



# Forward Pinellas - Aligning Operations and Planning Strategically

By Whit Blanton, Executive Director, Forward Pinellas

Transportation continues to take center stage as a countywide issue in Pinellas County and is a hot regional topic in Tampa Bay. Whether its drainage improvements to Trotter Road in Largo, lingering construction on Ulmerton Road, or controversial toll lanes on I-4, I-75 and I-275, people care about transportation because it's such a vital part of our lives. Growth has rebounded above pre-recession levels for jobs and new residents, and more crowded roadways or a lack of travel options make people stress more about traffic and safety.

Planning for transportation is complex, with many issues affecting it, and numerous agencies involved with their own mission and set of responsibilities. It is also increasingly competitive because there isn't enough funding for all the projects needed in a timely manner – from adding bike lanes and sidewalks to buying more buses and reconstructing aging bridges.

Our mission at Forward Pinellas is to help streamline that complex process and set transportation funding priorities that meet a broad range of community needs. Those priorities must support local land use planning and help position Pinellas County and its communities to build public wealth and create more economic opportunity. With 25 local governments and multiple regional partners, we work to align plans, policies and resources to move our community and region forward.

In the year since I joined Pinellas County to serve the unified Pinellas Planning Council (PPC) and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) under a single governing board of 13 elected officials, we've focused on three key goals:

1. Defining an identity and leadership presence in the community
2. Working with our board to establish a clear mission and strategic priorities
3. Cultivating a spirit of teamwork and collaboration

## IDENTITY

We rebranded this past June as Forward Pinellas, with a spiffy new logo and [web site](#).

The name is meant to convey a sense of momentum and making progress toward the outcomes

we want. We now hold our board meetings each month with a unified agenda as one organization. [Hilary Lehman](#) joined us in August as our first communications and outreach manager to help us connect with the public and public agency partners, and several other staff assumed new roles to guide our work solving problems together.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Our [board](#), led by its chair, St. Petersburg Councilmember Jim Kennedy, identified three emphasis areas under a new SPOTlight initiative: enhancing



beach community access, a vision for the US 19 corridor, and a master plan for the Gateway/Mid-County area. We are continuing to work with communities and organizations to develop strategic plans under those topics to help achieve our shared goals.

This September, our board will adopt a set of major transportation priorities

that for the first time will include a mix of roadway, transit service and bicycle/pedestrian projects. The priorities focus on closing gaps in our transportation network and providing support for economic development or redevelopment objectives throughout Pinellas County.

## COLLABORATION

Of equal importance, we are working to align our staff operations and build a strong sense of teamwork and collaboration. I believe that starts with a sense of ownership, so we have created teams focusing on internal and external communications, operations and other topics. We are developing ideas and improving our organizational capacity through those teams.

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## Employee Spotlight



### Maria Riley

Customer Services Supervisor  
Utilities Customer Services Division



#### *Why did you first choose to work for the County and why do you stay?*

I chose to work for Pinellas County Government because I heard that they had good benefits. I chose to stay because I love what I do. I love helping people.

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

In the 90's I worked with Lockheed Martin and the WAGES program (Work and Gain Economic Self-Sufficiency Act, Florida) and hired some people as temps in our customer service call center. Some of those employees became permanent and have grown in their career with Pinellas County Government. I earned the Community Bridge Builders Award on 10/07/1999 presented at an event in St. Petersburg at which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s daughter was present.

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

**Jessica Green** at BTS. Jessica has been a shelter in the storm for us. A refuge, so to say. We have had to call her on many, many occasions at very short notice to change the messages that customers hear first when they call the Utilities Customer Service Center. For example, she will add messages during emergency events such as changes to the reclaimed water restrictions or a water main break that affects a large number of our customers. Most recently, during Hermine, a press release plus an Alert Pinellas phone call went out about overflowing manholes. Citizens were advised to call our phone number to report them. We were inundated

*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](#).*

with phone calls. We contacted Jessica and she quickly added a message to let callers know our maintenance department was aware of the manhole overflow issues and were working hard to resolve the problem. She also changed our hours in the ACD (automatic call distribution) system to keep the calls coming to our call center until 6 p.m. instead of switching over to the answering service at 5 p.m. as usual.

Sometimes Jessica receives calls from us after she has left for the day or while she is driving. She takes care of our issues remotely and does whatever it takes to get the job done. She deserves praise and recognition. JESSICA IS AWESOME!

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

I plan to retire within the next five years. I will have 30 years with Pinellas County Government on August 24, 2017.

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

Maria gave 110% to Pinellas County Government. She was a problem solver, very reliable and dependable. She was a people-person who loved people and would give another human being the shirt off her back if they needed it or asked for it. She showed genuine concern for others and their welfare. She was not afraid to tell others that she loved them. It is going to be hard to find a replacement for her, someone with her "heart condition" is hard to find. She will laugh and cry with you and knows how to give words of encouragement to others. She is a poet who puts true meaning and feelings into her poems.



FLORIDA  
BLOOD  
SERVICES

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**Mark Your**  
**Calendars**

#### **Public Works**

22211 US Hwy. 19 N.  
Building 1, Clearwater  
**October 20**  
In the afternoon

#### **Logan Lab**

1620 Ridge Road, Largo  
Under the flag pole  
**October 25**  
10 a.m. - 12 noon

#### **Utilities Building**

14 S. Fort Harrison Ave., Clearwater  
**October 28**  
9:30 - 11:30 a.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.** I'm wondering if you can clarify exactly what I need to do to complete the Biometric Screening and Health Survey. Mainly, I'm concerned with ensuring I meet the requirements so I can receive the preferred premium (i.e. save \$500).

What exactly needs to be done and where do I enter blood work results when I receive them back?

**A.** The information you need is available on the HR website. Here is a direct link to the [FAQ web page](#) about biometric screenings.

The basic and required information for the biometric screening includes blood pressure, cholesterol levels, height and weight. Your physician can refer you to a lab where you can get the screening. Or you can go to a convenience care clinic (see a list of [local CVS and Walgreens clinics](#)). Once you know your numbers, log into your Rally [Rally](#) account and complete the health survey.

## General Increases for Employees Scheduled for October

As has been the case in the last three years, County employees will be eligible to receive a general increase effective with the new fiscal year in October. This increase will be reflected on the October 21st payroll.

**The general increase is 3% pending approval of the Board of County Commissioners as part of adopting the budget.**

**As a reminder, the new Personnel Rules effective January 1, 2016, provide a different method than what was used in the past for calculating the increase.** Prior to the rule changes the general increase was applied to employee base salary. The new rules require the increase to be calculated on the mid-point of classified and most exempt employee's pay grade range, not the actual salary. Please see item 7 in [What Changed in the Personnel Rules: Update Highlights](#) which Human Resources provided to employees in December 2015 regarding this and other changes to the Personnel Rules.

To view the midpoint for your pay grade, view the [Classified Pay Plan](#) or [Exempt Pay Plan](#) (if you are unsure of your position's pay grade, visit [Class Specifications](#)).

As in past years, your Appointing Authority reserves the right to withhold increases for an employee based on serious disciplinary actions, or for instances where a recent salary adjustment took into consideration the general increase. Employees hired on or after September 1, 2016 are not eligible for the increase. Employees whose salaries are at the maximum of their pay grade will receive a lump sum payment in lieu of base pay increase.



## Annual Benefits Enrollment Begins in October

Annual Enrollment will begin October 10 and end October 28. This is your once-per-year opportunity to review your plan offerings and make informed decisions for you and your covered family members for the upcoming plan/calendar year.

### NEW this year:

- ▶ **If you do not make your benefits selections in OPUS by Friday, October 28, neither you nor your dependents will have coverage in 2017.**
- ▶ **There is an increase in premiums and copays. ([more info](#))**

To help you prepare, we will send informative *Two-Minute Tuesday* videos to all individuals with a County email address. These videos will provide tips on using the tools and resources available to assist you in finalizing your plan choices for 2017.

We have also scheduled onsite meetings at work locations throughout the County, beginning the week of September 21st. If your worksite is not hosting a meeting, there are [additional locations](#): four in downtown Clearwater and another at the Extension Services building in Largo. You are welcome to attend one of these and learn about your options for 2017. There is no need to register: Just come. We hope to see you there!

Keep an eye on the Human Resources, [2017 Annual Benefits Enrollment](#) website. We will continue to add information as it becomes available.

## In case you missed it!

In the September [To Your Health](#): Information on prostate health, cholesterol, ovarian cancer, a co-worker's triumph in *Tell It Well*, wellness series and programs, and much more.

September's [Leadership Notes](#): Do you feel the need for more clarity? Read this issue on *How to Deal with Ambiguity* which includes guidance on how to manage it.



## Hermine: Water, water everywhere

The storm was felt by everyone, and there were some employees who were called to serve—before, during and after the storm.

- ▶ Staff from all over Pinellas County Government responded to the partial activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Public Safety Complex in Largo. Most worked 12 hours shifts around the clock.
- ▶ Parks and Conservation Resources staff worked to mitigate flooding issues. They also provided over 44,000 sandbags to citizens prior to the storm.
- ▶ Marketing and Communications staff informed the public via web, social media and conventional media.
- ▶ Public Works Stormwater crews, in anticipation of the storm, inspected and cleared over 200 facilities in flood-prone areas to mitigate the flooding. During the storm they continued to check inlets and pipes and after the storm made repairs.
- ▶ EMS had additional emergency units staffed by calling in extra personnel or holding staff at the end of their regular shift.
- ▶ A Utilities wastewater crew replaced overworked equipment needed to handle the influx of water and the solids in it.
- ▶ The Citizen Information Center (CIC), staffed by employees on 12-hour, around the clock shifts, fielded 1,700 calls over three days.
- ▶ Solid Waste is managing all the extra yard debris coming in as a result of the storm.

This is by no means a comprehensive overview. There were many other employees who responded to the needs of the County and the citizens during this event. While one might assume departments like Public Works and Utilities would be needed in an emergency, there are others who have important assignments such as Fleet, Consumer Protection, Human Services, Purchasing, Human Resources, Clerk's Payroll, Risk Management, Business Technology Services, and the County Attorney's Office.

County employees are proud to serve our citizens every day – whether it's a routine day or a high-pressure emergency situation.



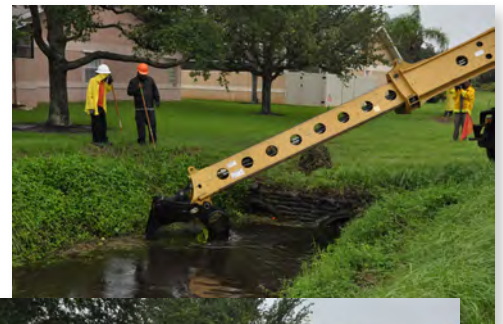
*At the Emergency Operations Center*



*Public Works Field EOC*



*Traffic cameras*



*Emergency Operations Center, Public Safety Complex, Largo*



*Fabricating a fitting for the grinder at South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Facility*



*Staffing the Citizen Information Center*



*Clearing trouble spots before the storm*

Forward Pinellas, continued from page 1.

Along with some robust policy discussions and a few social activities, we are breaking down the silos and working to create a collaborative team. That extends to our agency partners. We are meeting regularly with Pinellas County staff, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, Florida Department of Transportation, all of our cities and many others to share data, resources, and pursue funding for worthy projects.

It's an active time in transportation planning for our County and region. There's an old saying that the best time to plant a tree is 10 years ago, but the second best time is today. That is more true than ever in transportation and land use planning for Pinellas County and Tampa Bay.

### Would you like to?

- \* Improve your confidence
- \* Grow as a leader
- \* Improve communication
- \* Give great presentations
- \* Ace your next interview
- \* Network with other leaders
- \* Practice and perfect your public speaking skills

## Pinellas Parler Toastmasters Club

### Visit Our Open House Event

333 Chestnut St, Clearwater FL

Sept 28th 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Contact Joan Read for more information

464-4727 or jread@pinellascounty.org



Where Leaders are Made

## Keep Your FRS Information Up-to-Date



There are two very important pieces of information every employee needs to have on file with the Florida Retirement System (FRS): The name(s) of your beneficiary(s) and your email address.\*

**Beneficiary:** Having beneficiary information in your FRS record is important because, if you should expire while you are an active employee, your beneficiary may be eligible to request a refund of the contributions that you have made to the FRS.

**Email:** The FRS is moving to electronic delivery of information including the Member Annual Statement. You will receive an e-mail during your birth month when your annual statement has been posted to your account. Then, you can log in to your account and view your benefit estimate.

While in your account, you can view (and verify) your personal information and get assistance with retirement planning, too.

\* All active employees should set up access to their Florida Retirement System (FRS) account at [MyFRS.com](http://MyFRS.com). If you have not done so, check out our helpful [Create FRS Account](#) flyer.

## Upcoming Training Classes

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

### The Changing Environment & Future Trends in Leadership Development - 10/5

The environment of today's workplace is growing increasingly complex and for many, that complexity is overwhelming their capacity to cope. Much of the stress that leaders experience today has less to do with workload and more to do with the tension of trying to make sense of an environment that has become too complex for their current stage of development. The skills needed for leadership have changed, but the methods used to develop those skills have not. So the question becomes, how do we develop leaders with new methods so they can succeed in the changing environment? Join us in this highly interactive, creative, and innovative leadership workshop. You will enjoy short video clips, small and large group activities, and sharing of new ideas.

### Office Recycling and Records Management: What You Need To Know - 10/5 (1.5 hours)

This class refocuses on recycling within County buildings, on what is and is not a record, and how records should be managed. Learn what can and cannot be recycled in your office space. Learn how to identify if something is a "record" and should be handled through Records Management. What types of paper, paper-type wastes and containers can be recycled? What is your role in recycling?

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).





## TECH BITS

### Tips and Tricks to Using Microsoft Office 2013's OneNote

*Ever wonder what OneNote is or how it should be utilized?*

Microsoft OneNote gathers your handwritten or typed notes, drawings, screen clippings and audio commentaries into digital notebooks. OneNote also allows you to create tables, insert pictures, and gather material from other Office applications and the Web, and then search any of the notes. OneNote has a feature that saves your notebooks automatically. OneNote can be your "everything" organizer.

If you do plan on inserting audio or video into your notes, you may want to make them searchable as well. Go to **File>Options>Audio & Video>Enable searching audio and video recordings for words**.

Take a Quick Note or screenshot without ever having to open OneNote simply by hitting the **Windows key plus N** or **Windows key plus S** respectively.



If you are doing a report that requires online research, OneNote can clip the page you need and save it with your related notes. In Internet Explorer, simply click **Tools** and then choose **Send to OneNote** from the drop down list. This will preserve the page formatting, create a timestamp and add the source web address. Not using Internet Explorer? Chrome also allows you to choose **Send to OneNote** from the printer list. Instead of actually printing the web page, it gets sent to OneNote.

Not sure where to start when creating your notes, Microsoft has Templates for OneNote just like the rest of the Office 2013 suite. Go to **Insert>Page Templates** and choose **Page Templates** from the drop down menu. You can then add a new page to your notebook based on one of the Templates from the Academic, Blank, Business, or Decorative list of templates.

Lastly, the integration with the other Office 2013 applications allows you to embed an Excel table, turn a line on a OneNote page into a task in Outlook, email pages, and bring over meeting details from Outlook into the meeting notes in OneNote.

To access additional information on this topic including several 2 to 3 minute videos on specific OneNote tasks, visit Pinellas County's online learning portal, [ULearnIT](#) (search OneNote 2013).

*~Best if accessed using Chrome~*

[Click here](#) for access to the OneNote Quick Start guide and additional [Technology Training Resources](#).

## Promotions

*Promotions listed are for August 2016.*

### Board of County Commissioners

#### Airport

Bradley Weeks ..... Craftwkr 1

#### Building Services

Stacy Jones..... Bldg Svcs Spec

#### Public Works

Brian Adair ..... AEO 3

Chad Madonia ..... Fld Insp 2

Stephen Sako, Jr. .... Fld Insp 1

Wrenn Smotherman ..... AEO 3

#### Utilities

Andrew Calcaterra..... Util Chem 2

Adam Crittenden ..... Util Maint Spec 3

Adam Di Rienzo..... SCADA Supt Coord

Malcolm Seaman, III ..... Meter Rdr 2

Joseph Strautmann ..... Elec/Mech Tech2

### Business Technology Services

Dylan Connelly ..... Info Tech Spec

Dennis McCloud ..... Info Tech Spec

Louis Ricardo ..... Info Tech Spec

William Thomas..... Info Tech Spec

Randall Vandermolten ..... Info Tech Spec

### Clerk of the Circuit Court

Joseph Bradt ..... Fis Rec Spec

Darcy Eckert ..... Insp Gen 2

Vincent Esponilla..... Fis Rec Spec

### Forward Pinellas

Rodney Chatman ..... Plan Div Mgr

### Tax Collector's Office

Rita Fredenrich ..... Trng Spec

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



#### [Deskercise](#) - Stiff neck and back?

Stretch with coworkers twice a day during this challenge.

[Can You Hear Me Now?](#) - Learn more about hearing loss and employee insurance benefits.

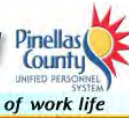
[Got the Negativity Bug?](#) - Learn five tips to overcome negativity.

[Poison in the Workplace](#) - What is it? How can you stop it?

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



## Employees' Advisory Council



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

## Who Would You Like to Represent You?

Annual elections for Employees' Advisory Council (EAC) Representatives are coming soon. EAC Representatives advocate for you and your coworkers to the Personnel Board and the executive level decision-makers.

So think about a coworker who would be a great choice and, when you receive the form, nominate them. Or, if you'd like to get involved, consider nominating yourself as an EAC Representative.

Candidates are required to have been a permanent employee in the classified service for at least one year.

**If you are a classified employee working in one of the following areas, watch your email for a nomination form on Monday, October 3rd.** The deadline for nominations will be October 14th.

Each year, half of the Representatives' positions are up for election, so if your area is not listed, you'll have an opportunity to participate next year.

The Employees' Advisory Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Pinellas County Personnel Board concerning personnel matters, policies, rules, and regulations affecting employees. The EAC plays a vital role for employees and management at Pinellas County to facilitate working together and discussing issues, solutions and accomplishments for the benefit of all involved.

Visit [www.pinellascounty.org/hr/eac](http://www.pinellascounty.org/hr/eac) to learn more about the EAC. To find out the name of your current EAC Representative, see [www.pinellascounty.org/hr/eac/pdf/rep-del.pdf](http://www.pinellascounty.org/hr/eac/pdf/rep-del.pdf). For more information, contact Lisa Wombles, EAC Chair, at 464-4862 or by email at [lwombles@pinellascounty.org](mailto:lwombles@pinellascounty.org).

BCC Group 3	Public Works
BCC Group 4	Utilities Field Services, Dunn, Keller, Logan, South Cross
BCC Group 5	Animal Services, Emergency Management, Human Services, Safety and Emergency Services
BCC Group 7	Parks and Conservation Resources
BCC Group 8	Airport, Building Services, Convention & Visitors Bureau, Development Review Services, Economic Development, Marketing & Communications, Planning, Purchasing, Risk Management
Clerk South	Criminal Court Customer Service, Criminal Court Records, Clerk's Customer Information Center, Court Assistance/Jury Services, Records Management, St. Petersburg Branch, Tyrone Branch
Tax Collector	All classified employees at the Tax Collector's Office
Other Appointing Authorities	Business Technology Services, County Attorney, Forward Pinellas, Construction Licensing Board, Human Resources, Human Rights

## American Heart Association Honors EMS Responders

*Excerpted from August 24 press release*

Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services has struck gold with a 2016 Mission: Lifeline EMS Gold Level Recognition Award from the American Heart Association.

The award honors responders for implementing quality improvement measures to treat patients who experience severe heart attacks which would result in death without speedy intervention.

"We are proud to be recognized with this prestigious award," said **Craig Hare**, director of Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services and Fire Administration. "This award exemplifies all of the efforts of our paramedics, emergency medical technicians, Critical Care Team members and emergency medical dispatchers to rapidly identify, treat and transport heart attack patients."

Agencies that receive the Mission: Lifeline Gold award have demonstrated at least 75 percent compliance for required achievement measures related to treatment of these critical patients for two years, and have treated at least eight patients for potentially deadly heart attacks each year.

Pinellas County EMS is one of three EMS systems in Florida to receive a gold award this year.



*Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services received the 2016 Mission: Lifeline EMS Gold Level Recognition Award from the American Heart Association at the Aug. 23 Board meeting of the Pinellas County Commission.*

# SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

## 30 YEARS



Stephanie Lauster, *Solid Waste*  
Dennis Grizzell, *Public Works*

## 20 YEARS



John "Mike" Pansulla  
*Utilities*

## Unavailable for Photo

### 30 Years

Marvin McCraney  
*Airport*  
Bridget Turner  
*Human Services*  
William Zweil  
*Public Works*

### 25 Years

Steven Peterson  
*Parks & Conservation*  
*Resources*

## 15 YEARS

Frank Beardsley ..... Real Estate Management  
Tina Berrien ..... Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Byron Bozarth ..... Parks & Conservation Resources  
Frederick Cachilli ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Karen Cervone-Nitz ..... Safety & Emergency Services  
Hector Esteves ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
John Evatz ..... Public Works  
Lisa Gentry ..... Tax Collector's Office  
Teofilo Marte ..... Property Appraiser's Office  
Susan Reed ..... Public Works  
Jon Vincent ..... Public Works

## 10 YEARS

Bertha Battle ..... Human Resources  
Richard Clarke ..... Solid Waste  
Tammy Collins ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Michael Hammond ..... Safety & Emergency Services  
Florence Harding ..... Planning  
Ronald LaPlante ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Darrelle Larondos ..... Human Services  
Bryan McPherson ..... Tax Collector's Office  
Georgie Porter ..... Tax Collector's Office  
Debra Prior ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Kara Salanito ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Mike Sebastian ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Betty Wiseman ..... Construction Licensing Board

## 5 YEARS

Sylvia Andino ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Megan Henry ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Virginia Holscher ..... Risk Management  
Leila Kheireddine ..... Development Review Services  
Donna Larsen ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Joshua Marshall ..... Real Estate Management  
Joseph Parrish ..... Public Works  
Kristine Tracy ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court

## 3 YEARS

Christine Alvarez ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Lorry Brutcher ..... Tax Collector's Office  
Michelle Coates ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Thuyvy Connelly ..... Construction Licensing Board  
Daniel De Loreto ..... Real Estate Management  
Charles Duff ..... Solid Waste  
Gregory Duque ..... Public Works  
James Fletcher ..... Airport  
Michael Iguina ..... Airport  
Adeliah Jackson ..... Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Donald Lomas ..... Public Works  
Willie Roundtree ..... Real Estate Management  
Nicole Stallings ..... Parks & Conservation Resources



Human Resources was pleased to offer a day to help employees develop their skills as effective leaders, regardless of their role in the organization. There were 103 attendees from seven appointing authorities.

The conference was opened by Human Resources Director **Holly Schoenherr**, who introduced key-

note speaker **Ken Burke**, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, whose remarks were entertaining and on point.

There were nine 50-minute breakout sessions with presenters from Human Resources as well as from the Tax Collector's office, the Property Appraiser's office, Utilities and the Marketing and Communications departments. **Dr. Ricardo Davis**, Chair of the Personnel Board was also there to present on the topic of diversity.

Our post-conference survey results revealed participants thought the day was well organized, valuable and personally beneficial, and that something they learned will be helpful in their career development.



## RETIREMENTS

35 Years



R.W. Grubbs  
*Engineering Specialist 2  
Engineering & Technical Support*

30 Years



Kenneth Helt  
*Water/Wastewater Plant Operator 2  
Utilities*

Over 21 Years



Michael Crawford  
*Planning Division Manager  
Forward Pinellas*

### Unavailable for Photo

**Over 17 Years** Kam Millheim, *Customer Service Technician, Tax Collector's Office*

### REPCO News

REPCO's October lunch meeting will be at **11:30 a.m., October 10, 2016** at Applebee's Restaurant, 5110 East Bay Drive in Largo. The guest speaker will be Karla Cook (Pinellas County Human Resources, Benefits Division) to talk about retiree benefits and annual enrollment. For more information contact Rudy Garcia 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.

## Pinellas Clerk Earns National Achievement Award for Juror Pay Initiative

*Excerpted from August 18 press release*

The National Association of Counties (NACo) awarded Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, **Ken Burke**, the 2016 Achievement Award for the "Same Day Juror Pay Mobile Workstations" initiative in the category of Court Administration and Management. Started in 1970, the annual Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive awards program that recognizes innovative, effective county government programs that enhance resident services in 21 different categories.

Clerk Burke spearheaded the "Same Day Juror Pay Mobile Workstations" initiative when it was apparent that a process improvement was needed. In the past, jurors eligible for compensation would be inconvenienced by the need to visit cashing stations outside of the Jury Room to request their pay. If the jurors opted for a non-cash payment or if they failed to collect their compensation, the checks would be mailed between seven and ten days after their jury service. With nearly 28,300 citizens

reporting for jury service each year, the cost of mailing juror payments was significant and the process was cumbersome and inefficient for all parties involved.

In an effort to add value to the customer service component of Jury Service, and apply some cost saving measures to the office, Clerk Burke worked to streamline the process and helped make Pinellas the first county in the state to offer same day juror pay in the comfort of the Jury Room through the use of mobile workstations. Since its official release date of September 23, 2013, the program has been very well received by the public. The substantial increase in same day juror payments alone has made this initiative a true success.

"Receiving this award is truly an honor and we couldn't be more thrilled with how well the program has improved the Jury Service experience," stated Clerk Burke. "This initiative ultimately offers jurors one less worry when taking part in such a fundamental component of our justice system."

# Welcome Aboard!

## Board of County Commissioners

### Airport

Darren Ware..... Airpt Firefighter

### Animal Services

Janelle Rodriguez..... Grant Wkr "A"  
Jenna Severino..... Ani Svc Rep  
Terresa Spriggs..... Acctg & Fin Tech

### County Administration

William Breckinridge..... Asst Co Admin

### Convention & Visitors Bureau

Jeff Abbaticchio..... CVB Manager

### Emergency Management

Mary Meade..... Emer Mgmt Coord Sr

### EMS/Fire Administration

Rita Brickey..... Admin Supt Spec

### Parks & Conservation Resources

Xavier Jones..... Park Rngr 1  
Anna Klement..... Park Rngr 1  
Stephanie Pego..... Ed Supt Spec

### Public Works

Shawn Daniels..... AEO1  
William Logan..... Fld Insp 1  
Ryan Miller..... Trainee Under-Fill A  
Victor Paniagua..... Spray Tech

### Regional 911

Summer Anderson..... Law Enf Telecomm  
Linda Cossey..... Law Enf Telecomm  
Heather Dame..... Law Enf Telecomm  
Megan Ilavsky..... Law Enf Telecomm  
Louis Shimits..... Law Enf Telecomm  
Jeffrey Shue..... Law Enf Telecomm  
Vanhua Tran..... Law Enf Telecomm  
Shaquille Whiting..... Law Enf Telecomm

### Real Estate Management

John Huff..... Real Prop Tech  
David Wallace..... Sr Reg Architect

### Solid Waste

Joshua Kirchmann..... Solid Waste Prog Asst  
Edwin Suarez-Rivera..... Solid Waste Prog Asst

### Utilities

Heather Canham..... Wtr/Wstwr Plt Oper Trne  
Roger Williams..... Wtr Qual Mgmt Spec 2

## Business Technology Services

Amy Black..... Info Tech Analyst  
Alain DeLisle..... Prog Mgr  
Joshua Goodrick..... Info Tech Spec  
Christopher Reyes..... Info Tech Spec  
David Sereboff..... Info Tech Analyst

## Clerk of the Circuit Court

Tony Fabrizio..... Board Reporter  
Natasha Felix-Bunch..... Rec Spec 1  
Stephanie Gibbons..... Rec Spec 1  
Amy Meloy..... Fis Rec Spec  
Stephanie Thackeray..... Crt Rec Spec 1  
Toni Treadway..... Crt Rec Spec 1  
Brandon Young..... Rec Spec 1

## Forward Pinellas

Hilary Lehman..... Plan Prog Spec



New Employee Orientation class August 7.



New Employee Orientation class August 21

## THE RECORD KEEPER

### Office Recycling and Records Management: What You Need to Know

Records Management and Solid Waste have collaborated to bring you a new training session titled Office Recycling and Records Management: What You Need to Know.

During this 1 ½ hour presentation, employees will learn about what can and can't be recycled in the office, why recycling is important, the role each of us plays, and how we can all do more. You will also learn how to identify records that should be managed through Records Management processes and not go through office recycling.

This session will be held on October 5, 2016. Reserve your spot today by signing up through OPUS [PIN OLM Learner](#).



## Create Sustainable Solutions

Vision • Innovation • Collaboration



### Sustainability Connections

A film series to promote sustainability awareness and education. Partnering with The University of Tampa (UT) to offer free film screenings with expert panel discussions. Events will be in Reeves Theatre on UT campus.

Want more information?

[www.pinellascountyextension.org](http://www.pinellascountyextension.org)

Register for each event separately

[Oct 3 – Shattered Sky](#)

[Oct 24 – Just Eat It](#)

[Nov 14 – Weather Gone Wild](#)

UF IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

## Launch of the OPUS Project Management Module

On September 1, 2016, OPUS launched its Project Management Module. It integrates Capital Improvement Project information within OPUS. Raising active Capital Improvement Projects visibility allows for better management and communication by the various departments responsible for the numerous assets in Pinellas County. It brings with it the necessary clarity of CIP budgets, invoices, schedules, financial tasks, and team members. More information on this module and how it can benefit your business can be found on the [OPUS Intranet Site](#).



## Consumer Corner



It seems lately, every time you turn on the news there is another product or vehicle being recalled. As a consumer, what should you know about recalls?

A recall is an action taken by a manufacturer, or the government, to protect the public from products that may cause health or safety problems. Some recalls ban the sale of an item, while others ask consumers to return the item for replacement or repair.

Before you buy a product, especially a used or secondhand one, be sure to check if a recall has been issued for that item. Exercise additional caution if you are buying a product for a child, such as toys, clothing, cribs, or car seats. Six federal agencies have joined together to create a "one stop shop" website for U.S. Government recalls; this includes consumer products, motor vehicles, food, boats, food, medicine, cosmetics, and environmental products. To obtain the latest recall information or report a dangerous product, visit [www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov).

For more information, to file a complaint, or check the complaint history of a business, call Pinellas County Consumer Protection at (727) 464-6200 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/consumer](http://www.pinellascounty.org/consumer).



Connie Consumer



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.

## Introducing ...



**Emma Laine Reed** was born May 24 in Nashville, TN. Proud grandparents are Sandy (Herron) Wilson (PCR) and Don Wilson (PCR). Emma is their first grandchild and is named after her late Great Grandmother, Elaine, who passed away last year.

## Graduation



Maggie B. Miles (Planning) announces the graduation of her daughter, **TyRhonda C. Taylor**, Magna Cum Laude and National Honor Society (GPA 4.0) from the University of South Florida College of Behavioral & Community Sciences with a Master's Degree in Social Work. TyRhonda has been hired by the Pinellas County School Board at Safety Harbor Middle School as a School Social Worker. Congratulations, Ty! GO BULLS!

## Gone but not Forgotten

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

**James D. Gray**, 89, passed away July 17, 2016. He retired from Pinellas County October 1, 2007 after six years of service at the Pro and Golf Shop. He was a Golf Attendant. His memorial service was on July 31 at Liberty Baptist Church in St. Petersburg.

**Ernestine "Tina" Favale**, 89, passed July 21, 2016. She retired from Pinellas County in 1989. According to her [obituary](#), "Mimi" as she was also called, spent many years as a Social Worker with Pinellas County.

**Karleen De Blaker**, 85, passed August 14, 2016. She retired in 2005 and was the first female Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court, a position she held for 24 years. She is predeceased by her husband of 56 years, Chuck, and leaves two children and four grandchildren. According to the [Tampa Bay Times obituary](#), services will be held Sunday, October 16 at Central Christian Church in Clearwater. Memorial donations may be made to the USF Foundation, Karleen De Blaker Memorial Scholarship (fund 520003), or to the Memorial Fund of Central Christian Church. Read more in the [Tampa Bay Times article](#).

**Robert Humberstone**, 62, passed August 15, 2016. He retired from Pinellas County in August of this year after 17 years of service. He was a Business Development Manager with Airport Administration.

**Mae Ola Reece**, 83, passed August 17, 2016. She retired from Pinellas County in July, 2006. She worked at Fort De Soto Park. She is survived by her husband, Samuel Reece who retired from Public Works this year; her daughter; two sisters; and a host of other relative and friends. Funeral services were held August 13 at New Jerusalem M.B. Church in St. Petersburg.

**Danny Hickman**, 70, passed away August 16, 2016. He retired from Pinellas County Utilities (GMD North) in 2011. Married to Yvette, he was living in Kentucky at the time of his passing.

## Classified Ad

### For Sale GE Microwave Model #JVM1650WH05.

Used, white GE 1000 watt microwave in excellent condition. Currently in use while new appliances are on order. We are remodeling. Complete with manual and installation information. Available now. You pick up \$75.00 Cash only. (727) 424-4845.

