

## Celebrating Our Partners

In FY2015, citizens volunteered **276,254 hours** to Pinellas County, mostly in the parks and at Animal Services but also in many other departments across the Unified Personnel System (UPS). According to the [Independent Sector](#), that amount of donated labor adds up to an approximate dollar value of \$6,375,619.

But dollar valuation doesn't fully measure the extent of the contributions of our volunteers. There is no way to truly calculate the effect our volunteers' presence has and the support for the community it demonstrates. Our citizens value what we as County employees provide and many partner with us to ensure that we can keep on doing it. Some provide time and labor, some help us improve, and perhaps some wish to leave their own mark.

Pinellas County has over **3,200 volunteers** and to thank them, Volunteer Services invited each to the annual volunteer appreciation event as part of [National Volunteer Week](#). The theme this year was "Puttin' on the Ritz" – a lively, retro affair held at the [Armed Forces History Museum](#) in Largo. Approximately 200 volunteers came and enjoyed live big band music, dancing, touring the museum, delicious hors d'oeuvres and the special treatment they deserve.

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### Volunteers are our partners

Did you know that Volunteer Services partners with community agencies as well? Some of these agency partners are:

- CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse)
- The Florida Division of Blind Services
- Job Corps
- Keep Pinellas Beautiful
- PTEC (Pinellas Technical Education Center)
- RCS (Religious Community Services)
- WestCare

Volunteer Services helps recruit and place individuals and groups where they can do the most good. Some placements help our partner agencies and some are placed in Pinellas County Government.

Take PTEC volunteers, for example. Students at PTEC are learning a trade and need hours in order to apply for certification. Many have volunteered as interns at South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Facility (and at other locations in County government) and we hope they leave the internship with the knowledge and experience they need to become gainfully employed.

Volunteer Services has several internship partnerships with seven area colleges and universities including Eckerd College, St. Petersburg College, USF, Florida State and Stetson University. In FY2015, 36 volunteer interns contributed 4,126 hours, and the interns got the valuable experience they needed.

## Employee Spotlight



### Jeremy Waugh, P.E.

Senior Engineer  
Engineering and Technical Support



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

Helping our clients (Utilities, Public Works, Solid Waste, Parks and Conservation) get their projects completed. Also, trying to identify utility failures before they happen, and fix them before they fail. When they do fail, then we try to contain the impact as much as possible.

#### What are some upcoming trends or challenges that you see in your field?

The County Water and Sewer Utility infrastructure is getting old. Finding ways to cost effectively rehabilitate and/or replace pipelines while reducing the impact to residents and motorists is a real challenge. New innovative technologies help, but sometimes good old fashioned "digging it up" is still the best solution. Educating nearby residents and businesses of why we are fixing the pipes is a key component to a successful project. We try to leave things better than they were before we started digging.

#### What is something that only a few people know about you?

While in college I received a Minor Degree in Classical History. Ancient Greek and Roman culture specifically interest me. My dream job is to be one of those engineers you see on TV shows who are reconstructing the Coliseum or figuring out how the Egyptians built the pyramids.

Continued on [page 7](#).

*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](#).*

## Child Care During Declared Emergencies

Unless you have an approved exemption, all employees will respond in the event of a declared emergency. Do you have children who need care and supervision when you are away?

Once again, the County, in partnership with R'Club, will provide **FREE** child care services in the event of a declared emergency.

Children of County emergency responders who are eligible:

- 2 months of age through 5th grade, and
- special needs children through age 22.

There are three locations throughout the County.

**You MUST**  
**pre-enroll for childcare.**

Complete the necessary paperwork now to reserve your spot.



## BLOOD DRIVE

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

## Mark Your Calendars

### Utilities Building

14 S. Fort Harrison Ave.  
Clearwater

**April 19**  
12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

## 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)





**Q.** *When it comes to calling out of work for illness or personal reasons, does it matter if it's done with a phone call or text message to your supervisor? My supervisor accepts either way but is there a County policy on which method is preferred?*

**A.** The Personnel Rules do not. However, take a look at **Rule 4. Time Off**. In Section C subsection 2.g. it says annual leave must be "scheduled in advance according to the Appointing Authority's requirements." Appointing Authorities, departments, sections and supervisors may have differing requirements. It's best to check with your director or manager.

**Q.** *I have a question about tax withholding. The past two years we've ended up owing and I want to make sure that doesn't happen this year. Can you tell me how much we should be taking out of our checks to make sure we don't owe taxes at the end of the year?*

**A.** We really can't give advice on that. You should speak to a tax professional. When you make your decision, you can change your withholding amount via OPUS by going to **PIN Employee Self Service, Tax Form**, and then click **Update**.

**Q.** *I'm 10 years out from retirement and I've been working here about the same amount of time. How can I find out now what I can expect financially then? And what if I want or need to retire sooner than 65? Is it possible to still have a pension payment and medical insurance?*

**A.** Congratulations on thinking ahead about your retirement options. Information on retirement vesting, normal and early retirement age and service requirements, the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP), and retiree benefits is available on the **Employee Retirement Information** page on the Human Resources website. The Florida Retirement System (FRS) website offers an **online calculator** where you can see an estimate of your monthly retirement benefit amount based on different retirement dates to help you with your planning.

If you are planning to retire in the next ten years, the **Getting Ready for Retirement** presentation, facilitated by the HR Benefits team, provides information about Social Security, the FRS pension plan and Pinellas County retiree benefits. You may also **contact the HR Benefits team** to schedule an individual retirement counseling appointment.

## Tribute

The *Pen* is saddened to report that **David Walker** (Planning) passed away March 28, 2016.

David joined Pinellas County Government in 1989 as a member of the Planning Department. Over the years David became Manager of the Socio-Economic & Special Projects Section in the Planning Department, coordinating U.S. Census data, population projections, post disaster redevelopment planning and various other projects. David's professionalism and friendly nature showed in the many staff and citizens he worked with and helped over the years along with his dedication to the County by working in the Logistics section of the County EOC. David retired from the County in 2014.

Outside of work, David served on the Board and also



helped build houses for Habitat for Humanity, was Treasurer for Toastmasters, donated over 25 gallons of blood, and gave a lot of his time helping friends and family. David will be truly missed by all his family, friends and coworkers.

*Thanks to Alan Shellhorn for this contribution.*

## BenefitsU

### Hitting the Road for Your Health

Crystal Lockwood, Health and Wellness Manager, and Amy Hertog, UHC Nurse Liaison, are on the road to Pinellas County worksites. They are happy to present at staff meetings or informally visit in break rooms. They are pleased to custom tailor and present relevant education and activities to any department or work group. In order to accommodate all requests (and as dates are being quickly booked), **please contact Crystal at 464-3768 or Amy at 464-5579 to schedule presentations.** Learn about the many health and wellness opportunities available for you and your family.

## Tammy Romanosky

1970 - 2016

Article contributed by staff at the  
Regional 911 Center

We knew the day would come and were as prepared as we could be. Who really knows how to get ready for someone you love to die? We held a special holiday dinner in her honor in December 2015 at P.F. Chang's, because we wanted to show her how much we cared and well ... because we didn't know if she would be around next Christmas. Though obviously weak, she was smiling, cheerful, and it made us feel a little better to see the "fight" still in her. So when we received word that our beloved **Tammy Romanosky** passed away on the morning of Tuesday, March 29, our hearts were heavy and we were sad and angry that the dreaded "C" claimed another victim.

Tammy was a top-notch, veteran 911 dispatcher with over 20 years of experience. She served in many roles during her tenure including Trainer and Scheduling Assistant, a monstrous task given the many nuances of a 24-7 operation. Tammy was known for her keen room awareness, always listening, staying abreast of center activity and then keeping everyone informed. Our local fire department partners appreciated Tammy's calm, cool, professional tone on the radio. Her talents in dispatching emergency calls set the bar high for others and her skills were frequently recognized. Tammy was super smart and used those skills in developing numerous ideas to improve operations. She created "Operation Geography", a map exercise book to help newer dispatchers learn important locations. She created "Friday Dinner Day" where Tammy provided home-cooked meals—a peer favorite that helped increase camaraderie while providing a convenient, less expensive meal for those working the night shift. Tammy was the consummate team player. She could be counted on to be there for her 911 Center co-workers and she was a tremendous asset to her supervisors.

Despite her illness, Tammy continued as a 911 dispatcher for over three years after her diagnosis. She strived to keep working as much as she could between bouts of illness, unselfishly concerned about creating additional staffing burdens. Through it all, she stayed uplifted, and despite the wicked effects of the disease and medicine, we never heard her complain. In March 2015, Tammy moved to Administration as our Records Technician to reduce her stress and hopefully increase the odds of winning her battle with cancer. In doing this critical task, Tammy never missed an opportunity to recognize her former peers for the great perfor-

# Tribute

mance she heard in their recordings and she enthusiastically sent them "job well done" emails.

Tammy "walked the talk" of her mantra ... "Live, Love, Laugh" ... during her 45 years on this earth. She fought a good fight and her amazing strength and positive spirit will live on in our hearts. We certainly hope her family, including husband, Lt. Kurt Romanosky with Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, knows how much she will be missed. Below are a few sentiments from our 911 family:

*"I will never forget Tammy's kindness and generosity. She was a pleasure to work with because of her outgoing personality and her extensive job knowledge. Her smile was contagious and she was a true friend who will be greatly missed."*



*"Tammy was and always has been full of positive energy, lighting up the room whenever she was around. Her happiness about life was contagious and I was happy to have known her. She fought long and hard and she will be missed by many."*

*"My sincere condolences to all that knew and loved her. I admit I didn't get a chance to get to know her, but I do know how much she was loved by her 911 family. I will attempt to follow her example of always having a positive attitude."*

*"Man ... it feels like just a few weeks ago she was walking around the radio pod, laughing and smiling as usual. This hits hard. I feel thankful to have known her for the short time I did."*

*"Tammy is the strongest most positive person I have ever met in my life and all of my troubles PALE in comparison and I feel like a slug to ever, ever complain about my life."*

*"Unfortunately Tammy cannot be here to witness it, but I was hoping we could do something as far as our awards to remember her here at the center. Can we name an award in honor of this AMAZING WOMAN?"*

And that's what we did. Tammy's memory will live on at the 911 Center by recognizing those who emulate the courage and grace she displayed while fighting cancer. During **National Public Safety Telecommunicator** week (April 10-16, 2016), the **Tammy Romanosky "Live Love Laugh" Award**, was given to the person who displays strength, courage and a positive outlook despite life's difficulties and challenges. We know Tammy is looking down from heaven and hope this makes her proud.

## Promotions

Promotions listed are for March 2016.

### Board of County Commissioners

#### Building Services

Marisa Chartier ..... Admin Supt Spec

#### Human Services

Elliot Diaz..... Cons Prot Inv Sr

Kimberly McQueeney..... Hum Svcs Case Mgr 2

#### Public Works

Brian Mowry..... Sr Dept Admin Mgr

#### Solid Waste

Gerald Working..... Crew Chf 2

#### Utilities

Royce Rarick..... Wtr/Wstwr Pl Oper Chf

### Clerk of the Circuit Court

Natalien Brown..... Crt Clk

Jeffrey Gates ..... Exec Dir Crt & Opn Svcs Div

Marguerite Green ..... Fin Opns Analyst

Jan Price..... Fis Rec Spec

Edward Sheehy..... Crt Rec Supv



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

We have a new search function just for you. Find what you need on the HR website quickly and easily with the new [A to Z Index](#). The comprehensive alphabetical list includes over 300 items. Access the link on the blue menu bar from any Human Resources web page. Try it out, and [let us know if you love it!](#)

Human Resources Home

**A to Z Index / Fast Find**

Employment / Jobs

Employees

Forms

Boards / Councils

Volunteer Services

The Pen



## TECH BITS

### File Management in Office 2013

How do I manage my Microsoft Office files in 2013?

MS Office 2013: New Features classes are ending at the end of April. Sign up today! Visit the [HR Training site](#) for dates and times.

Click here for more [Technology Training Resources](#).



The Microsoft Office button



has been replaced with the new **File tab** in the upper left corner of the window.

Saving, opening, printing, and sharing your files can all be done from the File tab.

The sample to the right shows what the File tab looks like.



The **Info section** is the newest part of Office file management and is the first area found on the File tab. It contains information properties on the current file.

In Word, Excel and PowerPoint, you can also inspect the document, set protection controls, manage file versions, see who the author of the file is, and who last modified the file from this Info area.

In Outlook, your account settings, automatic replies (out of office) message, and rules can be found in the Info area.



# SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

## 30 YEARS



Eric Fehrmann, *Public Works*,  
Sherita McCoy-Butler, *Clerk of the Circuit Court*



Donna McGhee  
*Tax Collector's Office*



Donald Neumann  
*Airport*

## 25 YEARS



Pamela Glad  
*Construction Licensing Board*

Lori Collins  
*Safety & Emergency Services*  
Chris Dusch  
*Business Technology Services*  
Glenn Wardell  
*Building Services*

## 20 YEARS



## Unavailable for Photo

**35 YEARS** Felecia Cheatham, *Clerk of the Circuit Court*,  
Denise Fort Myles, *Clerk of the Circuit Court*

**20 YEARS** Frank Brinson, *Real Estate Management*

## 15 YEARS

Jessica Aragon ..... Human Services  
Kelli Becraft ..... Animal Services  
Dagmar Blunt ..... Human Services  
Bruce Bussey ..... Planning  
James Daros ..... Parks & Conservation Resources  
John Dennis ..... Utilities  
Nicholas Fatolitis ..... Tax Collector's Office  
Daxa Joshi ..... Business Technology Services  
Anne Maddox ..... Construction Licensing Board  
Jorge Nettesheim ..... Business Technology Services  
Denise Payne ..... Risk Management  
Harry Randles ..... Parks & Conservation Resources  
David Surplus ..... Public Works  
Karen Vaughan ..... Utilities

## 10 YEARS

Jill Cicero ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Robert Feigel ..... Pinellas Planning Council  
Andrew Hill ..... Utilities  
Yuan-Chen Kung ..... Human Services  
Jerome Lang ..... Solid Waste  
Cynthia Margiotta ..... Economic Development  
James Martin ..... Human Services  
James McGill ..... Animal Services  
Penny Sorrells ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court

## 5 YEARS

Larissa Cobo ..... Safety & Emergency Services  
Michael Dawson ..... Business Technology Services  
Michael Sloan ..... Safety & Emergency Services  
Richard Walker ..... Emergency Management  
Bryan Weaver ..... Business Technology Services

## 3 YEARS

George Blewitt ..... Airport  
Leroy Bridges ..... Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Alison Brissette ..... Property Appraiser's Office  
Teresa Cauley ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Nuno Delgado ..... Business Technology Services  
Stephen Ficarrotta ..... Utilities  
Timothy Gates ..... Utilities  
Nancy Halvorsen ..... Business Technology Services  
Amantia Kempton ..... Real Estate Management  
Joseph Kovach ..... Utilities  
Laura Todd ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court

# RETIREMENTS

## Over 36 Years



Caridad Corona  
*Court Records Specialist Senior  
Clerk of the Circuit Court*

## Over 29 Years



Donald Ross  
*Facility Operations Manager  
Real Estate Management*

## Retirees Unavailable for Photo

**Over 27 Years** Paul Sweeney,  
*Equipment Operator Senior, Public Works*

**Over 20 Years** Robin Moran, *Finance  
Operation Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court*

**Over 16 Years** Luqman Ali, *AEO 2,  
Public Works*

## Over 25 Years



Raymond Kosach  
*Electronics Specialist Senior  
Real Estate Management*

## Over 17 Years



Beth Rogers  
*Park Ranger 1  
Parks & Conservation Resources*

## REPCO News

REPCO's May lunch meeting will be at **noon, May 9, 2016** at Applebee's, 5110 East Bay Drive. Our speaker will be a representative from Dignity Memorial to tell us about expenses associated with legacy planning. 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.

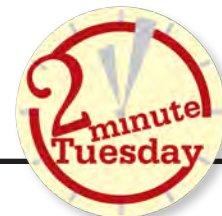
Employee Spotlight  
Continued from [page 2](#).

**What is the one accomplishment at work that you are most proud of? Why?**

One of my team's main job priorities is to fix problems in the water and sewer network before they fail. We're not always successful at that, but there are many cases where we do catch them beforehand and fix them. I am proud of the work we do as a utility department in supplying water and sewer services to residents. Even when we have large major failures, we almost always get service restored within a few hours. It takes a huge effort by many dedicated utility staff to get that done. Most customers do not realize the efforts we go through to make that happen.

**Who is one colleague that deserves praise and recognition? Why?**

There are many County staff that deserve praise. For me specifically though I think that the Construction Department inspection staff deserves to be recognized for their hard work. They are our "eyes and ears" in the field and ensure that the County gets quality work from contractors. Many times they are called upon to work nights, weekends, holidays, etc. with very short notice or warning. They are always ready to help and offer great solutions to problems encountered in the field during construction.



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

**Employee Grievances** - What recent changes were made to the grievance process?

**Take Charge of Your Career** - You spend half your waking time at work. Is it time to take stock?

**Art Show Myths Busted** - Get the scoop on how you can enter to win.

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

# Welcome Aboard!

## Board of County Commissioners

### Utilities

Reginald Barnes ..... Meter Rdr 2

### Safety & Emergency Services

Maryssa Campbell..... Law Enf Telecomm  
Candice Dunson ..... Law Enf Telecomm  
Victor Jimenez Quinones ..... Law Enf Telecomm  
Sarah Walsh..... Law Enf Telecomm

## Business Technology Services

James Rossiter..... IT Analyst

## Clerk of the Circuit Court

Daniel Caruso..... Bus Analyst  
Shakeerah Oatis..... Crt Rec Spec 1  
Noemi Rivera ..... Cust Info Ctr Spec 1  
Maria Suazo..... Crt Rec Spec 1

## Human Resources

Sandra Townsend..... HR Analyst

## Property Appraiser

Andrew Elosge ..... PAO Appraiser 1  
Timothy Johnson ..... PAO Appraiser 1  
Marcy Sheehy..... Prop Rclds Asst  
Kathy Snead ..... PAO Appraiser 1  
John Tatum ..... GIS CAD 1

## Tax Collector

Karen Allen..... Cust Svc Tech 1  
Esther Beardsley..... Cust Svc Tech 1  
Michael Currier ..... Cust Svc Tech 1  
Aldona Field ..... Cust Svc Tech 1  
Michael Jenkins..... Cust Svc Tech 1  
Alexis Macon ..... Cust Svc Tech 1  
Michele Miller ..... Cust Svc Tech 1  
Angela Patten..... Cust Svc Tech 1  
Brenda Santiago..... Cust Svc Tech 1

The Pen



New Employee Orientation class, March 14, 2016.



New Employee Orientation class, March 28, 2016.

## Upcoming Training Classes

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

### A Leader's Guide to Delegating- 4/21

Shared trust is a simple but central aspect of delegation. But when delegating a task, trust typically suffers or flourishes based on the skills of the person doing the delegating. This program can fill the gap many managers feel when it comes to delegation by presenting a simple but thorough 5-step process that will achieve success for the manager, the delegate, and the organization.

### Give 'Em The Pickle – 5/10

This introductory course in customer service teaches the concept of internal and external customers and the skills required to help relate to others who depend on your customer service. Learn how to show appreciation to customers, build customer loyalty and have satisfied customers.

### Emotional Intelligence – 5/11

Learn the EI (Emotional Intelligence) competencies, how to build on existing strengths and develop key leadership skills. Identify and practice a structured step-by-step approach to developing the emotional competencies needed to bring more satisfaction and success to your work.

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).





## Create Sustainable Solutions

Vision • Innovation • Collaboration

### Gardening SOLUTIONS

<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Whether you're thinking of adding a tree to your landscape, choosing a lawn grass, or looking for colorful flowers, this website offers information about plants common to Florida yards.

#### Want more information?

[The Science of Better Living](#)

[Poison Plants](#)

[Upcoming classes](#)



**UF** IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

## Colors of Pinellas

### No Need to Open a Gallery to Sell Your Art

Did you know that you can sell your artwork in the 2016 Art Show?

Simply enter the price when you register for the show. Imagine the thrill of a co-worker or member of the public seeing your art in the Courthouse and asking to buy it! Keep in mind this is a great opportunity to purchase artwork also.

Registration deadline: May 20, 2016

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

SPONSORED BY  
THE NATIONAL ARTS PROGRAM

## Consumer Corner



Getting credit can be easy. Getting into debt is easy, too. For most people, financial stability doesn't depend on how much we make, but how much we spend. It's never too late to get your finances in order and what better time than in April, **National Financial Literacy Month**. Here are some tips to help get you started.

1. **Create a budget:** Making a budget will help you understand where your money is going and where you can afford to make cuts.
2. **Stop spending:** The best way to reduce your debt is to not continue to accumulate it.
3. **Pay off your credit cards:** If you can quickly pay off a credit card with a low balance, do so. If not, pay more than the minimum balance towards the card with the highest interest rate, while continuing to make at least the minimum payment on the rest of your credit cards.
4. **Put extra money towards your debt:** If you receive a bonus at work, money for a birthday or holiday, tax refund, etc., apply that money towards paying off your debt.
5. **Make money with unwanted items:** Do you have a closet full of clothes you're not wearing with tags still on them? Return them to the store for a credit on your credit card or sell them to a consignment shop. Have a yard sale or sell your unwanted items online. Every penny counts.



Connie Consumer

For more information or to file a complaint, visit Pinellas County Consumer Protection at [www.pinellascounty.org/consumer/tips.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/consumer/tips.htm).

## THE RECORD KEEPER



### Records Coordinators: Who Are You?

If you use the Records Management System, you should only log-in using your **own** user name and password. Just like your network credentials, Records Management System log-in information should not be shared and multiple people using the same user ID and password is not allowed.

When a Records Coordinator moves to a new role, Records Management must be notified so that access to the Records Management System can be updated.

To request access to the Records Management System, click [here](#). For more information, please contact Michele Koehler in Records Management at (727) 453-3038.



**Your Source for  
Employee Info**

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.

## Bridging Cultures

One of Pinellas County government's own, **Irena Karolak** (Communications), came to the United States with



her family when she was just 15 years old. They had fled the war-torn countries of Croatia and Serbia.

Irena shares the incredible and poignant story of her journey, the culture shock in the U.S. and her adaptation to her new life. Read it [here](#).



## "Pinellas Parler" Toastmasters Shine!

On April 9, 2016, several employees qualified to enter an area Toastmasters contest: **Greta Finney** (BTS), **Tammera Maloney** (Clerk), and **Joanie Read** (Human Resources). Tammera is Vice President of Education for the Pinellas Parler Chapter.

**Congratulations to Tammera** who won First Place in the Toastmasters "Area Table Topics Contest." Congratulations also to Joanie Read on winning 2nd Place in the Toastmaster's "Area International Speech Contest."



Please congratulate all those that participated. This says a lot for our local Pinellas Parler Toastmaster's club in the development of effective communication and leadership attributes.

*Joanie Read and Tammera Maloney with their trophies.*

Toastmasters International's mission is "to empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders." This is a great avenue for personal growth, leadership skill development, and networking. If you are interested in joining Toastmasters or to learn more, please call Joanie Read at (727) 464-3796.

## Introducing ...



**Natalia Isabel DeJesus.** Born September 24, 2015 to Jennifer DeJesus (Clerk).



**Julianna Rose.** Born March 20, 2016, 6 pounds, 14 ounces, 18 inches long. She is Tammy Collins' (Clerk) third granddaughter.



*Pinellas Parler club in a "Toastmaster selfie."*



## Gone but not Forgotten

The Pen is saddened to announce retiree **Steve Sheets** passed away Tuesday, April 5, 2016. Friends at Heritage Village say he enjoyed participating in Heritage Village's special events as a blacksmith and whip cracker.

He worked for Pinellas County for over 30 years and retired February 2011. He served at Heritage Village and the airport.

Here is his obituary:

Sheets, Stephen J., 65, of St. Petersburg passed away on April 5, 2016. He was born on Jan. 23, 1951 in Columbus, Ohio to the late Marion and Henry Sheets. Stephen attended high school in Ohio where he was raised.

He was a military veteran and an avid Civil War reenactor. Stephen was also proud of his Scottish heritage and was a member of the Scottish Military Society. Survivors include his loving wife of 29 years, Sofia Sheets; sisters-in-law, Maria Brown, and Gigi Panagotacos; and brother-in-law, Alex Nicholas.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his honor to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 5284-0692. Stephen will be buried at Bay Pines National Cemetery at a later date. Condolences can be shared with the family at [www.andersonmcqueen.com](http://www.andersonmcqueen.com).

## Kids Tag Art Contest Winner Announced

Rawlings Elementary student, **Dayton Petrone**, was honored on March 30 for using art to educate residents about the dangers of texting and driving. The Sheriff and Tax Collector co-sponsored the contest as part of Driving Awareness Month in April and are collaborating on a "Don't Text and Drive" campaign this summer.

[Read more](#) about the contest and view the artwork available for purchase.



The winning entry.

## APPLAUSE!

Congratulations to **Karen "Kelly" Vaughan** (Utilities) for winning Sunshine 811's Locate Technician Excellence Award.



Pinellas County Utilities Work Planning Coordinator Steve Allen said "The value and importance of the work that Kelly and her colleagues do every day ensures the safety of all the excavators working in our county. They do their job well and prevent interruptions in service to our customers. They all deserve accolades for their efforts. I know Kelly will accept the award on behalf of all the folks who do this task."

## Customer KUDOS

The Utilities Department received a letter from a customer in Seminole who was full of praise for **Bob Driemel** and **Al Tague** of the Maintenance Division. The customer was at his wits end regarding a problem with a sewer backup. Bob and Al located the sewer line and dug a hole so the customer could install a clean out valve. The customer said "they were extremely professional and helpful, even explaining very clearly the parts one would need to install a clean out line." He went on to say "Bob and Al went far beyond their duties and were extremely helpful ... These two men are an extraordinary example of what it means to 'serve your fellow man' and without any reward, go way beyond that extra mile to help a customer, providing such generosity in words of support."



Bob Driemel



Al Tague

## Classified Ads

### FOR RENT

CHARMING APARTMENT IN DOWNTOWN CLEARWATER - 534 Bay Avenue. If you work downtown, this apartment will be ideal for you. It is 2 blocks from the water and 2 blocks from the Courthouse. It is either a 2 bedroom, 1 bath or 1 bedroom and an office. New kitchen cabinets, a convection oven, some hardwood, tile and carpet. \$625.00 per month and includes water, sewer, trash pickup, and Internet. Great community and you can walk to work! Email me at [etate2004@yahoo.com](mailto:etate2004@yahoo.com)