenkins..... Office of Management & Budget  
James McDermott ..... Administrative Services  
Mahesh Parmessar..... Administrative Services  
Michelle Peterson..... Safety & Emergency Services  
David Richards..... Business Technology Services  
Frank Terry ..... Administrative Services  
Jared Tindell..... Public Works  
Kailey Travis ..... Public Works

# Retirements

Retirements listed are for March 2023.

## 37 Years



Mark Downing  
911 Public Safety  
Telecommunicator,  
Safety & Emergency Services

## Over 31 Years



Brenda Dixon  
Admin Support Specialist 1,  
Safety & Emergency Services



Lisa Long  
Property Appraiser 4,  
Property Appraiser's Office

## Over 27 Years



Angel Clemente  
Craftworker 2,  
Real Estate Management

## Over 25 Years



Elliott Smith  
Utilities Maintenance  
Specialist 2,  
Real Estate Management

## Over 22 Years



Renette Bullock  
Fiscal Records Specialist,  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

## Retirees Unavailable for Photo

### Over 30 Years

Luis Rivera, Mail Services Supervisor,  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

### Over 18 Years

Georgienne Trauscht, Planning Section  
Manager, Human Services

## REPCO News

The next REPCO lunch meeting will be on May 8, 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 will be providing a presentation on crime prevention techniques. If you have any questions, contact Rudy Garcia at [rdgarcia@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:employee.communications@pinellas.gov) or call (727) 464-3367.

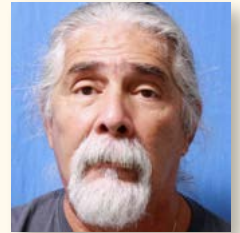
## Gone but not Forgotten

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



**Mary A. Eastep**, 76, of Clearwater, passed away on March 20, 2023. Eastep retired in 2013 as a Finance Clerk, Senior with Clerk of the Circuit Court after 13 years of service with Pinellas County Government. No obituary was found.

**Domingo Romero**, 68, of Clearwater, passed away on February 25, 2023. Romero retired in 2021 as a Traffic Technician 3 with Public Works after 28 years of service with Pinellas County Government. No obituary was found.



**Gloria E. Shingles**, 71, of St. Petersburg, passed away on March 3, 2023. Shingles retired in 2011 as a Senior Court Records Specialist with Clerk of the Circuit Court after over 32 years of service with Pinellas County Government. [View her obituary.](#)

**Heather Stawkowski**, 80, of Largo, passed away on February 19, 2023. Stawkowski retired in 2012 as a Court Records Specialist 2 with Clerk of the Circuit Court after 12 years of service with Pinellas County Government. No obituary was found.



**Ruby Triplett**, 70, of Largo, passed away on November 11, 2022. Triplett retired in 2018 as a Court Records Specialist 1 with Clerk of the Circuit Court after 19 years of service with Pinellas County Government. [View her obituary.](#)

**Lynn Watkins**, 66, of Dunedin, passed away on March 12, 2023. Watkins retired in 2017 as a Tax Collector Supervisor with the Tax Collector's Office after 14 years of service with Pinellas County Government. [View her obituary.](#)



Ruby's friends and co-workers shared fond memories they have of her:

Ruby fought a long battle with cancer and many years of illness and pain, always with optimism. Ruby taught me so many things...I will miss her selflessness, her smile and her always wanting to help others while attending chemotherapy and coming to work. I had the pleasure of helping her decorate for her favorite time of the year, "Ruby's Halloween Extravaganza" event and baking those oh-so-delicious cakes and pastries for us. I will miss you, but I know you are in a much better place, may you decorate the skies and bake to your heart's desire. **-Nora Orlando, Clerk's Office**

I will always remember Ruby's strength and positivity going through life's worst moments. She enjoyed sharing what she loved with everyone... her amazing holiday displays and every bite of cakes, cookies, and gorp & spinach dip! My favorite was her lemonade cake! **-Maria White, County Attorney's Office**



## Kudos

Kudos to **Gabriela Hernandez**, Office Specialist 1 with Public Works, who created this artwork to celebrate the Tampa Bay Lightning making it to the playoffs.



Kudos to **Victoria Fleming**, daughter of Maria Fleming (Clerk of the Circuit Court), for being recognized in the *Bowlers Journal International* magazine for her bowling talent and assistance with the Special Olympics Bowl-A-Thon. The co-founder of Compass Sportswear signed Victoria in March to be the company's Youth Ambassador. According to the article, "That position places her among some of the biggest names in the sport".