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August 6, 2008

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General:

TBARTA Hosts Thursday Workshop

The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) is asking the public to share their ideas on different transit modes for the region. Pinellas County's community workshop will be held Thursday, Aug. 7, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Largo Cultural Center, located at 105 Central Park Drive in Largo. [more>>](#) (posted 08-06-08)

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August Begins Busy Storm Season

More than half of the tropical storms and hurricanes that have been observed since 1851 have formed during the months of August and September. Since we are now in the busiest time of the year, it's more important than ever to have a plan, build a hurricane survival tip and watch or read a daily weather report. [more>>](#) (posted 08-05-08)



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Clerk Offers Software Online

Beginning this week, the Clerk's Self Help Center for affordable legal services will make its user-friendly software available online through the [Clerk's website](#), Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court, announced. [more>>](#) (posted 08-04-08)

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Gold Mine in Your Hand

Cell phones contain precious metals. In fact, there is enough gold in 200 cell phones to form a ring. When consumers are done with their cell phones, they should not try extracting it themselves, however. They can drop off old phones for recycling at one of 100 convenient locations or





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TBARTA workshops are part of the effort to develop a transportation master plan for the seven-county West Central Florida region, including Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Sarasota counties. By sharing their opinions, residents can be a part of making their community, county and region move and grow smart. For more information on TBARTA and the master plan, visit www.tbarta.com or call (813) 217-4048.

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Available from any computer, this remote access to the legal forms required for filing tenant evictions, divorce and small claims cases eliminates the need to visit the Clerk's Self Help Center for assistance.

By paying with a credit card, citizens may use the software to complete small claims, landlord/tenant and family law forms from the convenience of their home computer.

The software contains "easy-to-follow instructions" for completing the paperwork.

"It walks users through filling out forms. The user simply answers questions about their case and the software populates the legal form by inserting the answers in the right space," said Burke. "Once they have completed answering the questions, the software will generate the forms in a neat, printable format."

The user will have the access to their online forms to make changes for up to seven days, after which the forms will no longer be available to view or print. The \$5 fee for use of this specialized software, plus the cost of the applicable packet is payable by credit card, according to Burke.

"After you conveniently complete your forms at home, your paperwork can be filed in the Clerk's Office accompanied by the appropriate filing fees listed in the instructions, said Burke.

Information: Clearwater (727) 464-5150, St. Petersburg (727) 582-7941.

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Volunteers Sought for Event to Benefit Area Homeless - [watch video](#)

The organizers of Project Homeless Connect, a one-day event to assist those in Pinellas County who are homeless or in need, are seeking 500 volunteers to assist with the Saturday, Sept. 27 event from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



The one-day service fair at Clearwater's Harborview Center, 300 Cleveland St., will connect those who need help with care professionals and services that include medical and dental screenings and other personal services; job and housing assistance; social, legal and transportation services; spiritual counseling and Florida IDs. Free breakfast and lunch will be provided and T-shirts and backpacks containing blankets and personal items will be distributed to all attendees. Transportation for attendees to and from the event will be provided. (Please see website address below for pick-up and drop-off schedule). Childcare will also be provided. Interpreters will be available to assist with Spanish translations and the hearing impaired.

Volunteers are required to attend one of six training sessions that will be held prior to the event. Please go to www.pinellasconnect.org for the schedule of trainings and to register as a volunteer.

Interested individuals or groups may contact Betty Moran at the American Red Cross, 727-446-2358 for additional information. Monetary donations can be sent to the Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless, 5180 62nd Ave. N., Pinellas Park, Fla. 33781.