Discover Paradise in

From the sandy shores to the inland hiking trails—exploration, recreation and relaxation abound.
Pinellas County, Florida’s Profile

Pinellas is an urban county located on the western coast of Florida, on a peninsula, bounded on the east by Tampa Bay and on the west by the Gulf of Mexico. Pinellas County’s population density is the highest of all sixty-seven Florida counties. This County is also the second smallest land mass in Florida; measuring up to thirty-eight miles long and fifteen miles wide. The sparkling water of the Gulf of Mexico, award winning beaches, stunning sunsets and balmy weather make Pinellas an inviting destination for visitors and home to a diverse population.

A plethora of baseball venues are available within the County. Pinellas County is the home of the major league baseball team and 2008 American League Champion Tampa Bay Rays in St. Petersburg. The Philadelphia Phillies and the Toronto Blue Jays use Pinellas County as their home for spring training. In addition to baseball, there are opportunities for leisure, recreational and cultural activities in many different venues, including outstanding golf facilities, other sports facilities, fishing, and boating as well as diverse cultural history locations. Heritage Village provides a glimpse of Pinellas County’s cultural history. Native flora and fauna can be seen at Pinewood Cultural Park’s botanical exhibits.

With more than 80,000 residents employed by tourism-dependent enterprises, tourism is the number one employer in Pinellas County. In 2009, the area received several accolades in the press. Trip Advisor, the world’s largest online travel community, named Fort DeSoto the #1 Beach in the United States and Fodor’s named Clearwater Beach among its Best Beaches for Families in the United States. The Orlando Sentinel named Clearwater Beach #2 among Florida’s Best Single’s Beaches. These accolades generated positive national and international publicity for the County.

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</table>
A Message from Ken Burke

Citizens of Pinellas County:

I am pleased to present the Citizens’ Guide to County Finances (Citizens’ Guide) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2009. As your elected Clerk, I serve as the Chief Financial Officer of the Board of County Commissioners and share fiscal responsibility for County funds with them. This report provides you, the citizens, a brief analysis of where County revenues came from and where those dollars were spent during the last fiscal year. It is designed to give you an easy-to-read synopsis of the County’s financial health.

The Citizens’ Guide summarizes the financial activities of the primary government of Pinellas County. The reports included in the Citizens’ Guide condense and simplify the format used in our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) as of September 30, 2009 described below. The Citizens’ Guide does not conform to generally accepted accounting principals and governmental reporting standards. The report is prepared in this format so that the non-financial reader can easily understand it. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded Pinellas County the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2008 for its Citizens’ Guide for the third consecutive year.

In addition to the Citizens’ Guide, the Finance Division produces the CAFR which contains more detailed financial information. The GFOA awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Pinellas County for its CAFR for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2008, the 28th consecutive year that we have achieved this prestigious award.

The CAFR as well as this report are accessible at the Clerk’s website at www.pinellasclerk.org and in the Finance Division. If you have any comments or suggestions on how we may improve this report, please contact my office at (727) 464-3341.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Clerk and hope that you find this Citizens’ Guide informative and useful in enhancing your understanding of our County’s finances.

Sincerely,

Ken Burke, CPA
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Duties of the Clerk of the Circuit Court

The Clerk of the Circuit Court was established as a public trustee by the Florida Constitution in 1838. Today, the Florida Statutes assign over 926 tasks to the Clerk of the Circuit Court. The Clerk serves as the Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts, Recorder of Deeds, Clerk and Accountant to the Board of County Commissioners, custodian of all county funds and as the County Auditor. The Clerk's role as an elected public trustee is considered to be one of the most important aspects of the position because he serves at the will of the people. It is the Clerk's responsibility to serve as a "watchdog" for the citizens of Pinellas County to ensure funds expended are only for a public purpose and for the benefit of the public as a whole.

As Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts

- maintains custody of court records
- maintains custody of all related pleadings filed
- secures evidence entered in court
- ensures integrity of court files is protected
- collects and disburses court fines and assessments and court ordered child support
- summons prospective jurors

As Recorder of Deeds

- maintains Official Records of Pinellas County and ensures their integrity is protected

As Clerk and Accountant of the Board of County Commissioners

- maintains official records of the Board
- maintains county financial records and prepares financial reports
- provides accounting services to all departments under the Board
- programs and maintains software for the automated financial accounting system
- processes accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll and pre-audits all payments

As Custodian of all County funds

- receives and records county revenue
- invests county funds

As County Auditor

- performs comptroller function in pre-audit of invoices before payment
- performs internal audits of county departments
About This Report

This Popular Report provides an overview of the areas of responsibility and the operations of Pinellas County's Constitutional Officers and excludes component units:

- Board of County Commissioners (BCC)
- Property Appraiser
- Sheriff
- Clerk of the Circuit Court
- Supervisor of Elections
- Tax Collector

The financial information presented here is summarized and does not substitute for the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR outlines the County's financial position and operating activities for the year in great detail and in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

This report reflects the Sources and Uses of County funds as well as a summary of the governmental activities and business-type activities. They are distinguished as follows:

- **Governmental activities** include most of the basic services offered to citizens, including tax assessment and collections, fire and law enforcement protection, judicial services, emergency medical services, civil emergency services, construction and maintenance of highways, streets and other infrastructure, economic development, social and human services, and cultural and recreational services. Property and sales and use taxes, intergovernmental revenues and various user fees finance these operations.

- **Business-type activities** include the water, sewer, solid waste and airport systems that are financed by fees charged to customers.

Information on the County's capital assets, outstanding bond issues and investments is included on pages 15 through 16 of this report. Revenues and expenditures of the General Fund for the two last years are shown on pages 11 through 12.
The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Pinellas County, Florida for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2008. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.
Pinellas County is a charter county established under the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida in 1911. In 1968, the Florida Constitution was amended to provide home rule powers for counties and municipalities. The voters of Pinellas County approved the first home rule charter in 1980. Pinellas was the first county in Florida to operate under a Board of County Commissioners/Administrator form of government. The elected Constitutional Officers include the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser and Sheriff. The seven member Board serves as the legislative body, and budgets and provides the funding for its departments, the entire operations of the Sheriff and the Supervisor of Elections and portions of the operations for the other Constitutional Officers.

**Board of County Commissioners**

- Neil Brickfield - District 1  
  nbrickfield@pinellascounty.org
- Calvin D. Harris - District 2  
  charris@pinellascounty.org
- Nancy Bostock - District 3  
  cnbostock@pinellascounty.org
- Susan Latvala, Vice-Chairman - District 4  
  slatvala@pinellascounty.org
- Karen Williams Seel, Chairman - District 5  
  kseel@pinellascounty.org
- John Morroni - District 6  
  jmorroni@pinellascounty.org
- Kenneth T. Welch - District 7  
  ktwelch@pinellascounty.org

**Constitutional Officers**

- Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court  
  www.pinellasclerk.org
- Deborah Clark, Supervisor of Elections  
  www.votepinellas.com
- Diane Nelson, Tax Collector  
  www.taxcollect.com
- Pam Dubov, Property Appraiser  
  www.pcpao.org
- Jim Coats, Sheriff  
  www.pscoweb.com
Sources of County Funds

Pinellas County receives its revenue to fund governmental activities from many sources. Revenue is generated from property taxes, charges for services, sales and other taxes, grants and interest income. In fiscal year 2008-2009, property taxes generated 52 percent of the county’s governmental activities revenues consistent with the prior year. The charts on the next page provide more detailed information about property taxes.

Governmental Activities Revenues (dollars in thousands)

Revenues in the County’s governmental activities decreased $83 million or 9 percent from the prior year. Charges for services, the only category of revenues that increased during the year, were up slightly by $597,000 over last year, attributable mostly to increases in user fees. Grant revenue decreased by $25.1 million from the prior year due to completion of some major grant funded capital projects such as the Belleair Causeway Bridge. Sales tax revenue decreased by $7.4 million, 7.5 percent, from the prior year due to recessionary conditions. Investment income in governmental activities decreased by $5.5 million or 37.5 percent from last fiscal year. This was due primarily to reductions in interest rates and investable funds. The federal funds rate declined from 2 percent in September 2008 to 0 to .25 percent for most of the fiscal year. Long term rates decreased as well.
Your Property Taxes

The countywide property tax levy remained the same as in the prior year. This followed a reduction of 10.6 percent from fiscal year 2006-2007 to fiscal year 2007-2008. Taxable assessed values decreased by 8.5 percent countywide from $80.1 billion to $73.1 billion due to the downturn in the real estate market. This reduction in assessed values resulted in a 9 percent net decrease in property tax revenues from $488.2 million to $444.2 million, $44 million from last year for all governmental activities. The charts below show the trends in taxable assessed values and property tax revenues over the last three years.

![Taxable Assessed Values](chart1)

![Property Tax Revenues](chart2)
Revenue Descriptions

General Revenues

Property taxes are ad valorem taxes levied on an assessed valuation of real and/or personal property. These taxes are collected annually and are computed as a percentage of the Fair Market value of locally assessed real estate, and tangible personal property. Property Taxes are considered general revenue for the county.

Sales taxes and other taxes are comprised of the following:

The 1 cent infrastructure sales tax or the Penny for Pinellas is imposed for funding infrastructure projects that normally would have to be funded by increased property taxes or other revenue sources. The Penny for Pinellas is earmarked for capital improvement projects for roads, flood control, park improvements, preservation of endangered lands and public safety. The Penny for Pinellas is paid by all who spend money in the county, including tourists and visitors.

The tourist development tax is a local tax imposed on most rents or leases, which have been contracted for periods of (6) months or less, or living accommodations in hotels, motels, apartment houses, rooming houses, and mobile home parks. The revenues are used for tourist development, beach renourishment, debt service and promoting and advertising tourism internationally, nationally and in the State of Florida.

Fuel Tax (Local Option Gas Tax) is a tax on every net gallon of motor and diesel fuel sold in Pinellas County. It is a county imposed tax for the purpose of paying the cost of establishing, operating and maintaining a transportation system and related facilities and the cost of acquisition, construction, reconstruction and maintenance of roads and streets.

Communication Service Tax is comprised of two components: a state communications services tax and a local communication services tax. The tax is imposed on retail sales of communications services which originate and terminate in the state, or originate or terminate in the state and are billed to an address within the state. Tax proceeds are transferred to the county. Communications services are defined as voice, data, audio, video or any other information or signals, including cable services.

Unrestricted interest is the revenue earned from investments.

Program Revenues

Charges for Services are made up of fees collected from the public for services rendered (e.g. court costs, building permits, park fees, animal licenses, etc.)

Operating Grants and Contributions are monies received to fund the operating expenses of a specific program or project. Operating expenses can include salaries and wages, rent, utilities and more.

Capital Grants and Contributions are monies received for the acquisition of capital assets, such as buildings, land or equipment.
Uses of County Funds

Governmental activities include most of the basic services offered to citizens, including tax assessment and collections, elections services, fire and law enforcement protection, judicial services, emergency medical services, civil emergency services, construction and maintenance of highways, streets and other infrastructure, natural resource conservation, economic and community development, social and human services, and cultural and recreational services. Property and sales and use taxes, intergovernmental revenues and various user fees finance these operations.

Governmental Activities Expenses
(dollars in millions)

The cost of governmental activities decreased 6.8 percent or $62.3 million from the prior year. The largest decrease was in the public safety function representing $18.5 million, $17.3 million of which was attributable to the Sheriff's Operations. The Sheriff made reductions in expenditures for inmate healthcare, litigation, leasing vehicles, and staffing. Expenses for the human services function were down by $14.4 million or 20 percent from the prior year. Economic environment expenses decreased $9.9 million or 18.3 percent. The County continued enacting cost saving measures during the year and building on efficiencies gained through departmental reorganizations and program reductions to offset rising costs. Revenues exceeded expenses for the year by $7.5 million, compared to an excess of $28.1 million in the prior year.
The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the County that accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except for those that are required to be accounted for in another fund.

During the budget development process for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the County considered many factors in establishing tax rates and fee structures. Other major revenue sources such as sales tax and state revenue sharing also declined significantly due to the economic conditions.

At the end of the fiscal year, the unreserved fund balance in the general fund was $137.9 million, decreasing by $27.9 million or 16.8 percent from the prior year. Key factors attributing to the decline were as follows:

- Overall General Fund revenues and other financing sources were down by $47.8 million or 8.1 percent from last year.
- Tax revenue decreased by $38.2 million, due primarily to decreased property taxes of $36.9 million, 9 percent as explained under governmental activities on page 8. Property taxes represent 69% of the General Fund’s total revenues. The communication services tax revenue decreased by $1.2 million.
- Intergovernmental revenues were down by $7.4 million or 11.6 percent. The decrease was due to a decline in state revenue sharing and half cent sales tax of $5.4 million due to recessionary conditions and a reduction in grant revenues of $2 million. A nonrecurring federal grant to fund voter election equipment was received in the prior year.

![General Fund Revenues and Other Sources](chart.png)
The General Fund Expenditures and Other Uses

General Fund Expenditures and Other Uses (dollars in thousands)

The General Fund is used to pay the regular operating and administrative expenses of the BCC not accounted for in other funds. Also included in General Fund are other uses, which include transfers out paid to the Constitutional Officers for law enforcement and detention services, election services, tax assessment and collection services and financial and administrative services, representing 56% of the General Fund’s total outlays.

As a result of the decline in property tax revenues resulting from the downturn in the real estate market and the impact of exemptions approved in January 2008 referendum, the General Fund’s original budget reflected a significant reduction from the 2007-2008 budget of $61.6 million or 8.2 percent. With an overall anticipated revenue reduction of 10%, the County’s strategy for balancing the budget was to reduce overall expenditures by 10 percent to offset the decline in revenues.

The reductions were achieved in many ways such as modifying the service delivery system for the medically indigent, streamlining operations for culture, education and leisure services, reducing hours of operations, eliminating non-essential programs, consolidating office space, reducing overhead expenses, and eliminating full-time positions.

At fiscal year end, overall General Fund expenditures and transfers out declined by 5.1 percent or $31 million. Expenditures were $133.7 million less than appropriations for the year.
Enterprise Fund Revenues and Expenses

The following charts reflect the Enterprise Fund Revenues and Expenses for the last two years.

Enterprise Fund Revenues
(dollars in millions)

Enterprise Fund Expenses
(dollars in millions)

Enterprise Fund or business-type activities offer goods and services of the county for sale and are intended to be self-supporting. Expenses increased $.9 million or 1 percent, while revenues increased by $5.7 million or 2 percent compared to the prior year.
Enterprise Fund Revenues and Expenses

The Business-type activities of the county are:

**Water System**

- Total program revenues for the Water System, including interest revenue, miscellaneous revenue and capital contributions, decreased by $4.1 million or 4.7 percent.
- Charges for services to retail and wholesale customers decreased $2.9 million due to the decline in tourism, current economic conditions and an increase in water conservation, in spite of a 3 percent increase in wholesale and retail water rates.
- Interest earnings declined by 26.3 percent as a result of significant reductions in interest rates and reductions in cash balances available for investment.
- Operating expenses of the Water System decreased by 3.2 percent or $3.1 million from last year due to decreased consumption, lower cost allocations and a reduction in outside consulting services. The Water System reimbursed the Sewer System $4.2 million during the year in support of the reclaimed water system, $2 million to reimburse operating and $2.2 million to reimburse capital expenses.

**Sewer System**

- Total program revenues for the Sewer System decreased by $.8 million, 1 percent. During fiscal year 2009, retail sewer service charges decreased by 1% due to a decrease in flows to the treatment plant. As explained above, the Sewer System received $4.2 million from the Water System during the year for the reclaimed water system.
- Annual operating expenses decreased by $3.7 million or 6.7 percent due to reductions in consulting and other professional services and charges for central services. Interest expense increased by $3.7 million due to the issuance of $42 million in new revenue bonds in July of last year to finance capital projects for the system.

**Solid Waste System**

- Total program revenues of the system increased by $7.3 million or 10.5 percent.
- Charges for services increased 5.3 percent or $3.4 million due to placing in service a generating turbine at the waste to energy plant in December of 2008 that had been out of service since May of 2008.
- Miscellaneous revenue increased by $4.7 million attributable to proceeds from insurance to cover the cost of replacing the generating turbine disposed of last year.
- Interest revenues decreased $803,000 or 17.4 percent due to reductions in interest rates during the year.
- Operating expenses for the system increased $5 million or 9.5 percent over the prior year due primarily to increased contractual services costs for operating the facility.

**St. Petersburg/Clearwater International Airport**

- Total program revenues for the Airport increased by $3.2 million, or 19.2 percent over the prior year. Charges for services were down slightly by $134,000 due primarily to decrease in round play and green fees at the Airco Golf Course, which was offset somewhat by increased service from Allegiant Airlines during the year.
- Capital contributions were up by $3.7 million to fund construction projects. Interest revenue was down 19 percent or $83,000 due to the decline in interest rates.
- Operating expenses increased slightly by $241,000 over the prior year.
Capital Assets

Capital Assets
Governmental and Business-Type Activities
(dollars in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Original Amount</th>
<th>Amount Issued</th>
<th>Amount Outstanding at year end</th>
<th>Current Maturities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2000</td>
<td>Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2000</td>
<td>155,520</td>
<td>18,620</td>
<td>18,620</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2002</td>
<td>Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2002</td>
<td>26,620</td>
<td>3,980</td>
<td>3,980</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2003</td>
<td>Sewer Revenue Bonds Series 2003</td>
<td>86,580</td>
<td>77,365</td>
<td>1,820</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2006</td>
<td>Sewer Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Series 2006</td>
<td>25,205</td>
<td>25,055</td>
<td>1,145</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2008</td>
<td>Sewer Revenue Bonds Series 2008 A</td>
<td>42,005</td>
<td>42,005</td>
<td>315</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2008</td>
<td>Sewer Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Series 2008 B-1</td>
<td>32,700</td>
<td>32,700</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$473,425</td>
<td>$227,690</td>
<td>$28,490</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outstanding Bond Issues
(dollars in thousands)

<table>
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<th>Issue Date</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>$28,490</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Investment Policy

The Clerk of the Circuit Court, through the Finance Division, conducts all investment activity of the Board of County Commissioners in accordance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, Local Government Investment Policies, as well as the investment ordinance adopted by the Board (Pinellas County Code, Investment of Surplus Public Funds, Section 2-144). The Board's investment policy applies to all funds in excess of those required to meet current expenses for the Board of County Commissioners.

Investment Objectives

- Safety - Protection of the County funds.
- Liquidity - Provide sufficient liquidity to meet the County's operating, payroll and capital expenses.
- Income - Maximize the return but avoid assuming unreasonable risk.

PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO
(dollars in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investments</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Agency Issues</td>
<td>$311,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Funds Depository Accounts</td>
<td>88,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Investment Pools (LGIP)</td>
<td>20,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Pools</td>
<td>155,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$576,137</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECURITIES 54%
LGIP 4%
CASH POOLS 27%
PUBLIC FUNDS DEPOSITORY ACCOUNTS 15%
Accomplishments

General Government

The Business Technology Services (BTS) Department exists to enable business and to provide solutions to real business problems. BTS implemented a series of budget reduction strategies during the year including consolidation, contract negotiations and operations leveraging industry best practices and strategic planning. In response to citizen demands for more responsive and self-service government, strategies were implemented enabling more ubiquitous access to public information. Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) projects were initiated for Health & Human Services, Criminal Justice, Utilities, Finance, Human Resources, Budgeting, and Purchasing. The growth of Internet services promoted world-wide branding, proactive citizen engagement, government transparency and positive economic impact.

The Clerk’s Office has continued to move forward with paperless initiatives. The Probate Go Paperless initiative was completed in January 2009. Savings have been realized through the use of document imaging. Such efforts are well underway for additional paperless initiatives in the criminal, traffic and civil areas. The ultimate goal for the office is to be completely paperless in all of the court areas. This will position the office for e-filing of court pleadings through a statewide e-filing portal. In Board Records where property value adjustments are coordinated, new software was implemented streamlining the workflow between Board Records, the Property Appraiser’s Office and property owners.

County Annex Building

New laws were passed this year pertaining to property taxes and impacting the submission of the property tax roll. The Property Appraiser’s Office assisted in writing implementing language for Amendment 3, a measure providing tax breaks for making hurricane protection and renewable energy source improvements. They also implemented a new computer software system, the first conversion in 30 years. The Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal software removed the middleman for property reports and data updates. Their website (http://www.pcpao.org/) was enhanced by accelerating availability of preliminary property values, adding Truth In Millage Notices and expanding customer query capability.

Public Safety

The Sheriff’s Office has partnered with the State to include their driver’s license database to expand the use of Facial Recognition technology. The StepUp program was implemented to promote self improvement to reach at risk children and teens. Paramedics Plus LLC, under contract with the County’s Emergency Medical Services Authority, received the Governor’s Sterling Award, the State’s most prestigious award for performance excellence, as result of its improvement in healthcare services to Pinellas County.
Accomplishments

Transportation

St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport has a yearly local impact of over one-half billion dollars, with its tenants employing more than 1,600 people. Allegiant Airlines continued to expand its service areas during the year.

Belleair Causeway Bridge, a fixed-span bridge connecting Belleair Beach to Largo, was completed this year. In anticipation of road expansion, purchases of rights-of-way for both East Lake and Starkey occurred. Another $7.5 million was expended for road resurfacing and sidewalk/ADA requirements.

Economic Environment

After entering into a license, purchase and sale, land use restriction and environmental indemnity agreement with a developer last year, the County’s efforts continue to facilitate the development of Toytown, a 240-acre closed landfill in mid-county with excellent interstate access. The project would include 2 million square feet of office space; 1.5 million square feet of retail; 375 hotel rooms with 50,000 square feet of meeting and convention space; and a 2,113-unit residential village with a workforce housing component. Importantly, the proposal also includes 70 acres of new parks and recreation facilities.

Community Development continued placing a major focus on affordable housing initiatives. $2.3 million in down payment assistance and low interest housing loans were provided in conjunction with a homebuyer information program. Construction financing was provided for 159 low income housing units and renovation financing to low income housing complexes.

Long-term Planning

In order to continue delivering sustainable quality service the County implemented a service level stabilization account and a six-year budget framework based upon two three-year funding cycles. This framework provides a longer range strategic view helping to avoid short-term fixes and aids in identifying and addressing underlying structural problems (e.g. declining revenues due to recession). The “service level stabilization account” represents reductions taken over and above what is necessary to balance the budget in anticipation of further reductions necessary in future near-term fiscal years. This account promotes budgetary smoothing over the six-year budget framework. The County has aggressively pursued obtaining grant funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. As of September 30, 2009, Pinellas County has received notification of ARRA grant awards exceeding $9.9 million.
Future Initiatives

General Government
Goals of the Property Appraiser’s Office for the coming year include a website partnership with the Clerk of the Circuit Court linking information, assigning addresses to vacant parcels, and working to make homestead exemption applications available for completion online.

Every effort continues to be made to examine processes and procedures to maximize efficiency throughout the Clerk’s Office while still providing the valued system of checks and balances to the citizens. Paperless initiatives will continue in the future by implementing paperless pay advices and a document management system. Other payment outlets in the community are being explored. The Clerk’s Office will be collaborating with Board departments to implement the Oracle ERP system to be completed in August 2011. This project will replace the legacy system and integrate the County’s financial, purchasing, human resources and budgeting systems and facilitate program and performance based budgeting.

Physical Environment
Various additions and improvements to the building, structures and associated equipment at the Solid Waste Facility are anticipated to maintain the required level of solid waste disposal. In support of our County’s sewer system, the Utilities Department will continue enhancing the County’s water reclamation facilities (South Cross Bayou and W. E. Dunn) and expanding the north and south County reclaimed water systems. The Department of Environmental Management is planning on designing, constructing and monitoring the Sand Key beach renourishment project along Sand Key Island from Clearwater Pass to John’s Pass.

Transportation
The Airport is planning on upgrading pavement and medium intensity lights for one runway, various security enhancements throughout the Airport and rehabilitation and renovation of terminal building. In addition, development of additional domestic and international airline services is anticipated. The Airport was awarded a Federal Stimulus Grant in the amount of $5.3 million for continued renovations and improvements to the Airport terminal. This Grant was for 100% of the related project costs.

Economic Environment
Future initiatives for the Convention and Visitors Bureau include launching an all-new, cutting edge website employing state-of-the-art navigation and features extensive YouTube-like video content, further expanding initiatives and efforts in the growing South American market, diversifying the sports marketing efforts to include unique and new sports events, and developing major marketing and public relations campaign to launch the new Salvador Dali and Chihuly Museums.
How to Contact Pinellas County

Clerk of the Circuit Court
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 464-3341
www.pinellasclerk.org

Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 464-3377
www.pinellascounty.org

Supervisor of Elections
Elections Service Center
Starkey Lakes Corporate Center
13001 Starkey Road
Largo, FL 33773
(727) 464-6108
www.votepinellas.com

Tax Collector
Main Office
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 562-3262
www.taxcollect.com

Property Appraiser
County Courthouse
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 464-3207
www.pcpao.org

Sheriff
10750 Ulmerton Road
Largo, FL 33778
(727) 582-6200
www.pscoweb.com

Pinellas County Government is committed to progressive public policy, superior public service, courteous public contact, judicious exercise of authority and sound management of public resources, to meet the needs and concerns of our citizens today and tomorrow.
This Citizens’ Guide to County Finances was prepared by the Finance Division, the Clerk’s Print Shop and the Board of County Commissioners Communications Department.