



Pinellas County  
**BRIGHT IDEA AWARD**

Congratulations to **Rita Crouch** (Solid Waste) for winning the latest Employee Suggestion Award. Her suggestion saves the County \$5,760 per year. The Pen asked Rita to explain her suggestion:

“A City of St. Petersburg water bill from Toytown fell into my lap. I didn’t understand it, so I asked questions. Long story short, a very large water line was serving a building that no longer exists. Therefore, the base fee for this line was not necessary. I worked with the City of St. Petersburg and we reduced the line down, which essentially slashed the base fee by over 80%.”

We also asked Rita more about her:

**How long have you been with Pinellas County?** I have been with the County over 5 years.

**How long have you been in this position?** I have been in this position over a year.

**Have you had any other positions with Pinellas County?** Yes; I previously worked at our Solid Waste’s HEC3 section.

**Describe your job in 25 words or fewer:** I oversee environmental permitting, monitoring, and compliance for Pinellas County Solid Waste at both the Bridgeway Acres and closed Toytown landfills.

**What’s the best part of your job?** This job entails field work where I take monitoring well water level readings, landfill gas measurements, and perform inspections on both Bridgeway and Toytown. Both sites are full of wildlife that I love to see, including several bird species, turtles, alligators, and coyotes.

**What’s the most challenging part of your job?** Ensuring open communication between several entities. This position acts as a liaison between sections, departments, and state agencies. Even though that can be challenging, I find it very fulfilling.



Rita Crouch

**Most memorable moment?** Having the opportunity to research Toytown’s history ... I am now a local garbage history buff (something I never imagined I would say 5 years ago).

**What do you do in free time?** I am a mother of two wonderful little girls who take up all of my free time.

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Other recent Bright Idea Award winners are **Juan Arosemena** and **Dean Galate** who saved the County \$40,000 per year. We hope to feature them next month.

The [Employee Suggestion Awards Program](#) has been rewarding employees for their suggestions for almost four decades.

The program awards cash to employees with “bright ideas” that improve productivity, efficiency, quality and/or cost effectiveness.

All classified service employees are eligible to participate. View the [web page](#) for details.

Be sure to read next month’s *Pen* for more winners.