



KEN BURKE, CPA

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER - PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Clerk of the County Court • Recorder of Deeds • Clerk and Accountant of the Board of County Commissioners • Custodian of County Funds • County Auditor • Clerk of the Water and Navigation Control Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 16, 2016

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Pinellas County Clerk Sheds Light on Sunshine Week

National Sunshine Week is off to a sunny start and will shine through Saturday, March 19th. In recognition of this nationwide initiative, Ken Burke, Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller would like to remind citizens of the importance of being actively involved in one's government. Clerk Burke is fully committed to honoring the right of unimpeded public access and encourages everyone to exercise their rights. "As Clerk, I am tasked with the responsibility of keeping all public records and ensuring their integrity is protected. It is my duty and honor to provide the community we serve with government accountability and easy access to public information year round," stated Clerk Burke.

The Clerk's website (www.mypinellasclerk.org) provides many resources to easily search public records at one's leisure.

"Spending in the Sunshine" is a website specifically created by Clerk Burke that embraces financial transparency and provides the public with an avenue to explore county government expenditures. The site provides transparency spanning from vendor invoice payments to the salary of every Pinellas County government employee. "We have several instructional videos to help guide visitors through the wealth of information on our Spending in the Sunshine site," stated Clerk Burke. "This site along with the various portals of information on our main website gives citizens the power of knowledge right at their fingertips."

Various financial records and reports can be easily accessed on the Clerk's website to include county audits and reports including the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). Other resources include Annual Budgets for the Clerk, Bonded Debt Reports, Inspector General Reports and Investment Reports to name a few.

Public record searches are available online, where citizens can perform searches for Civil, Criminal, Traffic and Probate case information. Public access is also available for Official Records to include marriage licenses, deeds, liens, land records, judgments and more. Furthermore, there are over 30 public view terminals spread throughout various Clerk's office locations in order to provide access to searchable databases of public records. Additional records are available by visiting the Clerk's office and by way of microfilm.

About Sunshine Week

Sunshine Week is a nationwide celebration that has taken place every March since 2005 as a result of the hard work of the American Society of News Editors. Participants include news media, government officials at all levels, schools and universities, libraries and archives, individuals, non-profit and civic organizations, historians and anyone with an interest in open government. The activities are funded through a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The goal is to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels and give them access to information that enhances their lives and strengthens their communities.

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ABOUT THE CLERK'S OFFICE:

The Clerk of the Circuit Court was established as a public trustee by the Florida Constitution in 1838. The Clerk of the Circuit Court serves as the Clerk of Courts, the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, Auditor, Recorder and Custodian of all county funds.