

## Resource Management from A to Z

From land use and housing to water management and recreation to purchasing policies, Pinellas County is working hard to execute an ambitious, adaptive and sustainable plan for the future.

One of the elements of that plan is to reduce the amount of waste residents of the County produce, and recover as much of that waste as possible through recycling and other methods such as the Waste-to-Energy facility. Here is a recycling update from the Solid Waste department.

Your garbage is our resource! At Pinellas County Solid Waste, we believe that garbage is not a waste, unless it is wasted. Once residents and businesses have recycled all they can, the remaining garbage is burned at Pinellas County's Waste-to-Energy facility. We recover energy from garbage to create electricity, which powers 40,000 homes a day. We use funds from the sale of electricity to support our many recycling programs.

Learn more about Pinellas County Solid Waste and our recycling programs in the 2016 directory, [Recycle Today: Pinellas County's Guide to Resource Management](#). It's packed with the latest information about managing waste as a resource, including:

- how to recycle within the 24 cities and unincorporated Pinellas County,
- how to dispose of electronics and chemicals,
- finding recycling drop-off sites and free mulch sites, and
- finding mobile collection events.

Details about what items can be placed in curbside and drop-off centers are explained. You can help the recycling processors by not contaminating what you are recycling. Remember items should be empty and dry. Please no Styrofoam in the recycling bins (take

trays and egg cartons to Publix, and place all other Styrofoam in the trash) nor plastic bags (reuse bags or recycle them at grocery stores).

Solid Waste also coordinates the County Office Recycling Program. This program is available to all county buildings and provides for [paper recycling](#) and [container recycling](#) (plastic bottles, aluminum cans, etc.). In addition to coordinating the bins and material collection, Solid Waste staff is available to educate on what can and can't

be recycled and ideas for encouraging recycling in your department. Contact us to find out more.

Do you want to recycle at your next festival or sporting event? Pinellas County Solid Waste offers the Recyclin' Roadie, a brightly painted mobile recycling trailer that can be parked at your event stocked with containers that can be used to collect recyclables at the event site.

Need mulch for your spring flower beds? Find out where in Pinellas County to pick up [free mulch](#) recycled from yard waste.

Do you live in an [unincorporated area](#) of Pinellas County? We've got you covered! Find out where our recycling drop-off sites are located.



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Did you know that the State of Florida has set a goal to recycle 75 percent of waste by 2020? The *Annual Recycling Report* submitted to the State of Florida for 2014 indicated that Pinellas County's recycling rate was 32.4%. In addition, a combustion credit of 30.9% for the Waste-to-Energy facility increased the recycling rate to 63.3%. Please help us to meet the benchmark of recycling 70% of waste by December 31, 2018.

To view the 2016 *Recycling Directory*, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/recycle](http://www.pinellascounty.org/recycle), or request a copy by contacting Solid Waste at [recycle@pinellascounty.org](mailto:recycle@pinellascounty.org) or 464-7500. If you have a space to distribute copies to the public, a box of directories may be delivered to your office.



Find out how to recycle or safely dispose of just about anything with the [A to Z Guide for Recycling & Disposal](#) in Pinellas County.

## Employee Spotlight

### Keith Royster

Facility Operations Division Manager  
Real Estate Management



#### *What is your job in 25 words or less?*

Providing leadership support for Facility Operations that leverages the knowledge, skills and abilities of the current state to achieve the desired future state. Maintaining safe, comfortable and clean facilities.

#### *What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?*

The opportunities. Every day there are opportunities for transformative activities to be accomplished. There is value to be gained from engaging with staff, customers, my peers and leadership. Similar thinking and collaborative activities generate energy and momentum, which makes the workplace naturally enjoyable.

#### *What is on your wish list for the next five years with Pinellas County?*

Being a part of a team that delivers a successful and sustainable asset management solution for the County's infrastructure.

#### *What piece of advice would you give to a new employee?*

Strive to achieve. At the beginning, develop your goals and plans for your success. Configure and align those goals with the County's strategic plan, vision and values. Be a continuous self developer. Never, never (did I say never) stop learning and *creating* value.

#### *When you retire, what do you hope people will say about you at your retirement party?*

That I was genuine about my desire and my efforts to help others succeed. That I was instrumental (along with others) in achieving the next level of operational performance for my department.

*The Employee Spotlight focuses on you. If you would like to nominate a fellow employee, please send his or her name, position, and why you are nominating them to [employee.communications@pinellascounty.org](mailto:employee.communications@pinellascounty.org). View previous [spotlighted employees](#).*

## Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Wants to Help Voters "SNAP"

The Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Office reminds voters they can update their voter registration information in a SNAP!

Being an active and responsible voter involves more than just casting your ballot. It is very important to keep your voter registration information, including your Signature, Name, Address and Political Party Affiliation, up-to-date.

- **SIGNATURE:** Your signature from your voter registration application is used to verify your identity and eligibility to vote. Be consistent when signing official election documents, including your mail ballot return envelope.
- **NAME:** Your name is your identity. If your name has legally changed, update your registration information as your legal name will be used to determine your eligibility to vote.
- **ADDRESS:** Your residential address determines your precinct, polling place and representative districts. Florida law requires you to vote in the precinct in which you live.
- **POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION:** Your political party affiliation will determine whether you are eligible to vote in closed primary contests.



**S**IGNATURE  
**N**AME  
**A**DDRESS  
**P**OLITICAL PARTY



Visit [VotePinellas.com/SNAP](http://VotePinellas.com/SNAP) to check your voter registration information and provide updates, or call 727-464-VOTE (8683). **Tuesday, February 16 is the deadline** to register to vote and change political party affiliation for the March 15 Presidential Preference Primary and Municipal Elections.



### BLOOD DRIVE

**Every donor is  
three more lives  
saved!**

### Mark Your Calendars

**Logan Lab**  
1620 Ridge Road, Largo  
Under the flag pole  
**March 29**  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



**Q.** *How can I go about changing my W-4? I noticed that there is not enough federal tax taken out of my paycheck, and I don't want to owe again next year when I file taxes. Do I need to come in to the HR office or can this be done via inter office mail?*

**A.** You can do it through OPUS. Log in and go to Employee Self Service, select Tax Form, and you'll see an Update button. You can change your filing status and indicate additional amounts to be withheld.

**Q.** *If there's a declared emergency like a hurricane, I've heard there are no more Phase 3 employees. We all have to work. Is that true?*

**A.** We checked with **Joe Borries**, the Operations Manager of the Emergency Management Department. He says there will always be Phase 3 employees.

He went on to explain that, in a disaster such as a hurricane, the County will need all employees to pull together to help the community and each other to recover and get back to normal. All employees are expected to report to work as directed during any disaster unless an exemption is granted.

For many employees, their daily jobs are critical to the County before, during or immediately following a disaster. So they have pre-identified formal roles. Some do not. **Those that do not have pre-defined roles are our Phase 3 employees.**

Normally, Phase 3 employees would report back to work when it is safe to do so and help the department they work in get back up and running. But their day jobs may be put on hold until the County is ready to reopen for business, sometimes several weeks after a disaster. These Phase 3 employees still have a role to play and could be helpful to a great variety of recovery operations. These employees form the core of a program called **Phase Re-assignment of Employees in Pinellas** (PREP).

This program asks employees to select ahead of time an emergency job in which they would feel comfortable. If Phase 3 employees do not make a selection, they will be placed into the Personnel Pool and assigned by the County as needed.

## BenefitsU

### Virtual Doctor Visits

There's a new benefit available to Pinellas County employees through United Healthcare called virtual doctor visits. It allows you to see and talk to a doctor through your computer or mobile device. It's a fast and easy way to get help for non-emergency health issues such as pink eye or a sore throat. You don't need an appointment and a doctor is always available. The cost is the same or less than a regular doctor's office visit, depending on the plan you use. Learn how to book a virtual doctor visit:

- [Flyer](#)
- [Video](#)



## Colors of Pinellas



### I'm Not an Artist

That's okay. You don't have to be a professional artist to participate in the 2016 Art Show.

There are three categories: amateur, intermediate and professional. Last year, there were over 60 amateur entries. Join your co-workers and enter your favorite creation. It could be a photo, drawing, craft, painting, you pick it.

Registration deadline: May 20, 2016

Visit [pinellascounty.org/hr/artshow](http://pinellascounty.org/hr/artshow).

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL ARTS PROGRAM

## The Pen

EDITOR: Mary L. Sault

A monthly publication by the  
Pinellas County Human Resources Department

### How to Participate:

It's easy to get involved in *The Pen*. You can contribute by informing us of noteworthy news or sending us story ideas. You can also ask about writing a guest column or submit photos of co-workers at work in your department.

PHONE: (727) 464-5098

E-mail: [employee.communications@pinellascounty.org](mailto:employee.communications@pinellascounty.org)

# Tax Collector's Office Leadership Development Program Graduation Celebration

Contributed by the Pinellas County Tax Collector's Office



Tax Collector Diane Nelson pictured with the recent graduates.

## 2015 Pinellas County Tax Collector Graduates:

John Boscarino  
Lori Dombrowski  
Lisa Gentry  
Sherrie Jennings  
Keven Jones  
Mona Kaushal  
Michelle Long  
Cissy May  
Glenda McKinney  
Lee McKinnon  
Janice Rose  
Martha Rowe  
Maria Singson  
Charlene Smith  
Jamie Walseth

The Pinellas County Tax Collector recently graduated its second class of employees from its internal Leadership Development program. In early 2015, these candidates began a series of classes using the Achieve Global curriculum trained by our in-house Achieve Global instructors, Cathy Bailey Noble and Tara Broadus.

The principles of the Achieve Global program focus on learning and putting into practice genuine leadership, developing others, team pride and problem solving, just to name a few. The participants broke into small groups creating teams that don't usually have the opportunity to work together. During the classes they identified, created, and implemented solutions to challenges that were affecting all Tax Collector offices and put these learned principles into practice.

We appreciate the hard work and commitment of all our graduates. We would also like to thank our partners

at Human Resources for assisting us over the past two years in providing the support needed to continue our training utilizing the Achieve Global curriculum.

The 2016 classes have already begun, and it's already proving to be another exciting year.


## Here is what a few of our graduates thought of the class:

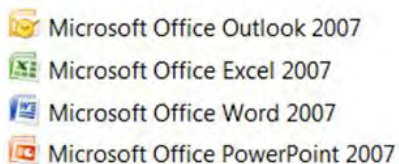
- I greatly appreciated the opportunity to network with people from different offices. It helps to know that everyone is experiencing the same "challenges" in one way or another and this afforded me the opportunity to get suggestions from others on how to handle different areas of concern.
- The training gives an opportunity to learn from other leaders which is truly enriching.
- It was a refreshing reminder of how leadership should be.
- It helped me become more aware of techniques for communicating with others, both upper level management and frontline staff.
- Sharing ideas, practices, stories; the group composed of different departments within the organization gives a different perspective and understanding. It provides valuable coping tools. Makes you think about your employees and how you lead.
- I appreciate senior management approving this training for staff. It is a great development tool and helps in assuring success in the years ahead for the organization when retirements and staffing changes occur.
- I really learned a lot from each session and enjoyed other people's perspectives on difficult issues and how to manage and deal with them.



## TECH BITS

### Quickly Accessing Microsoft Office Applications

1. From your desktop, press the Windows key  on your keyboard.
2. In the search box that opens type Word, Excel, PowerPoint or Outlook.
3. Click the application in the list that you want to open.



4. This will also work with the new Microsoft Office 2013 applications.

Find more Technical Training Resources at [Enterprise Technical Training](#).

### Upcoming Training Classes

*Some classes fill up quickly so request enrollment early through [OPUS Learning Management](#) (OLM).*

#### Passport to Retirement - 2/25-3/10

This three night seminar, offered outside of official work time, will introduce you to the concepts and practices that will help make your retirement comfortable and free from money worries.

You will receive a Retirement Planning Data form that will help you develop a written summary of your assets, income, social security and pension benefits, as well as "The Passport to Retirement" workbook to use as both course material and a future reference text.

There is a \$30 course participation fee per employee (\$25 if pre-paid five days prior to class start date).

#### Tips for Getting the Job You Want - 3/17

Have you ever had trouble creating a résumé or difficulty deciding what information to include on an application form? Have you ever been concerned or disappointed with your performance in a job interview? This workshop is designed to provide you with tips and suggestions to assist you in presenting yourself, your experience, and your abilities in positive ways to a selecting official.

*Find a complete list of courses with descriptions in the [2016 Consortium Training Catalog](#) which is continually updated. Need assistance? Contact Training and Development at 464-3796 or email [training@pinellascounty.org](mailto:training@pinellascounty.org).*

### Technology Training Available

Do you want to learn about the new features in Microsoft 2013 Excel, Outlook and Word? One-hour classes are available. Additional classes have been added to the schedule in March. Seats are still available. Sign up now!

Click below for class dates, times, descriptions, and registration links:

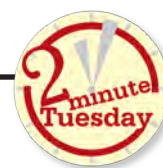
- [Excel 2013 New Features](#)
- [Outlook 2013 New Features](#)
- [Word 2013 New Features](#)

### FACE Tips



#### Looking for Growth and Development Opportunities?

Seventy percent of adult learning comes from actual experience - structured, on-the-job learning. [Here is a link](#) to some other interesting information about how adults learn and what activities can help facilitate that learning.



### Have you seen the latest Two-Minute Tuesday videos?

[Virtual Doctor Visits](#) - A new and easy way to get help in a non-emergency situation.

[HR Training Lab](#) - There's a new computer training lab in the Annex building in Clearwater. See what's on the schedule.

[Employee Disaster Survey](#) - Do you know your role in case of an emergency?

View these videos and subscribe to future videos at [www.pinellascounty.org/hr/two](http://www.pinellascounty.org/hr/two).

# SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

## 30 YEARS



James Wurster, *Parks & Conservation Resources*, Dennis Touchton, *Public Works*, Samuel Reece, *Public Works*, Sarah Ward, *Planning Council*, David Jackson, *Parks & Conservation Resources*



Jackie Trainer  
*Management & Budget*



Larry Coleman  
*Public Works*

## 20 YEARS



Erin Sullivan, *Tax Collector's Office*, Dave Blasewitz, *Human Resources*



Michael Boles  
*Public Works*



Kelvin Jackson  
*Public Works*

## 25 YEARS



Daniel Little, *Real Estate Management*, Deborah Terry, *Engineering & Technical Support*, Michael Miller, *Real Estate Management*, Chris Brodeur, *Parks & Conservation Resources*

## Unavailable for Photo

**35 YEARS** Luis Cruz, *Utilities*

**30 YEARS** Heather Doherty, *Building Services*

**25 YEARS** Michaela Minning, *Management & Budget*, Yvonne Rayford, *Clerk of the Circuit Court*

## 15 YEARS

Marisa Chartier ..... Tax Collector's Office  
Christopher Griggs ..... Public Works  
Vikas Kurich..... Business Technology Services  
Lionel Maynard..... Public Works  
Kathy Quaranto..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Constance Seado ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Lori Shearer .....Property Appraiser's Office  
Albert Tague..... Utilities  
Wayne Totin ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Vanessa Watkins ..... Economic Development

## 10 YEARS

Mary Burns ..... Solid Waste  
Kelvin Davis..... Utilities  
Stephen Davis-Thompson.....Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Gregory Dudley..... Property Appraiser's Office  
Michele Hein ..... Public Works  
Timothy Johns.....Clerk of the Circuit Court  
April Karaoglu.....Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Matthew McCarthy ..... Solid Waste  
Stacey Phillips ..... Tax Collector's Office

## 5 YEARS

Karen Backus ..... Tax Collector's Office  
Nancy Beers ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court

John Grimes.....Building Services  
Linda Guccini ..... Real Estate Management  
Mark Gundel..... Tax Collector's Office  
Julie Hall..... Tax Collector's Office  
Deborah Jung..... Tax Collector's Office  
Kevin Quillen..... Business Technology Services

## 3 YEARS

Joseph Boggs.....Public Works  
Oren Crawford .....Public Works  
Lisette Hakin .....Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Richard Kamensky .....Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Wayne Longhurst ..... Solid Waste  
Marla Overton.....Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Tiffany Panier.....Purchasing  
Celina Poppa .....Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Lori Poppler.....Clerk of the Circuit Court

# RETIREMENTS

## Over 37 Years



Bob Powell  
*Division Director  
Utilities*

## Over 35 Years



Cherlyn Flounary  
*Court Clerk, Senior  
Clerk of the Circuit Court*

## Over 32 Years



Bob Elliott  
*Park Ranger 1  
Parks & Conservation  
Resources*

## Over 32 Years



Bill Falkner  
*Sr. Assistant County Attorney  
County Attorney's Office*

## 30 Years



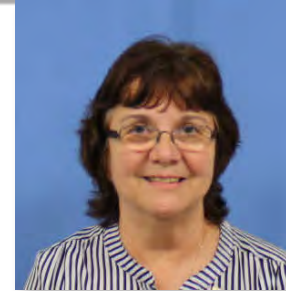
James Cannon  
*HVAC Mechanic  
Real Estate Management*

## Over 28 Years



Paul Sol  
*Trades/Field Services Supervisor  
Real Estate Management*

## Over 28 Years



Sheila Murphy  
*Court Clerk, Senior  
Clerk of the Circuit Court*

## 26 Years



Robert Plant  
*Engineering Services  
Technician 2  
Public Works*

## Over 25 Years



Gail Hutcherson  
*Information Technology  
System Analyst  
Clerk of the Circuit Court*

## Over 25 Years



Malinda Fusco  
*Project Coordinator  
Emergency Management*

## Over 22 Years



Larry Edmonds  
*Utilities Maintenance  
Specialist 3  
Utilities*

## Over 17 Years



Rosalinda Galle  
*Property Records Technician  
Property Appraiser's Office*

### RETIREES UNAVAILABLE FOR PHOTO

**Over 35 Years** Lisa Thomas, *Court Clerk, Senior, Clerk of the Circuit Court*

**Over 19 Years** Francisca Rivera, *Records Specialist 2, Clerk of the Circuit Court*

**17 Years** Kathleen Wilson, *Court Records Specialist 2, Clerk of the Circuit Court*

**Over 15 Years** Kathy Rhodes, *Accounting & Finance Technician, Management & Budget*

**Over 8 Years** Eloise Grandsire, *Customer Information Center Specialist 2, Clerk of the Circuit Court*

## REPCO News

**REPCO's** March lunch meeting will be at **noon, March 14, 2016** at Applebee's, 5110 East Bay Drive. Our speaker will be a representative from Protech Safety and Security Equipment to tell us about the latest solutions to our security and safety needs at home and away. For more information contact Rudy at (813) 855-3466 or [rdgarcia@verizon.net](mailto:rdgarcia@verizon.net).

You don't have to be a Pinellas County retiree to attend. Current employees and family members are also welcome.

## Note to Retirees and Subscribers About Receiving Emails from Pinellas County

Most email providers like GMail, AOL, Yahoo, and Hotmail, try to protect users from unwanted email, commonly called **spam**. This is a necessary service. Some do a really great job.

We know that **TampaBay.rr.com** (or RoadRunner) does a really great job blocking emails because many messages we send there bounce back. It seems bulk messages from [PinellasCounty.org](http://PinellasCounty.org) are regarded as junk and blocked.



You can fix that on your account. If you'd like to receive emails like the Pen and the eCalendar, please be sure to add [PinellasCounty.org](http://PinellasCounty.org) to your "Safe Senders" list. If you need technical support, please contact your provider.

## Promotions

Promotions listed are for January 2016.

### Board of County Commissioners

#### Animal Services

David Mitchell, Jr ..... Ani Cntl Ofcr 1

#### Human Services

Jessica Aragon ..... Hum Svcs Prog Analyst  
Kevin Welch ..... Hum Svcs Case Mgr 2

#### Parks & Conservation Resources

Hugo Sanchez ..... Maint Crew Ldr

#### Public Works

Ray Dacres ..... AEO 2  
Paul Haywood ..... AEO 2  
Peter Lundy, Jr ..... Craftwkr 1  
Sean Tipton ..... Eng Spec 2

#### Safety & Emergency Services

Joshua Chance ..... Proj Coord-Proj Mgmt

#### Solid Waste

Donald Stillwaugh, Jr ..... Envir Spec 2

#### Utilities

Arthur Bailey ..... Util Maint Spec 3  
Jacob Cuarta ..... Wtr Qual Mgmt Spec 2  
Denise Diamond ..... Acctg & Fin Tech  
Adryan Higgins ..... Util Maint Spec 2  
Joseph Kovach ..... Util Maint Spec 3  
Charles Fry ..... Elec/Mech Tech Sr

### Clerk of the Circuit Court

Sylvia Andino ..... Crt Rec Supv  
Adeliah Jackson ..... Fis Rec Spec  
April Karaoglu ..... Fis Rec Spec Sr  
Ermiral Kola ..... Crt Clk  
Joseph Lauro ..... Crt Clk



## Is Your Personal Information Up-to-Date in OPUS?

It is always good practice to make sure your personal information in OPUS is up-to-date and accurate.

**Alert Pinellas** gets its data from OPUS. Everyone is asked to verify their mailing address, phone numbers and emergency contact information so that you can be reached in case of an emergency. Did you know you now have more options under "Phone Numbers"? You can add multiple contact points such as cell phone numbers and personal emails.

To update your personal information: Log into OPUS, select *PIN Employee Self Service*, and then select *Personal Information*.

# Welcome Aboard!

## Board of County Commissioners

### Airport

Dominik Szargut..... Craftwkr 2

### Animal Services

Dominiquo Johnson ..... Ani Cntl Ofcr 1

Ashley Radin..... Ani Cntl Ofcr 1

### Communications

Precious Gibson ..... Admin Supt Spec

### Development Review Services

Lauren Doing..... Envir Spec 1

Stephen Parker..... BDRS Code Enf Ofcr

### EMS/Fire Administration

Elliot Carhart ..... Contract Admin Coord

### Parks & Conservation Resources

Heather Culligan..... Curator Collect

Mary Streng..... Office Asst

### Planning

Caroline Lanford..... Principal Plan

### Public Works

Marlo Coleman..... Spray Tech

Daryl Dixon ..... Maint 2

Cody Shawders..... Maint 1

Ron Smith..... Maint 2

### Regional 911

Cynthia Amoroso..... Law Enf Telecomm

Haley Bean ..... Law Enf Telecomm

Chante Douglass..... Law Enf Telecomm

Trisha Gibson..... Law Enf Telecomm

Marie Rhine..... Law Enf Telecomm

### Real Estate Management

David Segur ..... HVAC Mech

### Risk Management

Richard Kahler ..... Risk Mgmt Insurance Analyst

### Utilities

Kenneth Kloostra ..... Elec/Mech Tech 1

Carolyn Murray ..... Cust Svcs Spec

Shane Rank ..... Cust Svcs Spec

Connie Rogers..... Cust Svcs Spec

Bryant Williams..... Cust Svcs Spec

Joshua Wyles ..... Util Maint Spec 2



New Employee Orientation class, January 25, 2016.

## Business Technology Services

Paul Herbert..... IT Tech Analyst

## Clerk of the Circuit Court

Monica Williams ..... Fis Rec Spec

Christie Gilbertson ..... Crt Rec Spec 1

## Planning Council

Brett Burks..... Prog Plan

## Property Appraiser's Office

Terrence Dukes ..... Prop Rcds Asst

## Tax Collector's Office

Chrishonna Daniels..... Cust Svc Tech 1

Scott Franckowiak ..... Cust Svc Tech 1

Christopher Mejia ..... Cust Svc Tech 1

## OurSpace

Don't forget to check the employee blog – [Our Space](#) – regularly.

Bookmark it. There is news every day!

**YOU** can post to the blog. It's easier than you might think – give it a try! Share your photos, celebrations, upcoming events, and check for the latest news from the County.

If you have questions, please contact Employee Communications at 464-5098 or [employee.communications@pinellascounty.org](mailto:employee.communications@pinellascounty.org).



## Create Sustainable Solutions

Vision • Innovation • Collaboration

**Did you know pygmy rattlesnakes are one of the most commonly seen snakes at Brooker Creek Preserve?**

Come visit wild Florida and learn about the ecosystems from [Lara Milligan, UF/IFAS Natural Resources Extension Agent](#).



*Want more information?*

All programs and more can be found online at [www.brookercreekpreserve.org](http://www.brookercreekpreserve.org)



**UF IFAS Extension**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

## FROM THE RECORD KEEPER



### Emergency Retrieval Requests

If you submit an emergency retrieval request through the Oracle Records Management System, please also call our office to let us know about the request. Emergency retrieval requests trigger an email alert to several of us in Records Management, but a follow-up call to us will ensure that we see your request right away.

You can speak to anyone in our office to let us know about your emergency retrieval request. Our number is (727) 464-5555.

Please remember that if you submit an emergency retrieval request, you will need to come to our location to pick up the requested records when they are ready.

## Consumer Corner



**Connie Consumer**

Pinellas County Consumer Protection is getting ready for **National Consumer Protection Week 2016** which takes place March 6-12. 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.

Pinellas County Consumer Protection joins federal, state and local government agencies nationwide to celebrate NCPW. Consumer Protection has planned several events, including presentations, information booths and a Consumer Protection Expo on March 12th. Free resources will be

provided to help the citizens of Pinellas County make smart decisions about protecting their privacy, managing money and debt, avoiding identity theft, understanding credit, and steering clear of frauds and scams.

For more information and a list of the planned events visit Pinellas County Consumer Protection at [www.pinellascounty.org/consumer/tips.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/consumer/tips.htm).





Employee and family news including kudos, weddings, births, graduations, memorials, and classified ads.  
Send your news to [employee.communications@pinellascounty.org](mailto:employee.communications@pinellascounty.org) or call 464-5098.

## Supervisors of Elections Association Offering College Scholarships

The Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE), comprised of the State of Florida's county supervisors, will award \$1,200 scholarships to three qualified students in 2016.



College students majoring in the following: political science, public administration, business administration, journalism or mass communications; enrolled as a junior or senior at an accredited Florida college or university; and registered to vote are eligible to apply.

The scholarship application and complete list of scholarship guidelines, which includes requirements for letters of recommendation and financial information, are available for download: [www.voteinellas.com/scholarships](http://www.voteinellas.com/scholarships).

**Scholarship applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 14, 2016,** and should be submitted in the county in which the student is registered to vote. Students who are registered Pinellas County voters should return completed applications to any of the three Supervisor of Elections offices: 315 Court St., Room 117, Clearwater; 13001 Starkey Rd., Largo; or 501 First Ave. N., St. Petersburg.

## Classified Ads - Wanted

Roommate wanted! Nice 2/2 house located one block away from E. Bay Dr. in Largo. Nice neighborhood. Private room and bath. WSG & cable/internet included. MUST LOVE DOGS! \$475 month & 1/2 electricity. Deposit neg. Available now! [lablover-aco@hotmail.com](mailto:lablover-aco@hotmail.com) 904-881-9998



## Introducing

**Emmett Matthew Heule**  
Born January 4, 2016, 7 pounds, 7 ounces, to Jayme and Matt Heule of Madison, New Jersey. The proud grandmother is **Denise Schmidt** of the Property Appraiser's Office.

## Turtle Rescue



Park Ranger John McGlone at Fred Howard Park in Tarpon Springs, January 24.

The Pen received the following email from employee Joanne Roiland:

*This weekend when I went for a walk with my dogs at the beach, a County employee went above and beyond his job to help a sick turtle. I think you should put him in the Pen for doing such a great job. I'm sorry I don't know what his name is, but I'm sure you could find it. He called Clearwater Aquarium. They told him to keep it in the sun, warm, until they got there. They were there in five minutes to help save the turtle. We need more people like him. What a great person.*

We inquired and **Park Ranger John McGlone** was ID'd by his supervisor Pam Traas, Chief Ranger. She told us John has been in Parks and Conservation Resources for over 15 years and was at one time part of Fort De Soto's very successful sea turtle program.

Pam went on to tell us that one of the main functions of our Park Rangers is the stewardship of our parks as well as the safety of our visitors, both human and animal. Once John found the turtle, he contacted the Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA), and they responded quickly with instructions and help. The juvenile Green Sea Turtle was approximately 3 to 4 years old and was transported to CMA for rehabilitation.

Not too long after this, Joanne shared this Fox 13 story with us, [CMA takes in 19 turtles rescued from frigid water](#). The article includes information on who you should call if you encounter a turtle in distress.

# Great American Teach-In at Eisenhower Elementary

Contributed by Cassy Moreau and Darcy Eckert, Inspector General's Office

Back in November, **Cassy Moreau** and **Darcy Eckert**, employees from the Pinellas County Division of Inspector General (IG) presented at Eisenhower Elementary School as part of the Great American Teach-In (GATI), which aims to educate children on various occupations they can have as adults. The focus of the GATI is the importance of education and how it can connect children with their dream profession.

Cassy and Darcy presented about the IG's role in the County as the "watchdog" of taxpayers' money. They explained how the County functions and how the children are connected to the County in many of their everyday activities, including the water they use at home, the roads they take to get to school, the school itself, and the beaches and parks they may visit.



During the presentation, the children were asked to take an "oath" to adulthood and select a profession. Each child was paid \$500 for their selected profession for one week of work. Next, each student had to place \$100 of their earnings into a "Taxes" bucket. Darcy and Cassy explained how once these funds are placed in the bucket, there are various ways they can be misused: the money may be spent on unnecessary activities, a worker may abuse time spent on the job, or someone might steal it.



Cassy and Darcy explained how the IG educates the public so citizens can help the IG by reporting fraud, waste, or abuse that they might see in their community. They also explained how audits and investigations are performed to either prevent or detect fraud, waste, and abuse.

The children seemed to love learning about the IG and the IG's mascot, the "**Audigator**." They were very engaged and even passed a test at the end of the presentation to verify what they had learned.

## The Clerk's Holiday Food Drive



Clerk's office employees were incredibly generous this holiday season, as they have been in the past.

**The employees pictured** are just some of the helpers who joined forces to **sort all the donated items** into five piles.



The shelters receiving the donations included Religious Community Services, Metropolitan Ministries, St. Vincent de Paul (St. Petersburg), St. Vincent de Paul (Clearwater), and Pinellas Hope.