



CHECKS & BALANCES



Clay County Clerk of Court and Comptroller's Office Newsletter

September 2024

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Clerk Green's Message

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, few are busier here than those involved in finance related functions. Whether it's our team in Clerk Finance or our team in County Finance (Comptroller), there are deadlines fast approaching and detailed planning that started back in the spring. We are proud of the work done by the staff in those departments, led by Controller Jeannie Dopson (Clerk Finance), by Finance Officer Amy Bramlitt (Comptroller), and by Finance Director David Caudill (Comptroller). Their "fearless leader", Chief Administrative Officer Rick Dingle, is tasked annually with bringing it all together smoothly to represent another successful and professionally managed fiscal year.

The Clay County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) completed their budget approval process earlier this week and we are grateful for their ongoing support in many areas of our budget request. Needless to say, our office's workload and the myriad of services provided by our 101 members (*you*) increases as our county's population increases. We need to be prepared and fully staffed to address those needs as they arise and, thanks to the above-mentioned leaders and their hardworking teams, we can be!



Speaking of Rick Dingle (left), join me in congratulating him on his recent appointment by Governor Ron DeSantis to a 4-year term on the Clay County Development Authority (CCDA), a group that promotes sound economic development. In addition to his important role in our organization and now, too, with the CCDA, Rick is also a member of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association. He puts his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration to good use in so many ways...here in our office and in our community!

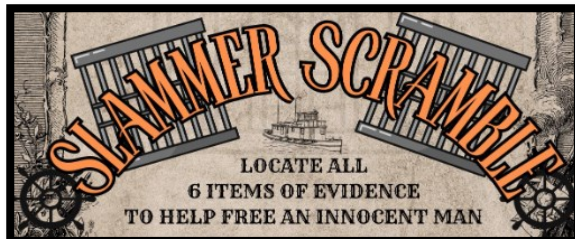
As we wrap up Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/2024, kudos to all involved on a job well done.



Remembering Jewel: Recording Department Manager Jewel Baskin (left) envisioned what "The Vault" could become. Just prior to her untimely passing, she was working with several colleagues to plan the removal of obsolete items, painting of the walls, new carpet, updated signage, proper seating, and more. It is our goal to follow through on her plans and make that area a more welcoming space for employees, citizens doing Recording business, tour groups, and researchers, too. Stay tuned for updates as we honor her memory and her 38 years of service by creating **The Jewel Baskin Vault**.

Tales from the Clink Has a New "Wrinkle"

In addition to the true crime, ripped-from real headlines fun we have every year at TFTC, comes a new wrinkle—from the mind of General Counsel Brian Byrd and the historical knowledge of Archives Supervisor Vishi Garig....the **Slammer Scramble Scavenger Hunt**. Event goers will meet Old Harry Kane (Brian), an elderly man thrown in jail for an 1887 murder he didn't commit. You'll be challenged to find items of evidence in and around the Old Jail to prove his innocence and set him free. This kid-friendly scavenger hunt, combined with our latest cast of RHS Drama students/characters, will get all of us in the mood for Fall and the holidays to follow! **Join us on Friday, 10/11/24 from 5pm-8pm at the Historic Triangle. Entry is \$3 for adults and \$1 for students. *Cash only. **Candy, popcorn, and drink sales, too.**



This newsletter is now available to the public. It can be read any time at clayclerk.com (Reports page) plus residents can subscribe to receive the latest newsletter by email each quarter.

Our All-Star Shines



**Congrats,
Brandy
Taylor!**



This All-Star employee, Criminal Department Clerk Brandy Taylor, not only does an excellent job completing assigned tasks but also stops in her tracks to help others. She is the embodiment of our four core values. You can trust her to be consistently high-performing, accurate, and

responsible. Her level of efficiency is maintained in whatever role (old or new). Her coworkers describe her as a “well-oiled machine” that keeps things around her in her department running smoothly. She is so accountable to her colleagues that not even a flooded driveway can stop her from being to work on time. Her helpfulness shines through with every customer call she takes. Her Criminal Department colleagues say she arrives with a positive tone and a kind word always. She makes her department a better place. Her ability to communicate with customers professionally and with compassion gained her the respect of those working around her. When she isn't in court, no matter how busy she is with her own work, she lends a helping hand to others. Multiple coworkers nominated this all-star using words like “amazing”, “patient”, “comforting”, and “warm”. One customer feedback note went so far to say, “I wish all government offices handled calls the way she does!” Congratulations, Brandy Taylor on being selected as this quarter's **Clerk of Court and Comptroller's Office All-Star Employee!**

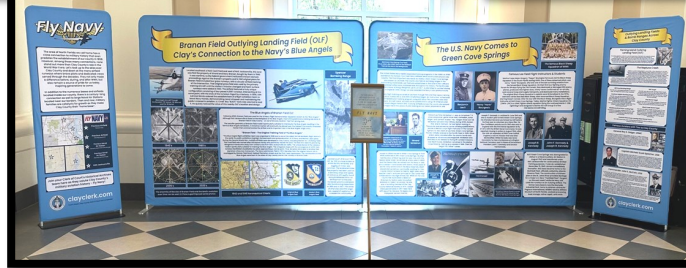
Quarterly Employment Anniversaries

Name	Workiversary	Years of Service
Vishi Garig	July 1 st	11
Jessica Olson	July 5 th	1
Robbin Tefft	July 5th	30
Tiffany Mays	July 11 th	2
Kathy Drake	July 16 th	12
Jordan Hall	July 17 th	1
Hussain Chaudhry	July 18 th	2
Carrie Arcusa-Rosa	August 14 th	11
Chelsey Mason	August 14 th	1
Dillon Averett	August 17 th	4
Mary Justino	August 18 th	7
Becky Crews	August 19 th	11
Dena Leino	August 23rd	25
MJ Rood	August 24 th	4
Verlon Woodard	August 24 th	9
Tameika Hampshire	August 26 th	22
Kim Rodgers	August 28 th	18
Christie Blanchett	August 31 st	4
Paul Campanale	September 3 rd	11
Christy Bell	September 5 th	1
Tim Bell	September 12 th	2
Cheryl Senter	September 14 th	4
Devon Holt	September 26 th	2
Sara Stout	September 26 th	1
Sarah Knowlton	September 26 th	7
Holly Casterline	September 30 th	21

Out & About in the Community



(Left) Chief HR Officer Deena Faulkner and HR Generalist Cara McCoy represented us at a huge CCDS Career Fair this month while (right) Clerk Green spoke to 100+ RHS students during US Constitution Week.



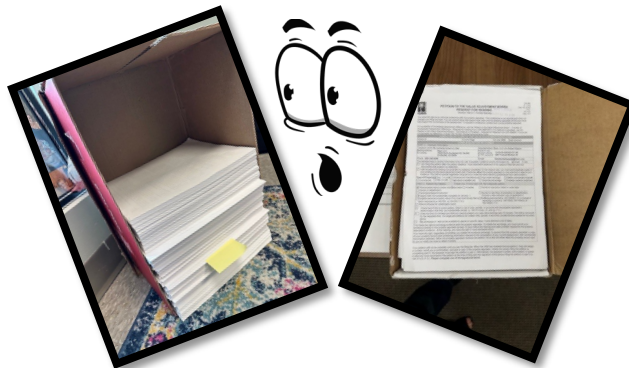
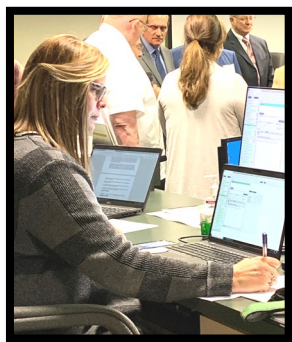
The US Navy's Blue Angels will again headline the Air Show at NAS Jax on October 19th & 20th. To mark the occasion, our 26' wide "Fly Navy" historical display will hit the road and be out in the community. Archives Supervisor Vishi Garig will speak at Oakleaf High School and at the OP Library during the two weeks around the event.



Thank you, everyone, for making time to be part of our employee picture days last week. You looked great! Photos are being reviewed and processed now and we'll share the best ones soon. Thank you, Senior Executive Assistant to the Clerk Victoria Marquart, for your coordination!

Did You Know.....

....it is property tax petition season and our clerks play a huge role in the annual Value Adjustment Board (VAB) process. This includes Clerk Christine Blanchett with help from Angie Haggard under the direction of Chief Administrative Officer Rick Dingle. The VAB serves as the decision-maker when there is disagreement between a property owner and the Property Appraiser concerning a property's exemptions, valuations, portability decisions, or change of ownership. The board comprises two county commissioners, a school board member, two citizens, and a local attorney. While we highly encourage property owners to file their petitions online using a link on our website, some still choose to file in-person with hard-copy forms which require staff to do extensive manual entry — more than 1,900 forms this year alone. Kudos to Christine and to Angie (with extra help from Victoria Marquart, Christy Bell, and Stacie Towns) to get this laborious task accomplished!



October—November

Plein Air Painters

November—January

Augusta Savage Ctr. Student Art

Final '24 GCS Food Truck Events

Fri. October 4th / Sat. November 2nd (150th Anniversary)