



CHECKS & BALANCES



Clay County Clerk of Court and Comptroller's Office Newsletter
March 2024

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Welcome Spring

A Message from Clerk/Comptroller Green

Spring is here—a time for new beginnings, growth, flowers in bloom....*and pollen, too.* At recent all-staff meetings we celebrated our organization's first-ever Top Workplaces designation. They are still "new", but you have undoubtedly noticed the gold/blue Top Workplace banners placed on many windows and doors. This is to remind you of how much you are valued here and to tell our fellow citizens, who are our customers, "Get ready for some great service!" In this season of renewal, and all the year through, please keep up the good work — I know you will.

Pictured below, we pose for a full group photo on the courthouse front steps.



April 4th—April 14th



Fly Over to See Us at the Clay County Fair

Clay County Clerk of Court and Comptroller Tara S. Green is proud of her Historical Archives Division and their work year-round to preserve and promote Clay County history.





Branan Field
"The Blue Angels"
Home Away from Home



Blue Angels Grumman F6F-5 Hellcat 1946 to 1949

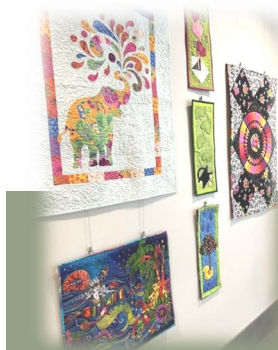


Lee Field Flight Line WWII



Neptune Park Historical Marker

We look forward to meeting you each year inside Expo Building 2. That's where you'll find our eye-catching display packed with fun, historical information, and amazing photos, too. Our theme for 2024 is military aviation, so I invite you to "fly over" to learn more about the airfields, pilots, and events that earned Clay County a place in our nation's aviation history. My Historical Archives staff and helpful volunteers can't wait to see you there!



Pictures don't do them justice. We're talking about the quilts on display now through end of April on the 4th Floor of the main courthouse. The First Coast Quilters Guild's exhibits never disappoint....but you really have to see them up close to truly appreciate the detailed handiwork.

Up next in our Art in the Courthouse Gallery will be a selection of artwork from the Clay County District Schools' Fine Arts competition. Look for that display in May. Maybe a child you know will have art there.

**Congrats to All-Star
Tessa Pena**



All-Stars Shine

Criminal Department Supervisor Tessa Pena is a shining example of our four core values in action. She exhibits a very high level of trustworthiness in all Compliance & Probation tasks and maintains confidentiality. Plus, her efficiency exceeds expectations in terms of productivity and use of time and always contributing for the benefit

of the entire department. She has a strong sense of accountability, accepting responsibility for both successes and setbacks. She is highly regarded for her helpful nature, her willingness to support colleagues, and her customer service. We are proud to recognize Supervisor Pena as our 2nd Quarter All-Star Award recipient. Congratulations!

**Congrats to All-Star
LaShonda
Hampshire-Baskin**



Handing over her all-star crown is last quarter's All-Star, LaShonda Hampshire-Baskin. Her detailed knowledge is impressive. Any issues with child support or alimony orders are very swiftly corrected. She goes all out to help her customers, but her connection to colleagues stands out. Clerks wear many hats (counselor, trainer, co-worker, friend). Few understand that better than the clerk described as "the heart and soul of CGD". Thank you for all you do.

Employment Anniversaries

Christina Spadea	January 3	1
Cindy Revels-Plummer	January 4	25
Tammy Rosenbaum	January 22	28
Rick Dingle	February 16	14
Judy Thomas	February 20	17
Theresa Blankenship	February 24	4
Nikki Clark	February 24	4
Christina Diaz	February 24	4
Tawnya Disparti	February 24	4
Margery Maney	February 27	18
Carrie Arcusa-Rosa	February 28	13
Jeannie Dopson	March 7	8
Stacey Smith	March 7	7
Elaine Burgess	March 14	19
Michelle Rodgers	March 14	11
Stephanie Hudson	March 15	3
Tessa Pena	March 15	3
Amanda West	March 15	25
Stephanie Spinks	March 25	22
Ken Ray	March 29	14

Happy "Workiversary"!

Out and About in the Community

Clerk Green regularly attends events where she raises awareness about the services you provide our citizens, while also supporting our key partners. Most recently, she joined our Archives, Facilities, and Volunteer personnel in support of local military veterans at a touching event at the Historic Triangle. The grounds looked amazing for this special event thanks to Tim Bell and Vishi Garig who coordinated with the CCSO's Inmate Work Crew to get some tough jobs done—like spreading 50 bags of mulch and picking up debris!



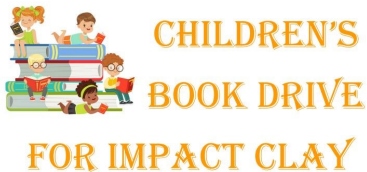
The Clay County Agricultural Fair is always a huge community event. We applaud the many Fair and County officials who make it a success. Clerk Green was happy to join them at the 2024 Fair Luncheon this week to kick off some very busy weeks ahead. Check out the [2024 Fair schedule](#) and then go enjoy some time there with your family and friends! Be sure to stop by Expo Bldg #2, say hello to your Archives colleagues, and pick up some swag!

Be On the Lookout

As our county's population expands, we're on the lookout for important new issues that arise and ways we can help.



The potential for property fraud is on the climb in our area. Last month the news covered the story of a man who found out about his land being deeded over to a fraudster. He only realized this when he saw a bulldozer on the lot! We seized the opportunity to promote our free Property Fraud Prevention service.



Local kids need books! Thanks to your response and generous outpouring of donations, we will provide 113 books to children in Clay County through our new partnerships with Impact Clay and the Clay County Library System!

Training is Key in IG Division

Inspector General (IG) duties encompass prevention and detection of fraud, waste, and abuse. The work done by IG personnel often improves use of public resources and preserves public trust in Clay County government. Training is key to their success. We'd like to recognize John DaSilva who recently became certified as an Inspector General Investigator through the Association of Inspectors General.



April — A Month for Big Events!!!!



SEE THE ATTACHED FLIERS FOR BOTH OF THESE EVENTS!



Back by Popular Demand— Low Bono

We often encounter customers who need help with family law legal matters but many are unable to afford a family law attorney to represent them or to even help with paperwork. Clerk Green is pleased to announce the return this summer of our helpful Low Bono Program. Low Bono allows citizens with a family law legal matter to schedule an appointment with a local, licensed attorney. The time isn't free but it is very inexpensive. A 30-minute to 60-minute meeting with an attorney is sometimes all that is needed to make sure self-represented litigants have the right forms filled out correctly before filing. This saves everyone (citizens, clerks, judges) a lot of headache. You'll soon be able to refer citizens to the new Low Bono program through our Civil Department where Supervisor Becky Crews will be happy to answer any questions and connect those in need with attorneys who will meet with them on site here at the courthouse or online. Look for an official release soon. Thank you, Brian, Becky, Amie, Tracie, and Justin for getting this very important service back up and running. (*Low Bono was paused during the pandemic.)



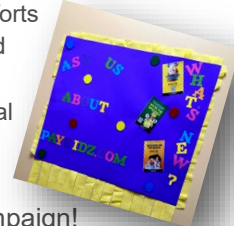
Child Abuse Prevention Month



We are proud each year to recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue pinwheels are the national symbol for child abuse prevention and

serve as a reminder of the safe and nurturing environment we desire for every child. If you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, call the Florida Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE (800-962-2873).

Speaking of protecting children and providing services to families, kudos to Civil Department Clerk LaShonda Hampshire-Baskin for her efforts to promote the state's new website for making online child support and alimony payments. The new site is PayKidz.com (instead of myfloridacounty.com). The goal is to provide users with an even better payment support management experience. Thank you for contributing your creativity to the awareness campaign!



Is every road in Clay County under construction?

It might seem that way sometimes! To give you a better idea of what roads are under construction and what projects may be starting soon, we'd like to share some links with you to official websites that make it all easier to monitor and might even save you a roadblock or two during your commute.

- [Walnut Street Improvements in GCS](#)
- [County Projects and Road Closures](#)
- [FDOT Project List](#) (searchable by county and live traffic alerts)
- [First Coast Expressway](#) (all sections)

