

**A Message From
Your Pinellas County Commissioners**

Here in Pinellas, we enjoy beautiful beaches, an award-winning park system and other natural attractions. The Pinellas economy is growing strong as large corporations, small businesses and high-tech, clean manufacturing bring quality jobs and convenient services to the area. County events, historic heritage and cultural activities provide us with a quality of life that's the envy of other cities in Florida and across the nation.

Pinellas County is home to 24 municipalities and your County Government provides a wide variety of services to the residents who live there. Some examples include a countywide 9-1-1 system, Animal Services (582-2600) and Emergency Management (464-3800) to help us all deal with emergencies such as hurricanes. In addition to these services, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (454-3377) also serves as the local government for nearly 300,000 residents who live in the unincorporated neighborhoods (those areas outside of city limits).

Pinellas County government is devoted to providing services to its unincorporated neighborhoods, such as Feather Sound, that are over and above the countywide services just mentioned, paid for by taxes that come only from residents of unincorporated Pinellas County. In Feather Sound, the County Commission plays a dual role—providing countywide services and municipal services such as water, law enforcement and fire protection. We take a great deal of pride in being both your regional and direct municipal service provider and in working with the Feather Sound Community Services District to enhance the community. Our aim is to provide the residents of Feather Sound with good value for their tax dollars and to bring them the services they desire for a high quality of life.



**Enjoy the
Pinellas County
Quality of Life**



www.pinellascounty.org



Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To obtain accessible formats of this document, please contact the Communications Department at (727) 464-4600/TDD (727) 464-4431

Feather Sound

We're glad you're a part of

**Unincorporated
Pinellas**



**Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756**

Here's What You Get as an Unincorporated Resident

Personalized Assistance to Meet Your Individual Needs Right Where You Live

No need to travel all the way to Clearwater to do business with the County! One call or visit to your local County Connection Center can give the personalized assistance you need to solve a wide range of problems—everything from how to get a stop sign installed on the corner to dealing with drainage problems and more. The Southeast County Connection Center is conveniently located near Feather Sound at 14010 Roosevelt Boulevard in the offices of Pinellas County Economic Development. Call Center Manager Frank Bowman at (727) 453-7394 anytime for assistance.



Support for Your Neighborhood—Services and Enhancements

We want all our unincorporated residents to take pride in their neighborhoods, so we've made a number of Neighborhood Enhancement Grants available for neighborhood projects. Since 2002, unincorporated neighborhoods throughout the county, including Feather Sound, are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 for entry signs, landscaping and other beautification projects or safety and education campaigns.

Pinellas County is also making your community a better place to live with traffic control, stormwater/drainage and additional code enforcement personnel this year.



In 2004, Pinellas County will improve sidewalks in many unincorporated neighborhoods, including several locations within the Feather Sound community.

Parks, Trails and Recreational Opportunities Abound

Pinellas County Government is making Feather Sound and other unincorporated neighborhoods more fun for families with \$1.5 million in recreational grants to support team sports and other recreational activities. This is money spent strictly in the unincorporated communities so that families will have more opportunities to get out and enjoy their leisure time. To make it easier to enjoy the same programs as nearby neighbors who live in the cities, Pinellas County began the Recreational Reimbursement program. With Recreational Reimbursements, the Pinellas County Park Department (464-3347) covers the differential fees charged by cities when unincorporated residents take part in municipal recreation programs.

Fire, Police and Emergency Medical Care That Are Unsurpassed

Feather Sound residents can feel safe in their homes, knowing that the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (582-6200) is on the job patrolling area neighborhoods and is there for you whenever the need arises. Should you have a medical emergency, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) help comes from the closest available fire and ambulance units. One call to 9-1-1 sends a fire department rescue vehicle to your front door within four and a half minutes on average and a Sunstar paramedic ambulance within ten minutes.

Fire suppression services in Feather Sound are provided by a County contract with the Pinellas Park Fire Department. In the event of annexation, fire suppression services would still be provided by Pinellas Park (as the closest available fire station) until the annexing city builds new fire stations closer to your neighborhood, or purchases the existing station.



Countywide Libraries

Through your Pinellas Public Library Cooperative (441-8408), a library card is your passport to a world of books and library services. Feather Sound residents can go to libraries in St. Petersburg (North Branch at 861 70th Avenue North) or in Largo, Pinellas Park, Safety Harbor or any municipality, and have complete access to a wonderful array of reading programs and other activities.

Clean Water Every Time You Turn on the Tap

Pinellas County provides water in unincorporated neighborhoods as well as many municipalities. When you drink Pinellas County's tap water, you're drinking clean, quality water. Pinellas County Utilities proudly reports that the water provided to their customers meets or exceeds all federal and state standards for safe drinking water. The County water system (464-4000) covers more than



1/2 of all county taps. County sewer lines reach 1/3 of all households. County water systems would, in all likelihood, remain in place in Feather Sound despite annexation by a city.

All This for a Price that Compares Favorably to What Your City Neighbors Pay

For all these services, residents of unincorporated Pinellas County often pay less in taxes and fees than their neighbors living within city limits. When thinking about annexation, it's important to know that other fees and charges, such as franchise fees and utility taxes for electricity and gas, are often imposed by the annexing city.

Another item to think about: city residents may face more code or zoning restrictions that affect what can be done with their own property. Also, those who have home businesses may be subject to restrictions and will most likely need occupational licenses.



www.pinellascounty.org

Based on comparable services for the average homesteaded single family residence (\$197,300 minus \$25,000 Homestead Exemption = \$172,300 taxable value) in Feather Sound.
(These numbers are for illustrative purposes only.)

	Feather Sound		City of St. Petersburg	
Taxes/Fees	Rate	\$ Amount	Rate	\$ Amount
Property Tax				
Municipal Service Taxing Unit vs. City Tax	2.356 mills	\$405.94	7.09 mills	\$1,221.61
Library	0.5 mills	\$86.15	—	—
Feather Sound—Community Services	1.0 mill	\$172.30	—	—
Fire	3.674 mills	\$633.03	—	—
TOTAL PROPERTY TAX	7.53 mills	\$1,297.42	7.09 mills	\$1,221.61
Other Fees and Taxes				
Electricity (\$184 mth average bill)	—	—	16%	\$353.28 (yr.)
Telephone/Cable (\$77 mth average bill)	5.1%	\$47.12 (yr.)	5.5%	\$50.82 (yr.)
Water (\$25 mth average bill)	—	—	10%	\$30.00 (yr.)
Gas	—	—	16%	—
Fuel Oil (per gallon)	—	—	\$.04	—
Charges & Assessments:				
Refuse	\$23.00	\$276.00 (yr.)	\$16.35	\$196.20 (yr.)
Stormwater	—	—	\$5.00	\$60.00 (yr.)
TOTALS		\$1,620.54		\$1,911.91

In this example, a homeowner would pay nearly three hundred dollars more a year to live within the city of St. Petersburg, rather than in unincorporated Feather Sound.