Pinellas County Career Expo

Thank you to all the employees who participated in the first Pinellas County Government Career Expo on February 4 at the EpiCenter. Appointing Authorities and departments represented were:

- Board of County Commissioners departments including:
  - Airport
  - Animal Services
  - Building & Development Review Services
  - Code Enforcement
  - Convention & Visitors Bureau
  - Emergency Management
  - Facilities Management and Fleet
  - Human Services
  - Management & Budget
  - Parks and Conservation Resources
  - Planning
  - Public Works
  - Regional 911
  - Utilities

- Business Technology Services
- Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
- Forward Pinellas
- Human Resources
- Human Rights
- Property Appraiser
- Supervisor of Elections
- Tax Collector

Human Resources recruiter, Jennifer Catalano said, “We received an overwhelming response in attendance with over 550 participants. Thank you to all the employees who let their family and friends know about the Career Expo.”
Know a College Student?

Do you know a college student who could use $1,200?

The Florida Supervisors of Elections (FSE), comprised of the State of Florida’s county supervisors, will award $1,200 scholarships to three qualified students in 2020. College students eligible to apply are:

1) Majoring in one of the following:
   - Political Science
   - Public Administration
   - Business Administration
   - Journalism
   - Mass Communications

2) Enrolled as a junior or senior at an accredited Florida college or university; and

3) Registered to vote

“This is a great opportunity for eligible college students and I hope that we receive many applications,” said Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark.

The scholarship application and complete list of scholarship guidelines, which includes requirements for letters of recommendation and financial information, are available for download at www.VotePinellas.com/Scholarships.

Scholarship applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 28, 2020, 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.

For additional information or to receive an application by mail, please call the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Office at 727-464-VOTE (8683) or email VoterEd@VotePinellas.com.

HR Wants Your Feedback

Have you seen the “How are we doing?” link on HR’s website and emails? Take this quick anonymous Customer Satisfaction Survey whenever you contact Human Resources.

Let us know: Did you get what you need in a timely manner? What do you think we can do to improve? We want to hear from you to help us serve you better.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to five Human Resources staff members who have achieved SHRM-CP (Society for Human Resources Management) certifications. (See photo at right.)

In addition, Danielle Holland, (Contracts Administration Coordinator) received her IPMA-CP (International Public Management Association for Human Resources) certification.

SHRM-CP recipients, front row: Audrey Savas (HR Officer), Ralph Reid (HR Analyst), Irena Karolak (HR Officer), and Sarah Pizzino (HR Consultant). Not pictured, Jennifer Catalano (HR Consultant, Sr). Back row: UPS Board members Bill Schulz, Peggy O’Shea, Ken Peluso, Ric Davis (Chair), Assistant County Attorney Carol Brody, UPS Board members Paul Rogers and Jeffery Kronschnabl, and HR Director Holly Schoenherr.

Did you know you can donate whole blood, platelets or plasma?

You can schedule an appointment at www.oneblooddonor.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Mark Your Calendars

BLOOD DRIVES

You can schedule an appointment at www.oneblooddonor.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Tax Collector
1663 Gulf to Bay Blvd.
Clearwater
March 18
10:30 - 1:00

Did you know you can donate whole blood, platelets or plasma?

To view blood donation FAQs, process, and testimonials, visit OneBlood.

Also view the blood donation web page.

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To view blood donation FAQs, process, and testimonials, visit OneBlood.

Also view the blood donation web page.
Q. I understand that if someone is ill during flu season, they can take time off as scheduled versus unscheduled time. But when someone says they are ill for only 1 day would that be considered flu-like symptoms?

A. When the Appointing Authorities agree to implement the flu-like illness practice to count as scheduled leave, it is up to the individual Appointing Authorities if they wish to add additional parameters for their employees. Generally speaking, the County does not want to have employees report to work if they feel like flu symptoms may be setting in so as not to spread illness to other employees and the citizens. There are employees who will call in for only one day but report to work feeling fine the next. From a manager perspective, supervisors should monitor the number of times individuals use the policy to see if there might be unusual patterns that may indicate abuse of the practice. Supervisors should speak with the employees about these patterns and possible abuse. However, there are many employees who legitimately get sick and this practice is used as intended. The County, being mindful of not spreading the flu, chooses to take the conservative approach to the flu and would rather employees stay home if not feeling well.

View the email sent December 22, 2019.

Q. Is there a guideline for a flexible work schedule?

A. Permitting a flexible work schedule, and determining associated guidelines that need to be followed if permitted, is a decision that is made by the individual Appointing Authorities or Department Directors. These are policy decisions that Authorities make in the best interests of their departments. The Authorities have several options available to them to address the issue of flexible work schedules. The Personnel Rules do not dictate to County organizations how to set their work schedules for their employees, and by extension, do not direct the Authorities with regard to flexibility for work schedules.

Your department may have a policy that addresses work schedule flexibility. We recommend you speak with your supervisor or leadership to inquire about this and any options that may be available to you. You may want to consider bringing information which may provide new input to be considered by management about how such a practice may benefit the organization and the employees.

Holly’s Posts

What I Wanted to Be When I Grew Up

Like many children, when I was young I thought about what I wanted to be when I grew up. When asked by adults, my response was always, “I want to be a Human Resources Director!” Actually, that is far from the truth. (I didn’t even know what human resources was then). As a child, my dream was to be a wide receiver in the NFL!

As I developed into an adult and explored life’s many opportunities, I came to realize that my interests and skills were a far better match for human resources than being a wide receiver. I still love watching a great football game, but it’s the opportunity to serve and engage with dedicated employees that really charges my battery.

I’m sure many of you had similar experiences, where you’ve found your calling in a field that you wouldn’t have thought of as a child.

In 2019, I made it a priority to visit with County employees in their work settings and observed first-hand the passion and talents of employees across all parts of our organization. Many of the jobs you perform are not glamorous and literally leave you dirty and sweaty at the end of the day. But each one is so important.

My hat’s off to you all making a difference in Mosquito Control, Public Works, Utilities, Solid Waste, Real Estate Management, and Parks and Conservation Resources, doing great work in the jails, in the manholes, and in the County’s many parks; and to those of you serving citizens with very personal needs and situations in the Clerk’s Office, Tax Collector’s Office, Property Appraiser’s Office and Building and Development Review Services … just to name a few. My respect for each one of you was enhanced with every visit, including the employees working around the clock to staff Regional 911 … if you’re not there to provide critical assistance, it can be the difference between life and death.

Thanks to those of you that guided me through your world … and thank goodness many of you answered the call for public service.
The Know Your Benefits Series features benefits programs you need to KNOW and understand so you can make the right choices for you and your family.

FREE Financial Planning for FRS Members

Did you know ... The Florida Retirement System (FRS) has a contract with Ernst and Young (EY) to provide free, unbiased financial planning and counseling services to FRS members. EY does not sell any investment or insurance products. You can speak to an EY financial planner when it is convenient for you and at no cost to you. The online MyFRS Financial Guidance Line Appointment System allows you to select the date and time that best work for your schedule. Whether you are a new hire or ready to retire, contact MyFRS.com for your financial planning needs.

Flu Season Remains in Full Swing

The incidences of influenza are still elevated in Pinellas County. Protect yourself and your family:
• Get vaccinated - it’s not too late.
• Wash your hands often.
• Avoid touching your nose and mouth.
• Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
• Disinfect areas you come into contact with, especially common areas.
• If you start to feel ill, keep your distance from others.
• If you have flu or flu-like symptoms, stay home from work.

Reminder: Behavioral/Mental Health Program Administration Transition, March 31 Deadline

Effective 1/1/2020, UnitedHealthcare (UHC) is the carrier for behavioral/mental health services. If you or a covered family member is utilizing this benefit, please make sure that you have updated your provider (psychologist, social worker, counselor, psychiatrist, therapist) with the correct carrier information, which is UHC. If they submit claims to ComPsych, the claims may be denied. We are still in the transition period from ComPsych. Employees and dependent family members who had been using ComPsych prior to January 1 have been given 90 days (January 1 to March 31, 2020) to transition to an in-network UHC provider. Any provider not in the UHC network will continue to be processed at the in-network benefit level until March 31. View FAQs about this transition.

Take Care of Yourself

In February’s To Your Health newsletter, you will find:
› Register for the Plant Your Own Herb Garden class
› Wellness is more than food and exercise!
› An invitation to register for a demo of the new gym equipment
› Wear red employee photos
› A High Five for a fellow employee
... and more!
Annual Disaster Assignment and Preparedness Assessment Opens February 24th

The Disaster Assignment and Preparedness Assessment (DAPA) is Coming to OPUS

This year, the Disaster Assignment and Preparedness Assessment (DAPA) will move to OPUS. The migration to OPUS will give directors and managers better visibility and access to their employee data and reports. Employees will be able to review and update their disaster assignment as easily as submitting their timecards. Supporting documents such as exemptions and training certificates can be uploaded into OPUS for easier accessibility.

All employees are required to add their information to their OPUS profiles by March 30. Supervisors will be notified of DAPA entries, just like timecards, to be able to review and approve each employee’s submission. DAPA is another tool towards creating a prepared and resilient County.

**Every Employee is Vital to a Disaster Response**

Every County employee is to be assigned as department essential or County essential to support Pinellas County during a disaster. So what does this mean?

**Department essential** employees are required to fulfill an assignment that is essential to their departmental responsibilities. Examples may be Public Works employees supporting debris operations or Animal Services employees supporting pet friendly shelters. If you are department essential, your supervisor will know your disaster assignment.

**County essential** employees are those who do not have a disaster assignment within their department and will be required to fulfill other critical functions needed to support County operations. Examples may be answering citizen questions at the Citizen’s Information Center or assisting in local evacuation shelters.

If you are County essential, your supervisor can help you choose from the available positions. To learn more about County essential options, view the County Essential Disaster Assignment Packet or talk with your department’s Disaster Assignment Coordinator.

**Dates to Remember**

- **February 24th** - Disaster Assignment and Preparedness Assessment Annual Update Opens
- **March 30th** - Disaster Assignment and Preparedness Assessment Annual Update is Due

All employees will be able to access DAPA in OPUS on Monday, February 24th. Look for a Two-Minute Tuesday on February 25 which will include step-by-step instructions for employees. Employees will have until March 30th to complete their annual update.

Pinellas County employees provide amazing services to the public every day. When disaster strikes, our residents, tourists and businesses need us more than ever. Thank you for your dedication to Pinellas County residents. If you have any questions, please see your Disaster Assignment Coordinator.

For more information on making a plan for your family, visit the Emergency Management website.

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Florida’s Certified Road Safety Professionals: Congratulations!

From Pinellas County Marketing & Communications

Pinellas County is the first public agency in Florida to have four certified Road Safety Professionals through the Transportation Professional Certification Board. The certification recognizes a valued level of practice and knowledge in the field of traffic and roadway safety. Congratulations to Public Works Transportation Division staff (left to right): Ken Jacobs, PWE, TSOS, RSP; Gina Harvey, PTP, RSP; Tom Washburn, PE, RSP; and Joan Rice, PE, RSP for achieving this impressive designation!
A partnership between Human Services, the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court and the Westcare Foundation culminated in the Thrive Program, which is new in the Adult Drug Court ... and it is "thriving"! The target number of 50 participants for the first year will be exceeded.

The Thrive Program focuses on serving high risk/high need, nonviolent Adult Drug Court participants; specifically, clients misusing opiates or at risk for opiate overdose. Treatment includes multiple weekly group therapy sessions at Westcare, random weekly drug screens, and 2 self-help groups per week. Additional services such as support housing and non-funded Medication Assisted Treatment are available.

This is the first year of the 5-year, $2 million grant awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). Now, many of the Thrive participants are succeeding with case managers through Westcare and with the help of “Empowered to Change” (ETC). The non-profit ETC program begins with safe and sober housing and includes assistance with getting employment, case management, and holistic life coaching.

**Success**

As each Drug Court client is assessed for eligibility, the hope is to improve the life of the client as well as their contribution to our community; and it is already working. One client in the Thrive Program court stated “this is the best I have ever been.” With treatment, safe and sober housing, and employment services for each client, this program is already setting the pathway to a substance abuse-free community.

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**Pets of the Month**

*Contributed by Pinellas County Animal Services (PCAS)*

This sweet boy with a big head and short legs is Baxter. He always seems to have a smile on his handsome face and his tail is always wagging. Baxter likes the finer things in life like short walks, long naps and treats. What he LOVES is to be near you and cuddle. He knows the commands sit, down and wait so we know he has had some basic training. He is a good walker, appears house trained and accepts treats gently. Does Baxter sound like the one for you? Please stop by the shelter and meet this mellow fellow today.

Where is a security blanket for this great looking Linus? We are not sure that this boy really needs a security blanket as he is a sociable cat with a non-stop loving personality. He loves to be petted and will roll around seeking your hand for more attention. Linus is a young boy and with toys that catch his interest we are sure he will enjoy playtime; especially if one of his new human family members is involved. We have a feeling it won't take long for Linus to settle into his new home and show what a wonderful loving feline family member he will be.

**Not able to adopt?** Consider signing up as a foster! We need help with kittens, puppies, adults who need more socialization, and medical rehab cases. Please contact Jennifer at (727) 582-2636 or by email at jrenner@pinellascounty.org.
Welcome to Our Learning Experience

As you know learning is more than one course—it’s a lifelong commitment. No matter where you are along your development journey we have some suggested next steps:

1) Map your professional development next steps. Try our learning roadmap.

2) Find a learning path. Learning Paths offer unique opportunities to develop yourself and expand your skills. No matter your learning needs—and we know they’re always evolving—you can find the path that’s right for you in one of our seven offerings. It’s easy to start! See the Learning Paths Guide or email learning@pinellascounty.org or call (727) 464-3796.

3) Have you browsed through the 2020 Learning Catalog yet? The catalog presents learning opportunities for you and provides a framework to develop your knowledge and skills. Soon we’ll be sending out a printed copy to your location to better assist you with course selection.

4) Have you seen OTD’s SharePoint site? Here you have access to most instructor-led course materials, Learning Path information, facilitator bios, and an easy-to-view course calendar. Visit the site today!

5) We have a learning portal too. This lets you learn at your own pace. Enjoy unlimited access to over 50,000 resources including videos, books, courses and job aids. All permanent employees have access 24/7 to ULearnIT. Log in today!

6) Bring us onsite. All of our educational programs are available for onsite delivery and can even be customized for your organization and team needs.

7) Give us your feedback. We are constantly striving to ensure that we are all serving you and your peers as best we can. Like the Learning Paths? Tell us! Have a suggestion on how to improve? Tell us! Want to propose a new topic? Tell us! Take HR’s Customer Satisfaction Survey and share your experience.

Tax Collector Choice Award Winner

From Pinellas County Tax Collector press release

Pictured is Kevin Hendrick, Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services, Pinellas County Schools, Tax Collector Choice Award winner Zi’Jana T. from Douglas Jamerson Elementary, and Charles W. Thomas, Pinellas County Tax Collector.

Pinellas County Tax Collector Charles W. Thomas hosted the fifth annual Kids Tag Art Pinellas award ceremony, honoring 5th graders from 53 local elementary schools. During art class, students created front license plate designs, with a panel of judges selecting the top designs for awards. Winning artists received medals, certificates, and framed copies of their artwork.

Since its inception in 2015, the Pinellas County Tax Collector’s Office has raised over $183,000 for elementary art programs through Kids Tag Art Pinellas from sponsor donations and the online sale of student-designed front license plates. The metal tags can be purchased for $15 each through February 29th at kidstagartpinellas.org.

Kids Tag Art is a partnership between Florida Tax Collectors, local school districts, and business sponsors. It allows 5th grade students to become real-world designers, creating unique front license plate designs in art class that can be printed on real metal plates. Proceeds from tag sales and sponsorships are then donated to schools to pay for art supplies and art-themed field trips. In addition to raising funds, Kids Tag Art Pinellas is also a juried art competition, with winners from each school honored at a formal award ceremony in January 2020.
The 2020 Colors of Pinellas

The Colors of Pinellas Art Show provides an opportunity for employees, retirees, volunteers, and their families to participate in a professional exhibition and compete for cash prizes.

Our co-sponsor and funder, the National Arts Program, empowers organizations across the country to host art exhibitions that showcase the creativity of their employees and families.

The show is judged by professional artists, and offers Amateur, Intermediate, Professional, Teen, and Youth classifications.

All skill levels are welcome—from youth to professional.

Submit photographs, paintings, drawings, crafts, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, mixed media, woodcarving—you name it!

You must register by March 20 and hand deliver your ready-to-display artwork on April 7 to the display venue, the downtown Clearwater courthouse lobby.

For more details including how to register, and to view the entries from last year’s show, visit www.pinellascounty.org/hr/artshow.

Register by March 20
Deliver artwork April 7
Artwork Judging April 21
Awards Ceremony May 4
Art Show May 4 - 18

Catherine Bergmann is Curatorial Director at the Dunedin Fine Art Center (DFAC) where she has curated over 350 exhibitions in the past 13 years.

Since 2000, she served as Adult Education Director in addition to Curator during two major expansions. Most recently, she was awarded Best Visual Art Curator in Creative Loafing’s annual Best of the Bay contest. The six galleries she programs at DFAC have received Creative Loafing’s Best of the Bay Best Art Gallery (Non-Museum) for five years running.

She is also an award-winning artist whose works were featured in the first UnderCurrent/Overview Exhibition at the Tampa Museum of Art as well as other prominent museums in Florida. Her work was included in 100 Artists/100 Years at the Morean and can be seen in numerous private collections and in the permanent collections of the Polk Museum of Art, Valencia Community College and Pensacola Community College.

Today, her work is primarily in sculpture and assemblage. She holds a BFA in Painting and Printmaking from Florida State University.

Since 1999, Amanda Cooper has been the Curator of Exhibitions at the Morean Arts Center in St. Petersburg, organizing over 400 exhibitions, including works in all media by students, established and emerging artists and children.

Born and raised in St. Petersburg, Florida, Amanda Cooper received a BA in Art History from the University of Florida in 1997. She has also served as juror for various art exhibitions including Dunedin Art Harvest, the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards exhibition, Gasparilla Festival of the Arts, FolkFest St. Pete, Melbourne Arts Festival, ArtFest Fort Myers, Ocala Arts Festival and the Pinellas Association of Visual Artists Cool Art Show. She has served on art panels for Pinellas County and the State of Florida, awarding several public art projects and individual artist grants.

She lives in St. Pete with her husband, three children, and two cats.

Christine Renc-Carter has been the Curator for the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art since 2016. Formerly the Director of Adult Education at the Dunedin Fine Art Center, she oversaw that art center’s expansion of studios and programs.

Christine earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Printmaking from the Maryland Institute, College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland in 1997 and has studied paper preservation at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Working for galleries and museums in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. area and in Florida for 20 years, Christine has cultivated a unique artistic career as a fine artist and museum professional and has worked with the collections of the Baltimore Museum of Art, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Gulf Coast Museum of Art, Florida International Museum and the St. Petersburg College Foundation.

As an accomplished artist, Christine shows her work throughout the United States and Japan. Her work is included in collections such as the Marriott Corporation and NBC, as well as private collections worldwide, including the Curator of the Fogg Museum at Harvard University.
And the Winner is ... Airport!!
SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

**30 YEARS**

Donna Bignotti, *Clerk of the Circuit Court*, Christopher Capobianco, *Safety & Emergency Services*, Sally Martin, *Clerk of the Circuit Court*

**25 YEARS**

Pennie Hill, *Business Technology Services*

Shelly Demillion, *Tax Collector’s Office*

Rachelle Wiggins, *Tax Collector’s Office*

**20 YEARS**


Barbara Fogel, *Utilities*

**15 YEARS**

Larry Elliott, *Clerk of the Circuit Court*

Pamela Grabo, *Risk Management*

Candis Mancuso, *Purchasing*

Jeffrey Rohrs, *Business Technology Services*

Cheryl Skantze, *Utilities*

Wendy Tate-Palumbo, *Animal Services*

**10 YEARS**

Scott Butler, *Business Technology Services*

David Mangicaro, *Risk Management*

**5 YEARS**

Jay Allen, *Property Appraiser’s Office*

Carlos Ayala, *Property Appraiser’s Office*

Jeffrey Bews, *Building & Development Review Services*

Linda Boger, *Human Services*

Katherine Gaines-Reed, *Clerk of the Circuit Court*

Season Groves, *Emergency Management*

Mitchell Gryboski, *Real Estate Management*

David Harshbarger, *Parks & Conservation Resources*

David Henderson, *Property Appraiser’s Office*

Kathy Hollis, *Property Appraiser’s Office*

Nicole Ingram, *Tax Collector’s Office*

Tina Jablon, *Forward Pinellas*

Drew Jester, *Public Works*

**3 YEARS**

Jeffrey Barnes, *Utilities*

Billy Bolt, *Public Works*

Travis Coble, *Utilities*

Stacey Day, *Public Works*

Leslie Fann, *Tax Collector’s Office*

Everett Flowers, *Solid Waste*

Cheryl Leyenaar, *County Administration*

Matthew Parolisi, *Public Works*

Jesse Prissel, *Public Works*

Rajendra Ramtahal, *Utilities*

Sherrie Scheuer, *Parks & Conservation Resources*

Mecca Serfustini, *Emergency Management*

Spencer Shaw, *Emergency Management*

Manasa Thummaluru, *Business Technology Services*
REPCO News

The next REPCO meeting will be March 9, 2020 at Applebee’s Restaurant located at 5110 East Bay Drive. The meeting will start at 11:30 a.m. Financial Planner Curtis W. Chambers will join us and provide information on the economy and investing for the future. For questions, contact Rudy Garcia at (813) 855-3466 or rdgarcia@verizon.net.

REPCO News

The next REPCO meeting will be March 9, 2020 at Applebee’s Restaurant located at 5110 East Bay Drive. The meeting will start at 11:30 a.m. Financial Planner Curtis W. Chambers will join us and provide information on the economy and investing for the future. For questions, contact Rudy Garcia at (813) 855-3466 or rdgarcia@verizon.net.
**Promotions**

Promotions listed are for January 2020.

**Board of County Commissioners**

**Administrative Services**
Keith Bentley ........................................... Claims Adjuster 2  
Erin Dowie ............................................... Mgr Procure Pay Svs

**Building**
Gary Beer .................................................. Bldg Insp 3

**Development Review Services**
Leila Kheireddine .................................. Proj Coord-Admin

**Regional 911**
Kathryn Boucher .............. 911 Pub Safety Ctr Supv 1  
Katherine Ellis ..................... 911 Pub Safety Telecomm 3

**Parks & Conservation Resources**
David Harshbarger .................. Res Park Mgr  
Charles Ripple ......................... Park Rngr 2  
Nina Wagner ......................................... Park Rngr 2

**Public Works**
David Brown ............................................. Env Prog Mgr 3  
Lee Bussey ............................................. Maint 2  
Marcia Colby ......................................... Proj Coord-Tech  
Jamie Frank .......................................... Proj Coord-Tech  
Kenneth Hayes ....................................... Maint 2  
Ian Jackson ............................................. Fld Insp 2

**Utilities**
Cody Chamburs ................................. Util Maint Spec 1  
Frederick Johnson ...................... Util Maint Spec 3  
Michael McRorey ......................... Proj Coord-Admin  
Felix Montalvo ....................... Maint Supv  
Ender Perozo ....................................... Trme UF A  
Reggie Rutledge ......................... Util Maint Spec 2

**Business Technology Services**
Nancy Sherman ...................................... Mgr Info Tech

**Clerk of the Circuit Court**
Diego Portal ................................. Fin Opns Tech  
Deandra East ............................ Rec Spec 2  
Jemera Hollis ......................... Rec Spec 2  
Miriam McCormack ................... Rec Spec 2  
Rosana Modugno ................. Rec Spec 2

**Human Resources**
Kelley Merchant .................................... HR Analyst

**Tax Collector’s Office**
Catherine Bailey Noble ............... Dep Tax Col HR  
Amber Bradley .................................. Mgr Tax Col

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**Consumer Corner**

**From Pinellas County Consumer Protection**

**March 2 - 6 is National Consumer Protection Week**

In 2019, the Federal Trade Commission received 3.2 million consumer complaints. The top three areas reported were:

1) Identity theft  
2) Imposter scams and  
3) Telephone and mobile services.

**Florida ranked second in the nation for fraud and identity theft.**

In the new year watch out for new ways con artists may try to steal your money and identity. Here are a couple of schemes to be aware of:

- **Avoid abbreviating the year 2020**: When signing legal documents, contracts or checks, write the year in its entirety to protect yourself against fraud. Shortening 2020 to 20 could easily be modified indicating a different year, which may cause legal issues on paperwork.

- **Stay safe with the census**: Census takers must show a photo ID with the US Department of Commerce seal and an expiration date. The Census Bureau will never ask for your full social security number, bank account information, credit card numbers, money or donations.

Join Pinellas County Consumer Protection March 2 - 6, 2020, to celebrate National Consumer Protection Week. Consumer Protection provides residents with access to free resources and information on a variety of consumer topics such as preventing identity theft and ways to avoid scams and fraud. For a full schedule of NCPW events or to file a complaint, contact Pinellas County Consumer Protection directly at (727) 464-6200 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/consumer](http://www.pinellascounty.org/consumer).
Welcome Aboard!

New employees listed are for January 2020.

Board of County Commissioners

Airport
Leon Hammond.................................. Airpt Firefighter

Building
James Reeves ........................................... Bldg Insp 1

Code Enforcement
RJ Shumate............................................. Code Enf Ofcr 1

Emergency Management
Adam Pedzich................................. Emer Mgmt Coord 1
John Scacca................................. Emerg Mgmt Coord 1

Human Services
Lynette Sneed ......................... Hum Svcs Case Mgr 2

Marketing & Communications
Kelsey Grentzer ................................. Pub Info Spec

Management & Budget
Christy Carpenter ......................... Trng Coord

Parks & Conservation Resources
Randy Goggin................................. Park Ranger 1
Dorothy Suhai................................. Office Asst
Norberto Toro................................. Park Rngr 1

Public Works
Robert Beall ........................................... Maint 2
Wilka Bondurant ................................. Office Spec 1
Trez Horne ........................................... Maint 1
Michael Levecque ...................... Marine Safety Coord
Dylan Smith ........................................ Env Spec 1
Terrence Williams ......................... Maint 1

Real Estate Management
Robert Carrigan ........................................ HVAC Mech
Quoi Lewis ........................................... Electrician
David Moes ........................................... Craft Wkr 1
Cynthia Penta ........................................ Real Prop Spec 2

Safety & Emergency Services
Cassandra James ...................... Law Enf Telecomm
Kristin Lower ...................... Law Enf Telecomm
Shereen Orlove ...................... Law Enf Telecomm
Stephanie Redente ................ Law Enf Telecomm
Kristyna Wells ...................... Law Enf Telecomm

Solid Waste
Thomas Harmon ................ Solid Waste Prog Asst
Stephen Kocian ...................... Craftwkr 1

Utilities
John Holmes ....................... Wtr/Wstwtr Plt Oper Trne
Kenneth Ingram ....................... Trne UF A

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Yallitza Licona ............................ Rec Spec 1
Edwin Suarez ............................ Fin Rec Spec
Tanya Smith ............................ Rec Spec 1
Amber Thomas ............................ Rec Spec 1

Supervisor of Elections

Liz Lebron .............................. Voter Outreach Mgr
Tamara Smith .............................. Office Spec 2

New Employee Orientation January 13th.
New Employee Orientation January 27th.
Gone but not Forgotten

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

**Norman King**, 85, of Clearwater, passed away January 7. He retired from Real Estate Management, Detention Section in 2006 after 11 years of service. Read his obituary.

**Thomas Smith**, 75, of St. Petersburg, passed away January 17. He retired from Brooker Creek Preserve in 2009 after 10 years of service. No obituary was located.

**Scott Stees**, 63, of Largo, passed away January 15. He was a member of the Clerk’s office for 30 years, retiring from the Clerk’s Division of Inspector General’s office on May 29, 2015. Read his obituary.

**Dennis Walters**, 70, of St. Petersburg, passed away December 27. An electrician, he retired from the STAR facility in 2008 after over 11 years of service. Read his obituary.

Kat Black (Human Resources) and Mike Black married in Dade City on 02/02/2020. The Star Wars inspired event included the 501st/Rebel Legion, a Star Wars cosplay group who volunteer their time throughout the community. Congratulations!

**For Sale:** King-size solid wood sleigh bed $375. includes frame, mattress, & box springs. NON-SMOKING household. Selling entire set together. Must disassemble bed frame yourself and provide your own transportation. Multiple sets of bedding included. 2nd floor apartment near Countryside Mall in Clearwater. arddun65@yahoo.com

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The Pen is published once per month on or around the 15th. Submissions are due the 1st of the month.