



## Crystal K. Kinzel

Collier County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller  
3315 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 102  
Naples, Florida 34112-5324  
[www.CollierClerk.com](http://www.CollierClerk.com)

Dear Citizens:

June 1st marks the beginning of another storm season in Florida. There are many resources available including: a WINK news Hurricane Guide for 2022; the county website at [www.colliercountyfl.gov/Home/Components/News/News/45721/1536](http://www.colliercountyfl.gov/Home/Components/News/News/45721/1536) or the state of Florida website at <https://www.stateofflorida.com/articles/hurricane-preparedness-guide/>. Please be prepared by planning early! Our Office has in place numerous storm procedures to protect your records and to provide us with the ability to continue county business. We want to be sure that our staff stays safe while we continue to serve you.



June also marks the end of high school for our local seniors! Congratulations to all high school seniors, including my granddaughter Lanie from Naples High School. Whatever your future plans and dreams, enjoy your summer and best wishes for your successes. Don't forget the Clerk's Office offers many local career opportunities and we offer partial tuition assistance for full time clerks entering job related fields.

June is budget workshop month for county government. The budget workshop for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 will be held Thursday, June 16th, 2022, in the Board of County Commission chambers. The workshop will be televised on the County's public channel 97. See inside this issue of our newsletter for an overview of the Clerk's Office budget. The Board of County Commissioners provides a transfer to cover the costs of our non-court functions. These costs are offset by additional funds generated by our office and court costs that are funded by the state from revenues earned. The Clerk's court budget will be due to the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (FLCCOC) later in the summer.

As we enter the hot summer months, many of our neighbors will be going, or have already gone, north. For those who stay year-round, it is a great time to get to know your Clerk's Office. We are available for presentations on a variety of subjects including functions of the Clerk's Office, navigating county government, fraud, foreclosures or tax deed sales, Value Adjustment Board (VAB) processes or any other topic which may be of interest. If you have a group meeting over the summer, please let us know. We'll be glad to meet with you to provide information on all that we do. We can also arrange a tour of our offices for small groups. Let us know.

As with many businesses and offices, we have a shortage of workers due to retirements and the great Covid resignation. Please let anyone you know who might be looking for a career or to volunteer that we are looking for a few enthusiastic people! We will train and offer career growth opportunities. To complement our workforce, we are looking for a few willing volunteers to help with data entry and scanning records, jury coordination, community outreach, newsletter publication, customer contacts and more. We want to develop a Clerk Corps to help, particularly for next season. We can be flexible on work schedules and assignments. Just apply at our website or give us a call! We work hard but try to make it fun for everyone, so join us!

And as always, please let us know if there is anything in particular that you would like to see in the newsletter!

*Crystal K. Kinzel*



## Collier Clerk Newsletter June, 2022

### Office Locations

#### Main Office

Courthouse  
3315 Tamiami Trail E.  
Naples, FL 34112  
(239) 252-2646

#### Satellite Offices

**Airport Motor Vehicle**  
725 Airport Road South  
Naples, FL 34104

**Eagle Creek**  
6654 Collier Boulevard  
Naples FL 34114

**Everglades City Hall**  
102 Copeland Ave. N.  
Everglades City, FL 34139

**Golden Gate Gov. Center**  
4715 Golden Gate Parkway  
Naples, FL 34116

**Heritage Bay**  
15450 Collier Blvd.  
Naples, FL 34120

**Immokalee**  
106 South First Street  
Immokalee, FL 34142

**North Collier Gov. Ctr.**  
2335 Orange Blossom Drive  
Naples, FL 34109

**Customer Service**  
(239) 252-2646

[www.CollierClerk.com](http://www.CollierClerk.com)



[www.Facebook.com/CollierClerk](https://www.facebook.com/CollierClerk)

# June is National Home Ownership Month

Homeownership is a big decision, investment and responsibility. The Clerk's office plays a part in all land transactions in Collier County. Mortgages, deeds, liens and satisfactions of liens, condominium documents and declarations of domicile are all recorded in our office.

In Florida, a *Declaration of Domicile* is a person's sworn declaration publicly attesting that he/she intends to maintain a permanent home in Florida, within the county where it is recorded by the clerk's office. Filing a Declaration of Domicile does not automatically make a person a resident of Florida, in fact, it's not even a requirement. It is one method to help support a person's residency claim. Hundreds of domicile declarations are submitted to the Collier County Clerk's office every year for recording in the county's Official Record. The state where a person is domiciled is important for many reasons, including eligibility for programs and tax benefits. The clerk's office is merely the recorder of the document, and makes no determination as to residency.

**01/01/22—04/30/22**

**Recording By the numbers.....**

- 218,333 pages recorded
- 60,765 documents recorded
- 43,228 eRecords



## Have you Subscribed to the Risk Alert Notification Program?

A **free** public service offered by the Collier County Clerk's Office to help property owners monitor their records for fraudulent activity.

Sign-up through the Clerk's website: [www.CollierClerk.com](http://www.CollierClerk.com)

## AND HURRICANE SEASON

June is the start of Hurricane Season and lasts until November. Please take time to prepare and secure what is, for most, your most expensive possession. There are many resources available on line including [www.collierem.org](http://www.collierem.org), as well as from most news organizations.

## Need a Copy of your Collier Deed?

### Don't Pay Anyone!

Many new homeowners in Collier County have informed the Clerk's office that they have received a letter in the mail that appears to be from a government office; however, it is not. The deceitful letter is actually a solicitation sent from a private company attempting to convince unsuspecting homeowners to pay \$89 for a copy of their deed.



**Don't be Fooled by  
Deceitful Mail that  
Looks Official**

Residents can view and print copies of Collier property deeds and other property records **for free** from the Clerk's website: [CollierClerk.com](http://CollierClerk.com).

Certified copies may be purchased for \$1 per page/\$2 per instrument.

For more information about property deeds and other official records check our website or call the Recording Division at (239) 252-7242.

**Join Clerk Kinzel and an experienced team of experts in the Collier market for a **free** Informational Seminar:**

## Learn More About the Local Real Estate Market Thursday, June 30th 5:30pm

Are you considering buying or selling a home? This seminar is designed for homebuyers or sellers. Learn more about contracts, insurance and the market from experts.

### Seminar topics include:

- Where the growth is headed - the newest communities being built in 2022 & beyond;
- Current trends in Naples area real estate;
- How upcoming changes in real estate contracts may impact your purchase or sale;
- Information about foreclosures and tax deed sales;
- Homeowners' insurance may double in coming years. Learn what to do now to save later.

### Location:

**Collier County Library Headquarters**  
**2385 Orange Blossom Dr.**  
**Naples, FL 34109**

Please register in advance by contacting our office at 239-252-7116.

## FY2023 Clerk's Budget

The Clerk of Courts in Collier County is a fee office and, as such, related budgets are prepared in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 218.35. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is required by law to fund certain court costs of the Clerk's Office and those costs are included in our proposed budget. The full court budget will be submitted to the FLCCOC for approval later this summer.

The total transfer request from the Board of County Commissioners for FY2023 is \$10,310,900. This constitutes an increase of \$768,000 over the FY2022 transfer request and demonstrates compliance with the BOCC's adopted FY2023 budget policy and the changes to the BOCC pay plans instituted in FY2022 with respect to wage adjustments. The requested transfer, net of expanded positions and pay plan adjustments, is consistent with budget policy of 0.5%. Costs of the Clerk's office are partially offset by fees. Excess fees are returned to the Board at year-end. In FY2021, our office returned \$630,361 to the Board reflecting increased revenue of \$523,701 and cost savings of \$106,660. The FY2023 requested increase includes two expanded positions. The Clerk's total proposed non-court budget is \$15,025,400.

In summary, the proposed level of funding will cover the costs of the Clerk's operations associated with services provided to the Board including:

- ⇒ *Accounting, auditing and custodial functions relating to the Board of County Commissioner's books including preparation of GFOA Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (award winning for 34 consecutive years);*
- ⇒ *Debt administration (refinancing, payments and bond ratings remain AAA by rating agencies);*
- ⇒ *Processing of payroll, accounts payable; capital assets; contract payments; investment of surplus funds;*
- ⇒ *Implementation of financial systems and technical enhancements and other accounting functions as they relate to the Board of County Commissioners*
- ⇒ *Providing comprehensive support for county-wide SAP systems to maintain current services and enhanced functionality (including SAP upgrades to the platform and enhanced time & attendance system);*
- ⇒ *Services to the citizens of Collier County, reflecting our commitment to the efficient and effective operations of the Clerk's Office.*

The Clerk of Courts is audited annually by numerous entities including those hired by the Board of County Commissioners for financial statement audits.

As Clerk, I have maintained a high level of service to the public, while keeping costs within minimal growth limits. We continue to look for better ways to do business through technology and the streamlining of processes. We strive to maintain efficient and effective operations. I believe that we have accomplished this, even with increasing workloads. To improve customer service, we continue to expand and offer services at localized satellite facilities.

## Upcoming Meetings of the Collier County Board of County Commissioners:

- **9 a.m., Tuesday, June 14, 2022**
- **Budget Workshop, Thursday, June 16, 2022**
- **9 a.m., Tuesday, June 28, 2022**

Here are a few items of interest that may appear on the Board's agenda on June 14th.

- Recommendation to accept an update to recent housing activities and direct staff to address housing affordability by providing the following options for the Board's consideration: (1) allow the development of a solicitation to engage developers to bring projects forward to utilize the One Cent Infrastructure Surtax funding, (2) expedite the procurement process and transfer of surplus land, and (3) authorize funding for Benesch consulting to complete a nexus study for a linkage fee for affordable housing. (Net Fiscal Impact \$222,312)
- Recommendation to award Request for Professional Services ("RPS") No. 21-7914, "Verification Testing Services for Vanderbilt Beach Road Extension," to Johnson Engineering, Inc., in the total amount of \$1,812,089, authorize the Chairman to sign the Agreement. (Project No. 60168)
- \$1.1 million for Pelican Bay sewer replacement.
- Approval of an ordinance to more than double the density by adding 384 units, for a total of 690 units, at Lords Way on Collier Blvd. (now Hacienda Lakes).
- Ordinance establishing Hacienda North 197+ acre CDD.
- Ordinance establishing 325 acre Terrena CDD.

**Regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners are held at 3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd floor, Naples, FL 34112. The public can access current meeting agendas and watch meetings at [www.CollierCountyFL.gov](http://www.CollierCountyFL.gov). Prior agendas, meeting minutes and other board records can be found at [www.CollierClerk.com](http://www.CollierClerk.com).**

## Update on Collier County's One-Cent Sales Surtax

In November 2018, Collier County voters approved a ballot referendum that allowed county government to collect an additional one-cent local sales tax for the purpose of funding numerous capital projects. The additional one-cent sales tax increased the county's sales tax from six percent to seven percent, and it applies to the first \$5,000 of the sales amount of tangible personal property, excluding groceries and medicine.



**ONE-CENT  
SURTAX**

At the time of voter approval, the one-cent local sales tax was expected to generate, on average, \$70 million a year, or \$490 million over seven years, with approximately thirty percent of the total revenue expected to come from tourists and visitors. Approximately ninety percent of the proceeds collected are earmarked for county government projects, with the remaining ten percent split amongst the county's three cities (Naples, Marco Island and Everglades City) for city-specific projects.

### Current Year Collections

The following table compares monthly infrastructure sales tax collections from October through March for fiscal years 2021 and 2022. These updated figures include both the County and municipal shares of the proceeds. FY22 collections have increased to \$73.6 million, which is an increase approaching 30% from the \$56.7 million collected during the same period in FY 2021.

Infrastructure Sales Tax Collections			
Month	FY21 Actuals	FY22 Actuals	% Change
October	\$6,949,048.32	\$8,818,105.32	26.90%
November	\$7,666,890.74	\$9,867,031.63	28.70%
December	\$11,734,406.12	\$15,767,270.18	34.37%
January	\$8,513,295.87	\$10,690,658.72	25.58%
February	\$8,634,608.55	\$11,560,677.14	33.89%
March	\$13,236,084.85	\$16,899,341.96	27.68%
Year to Date Total	\$56,734,334.45	\$73,603,084.95	29.73%

### Sunset Provisions

Within Collier County Ordinance 2018-21 that imposed the voter approved one-cent surtax, there is an automatic sunset date of December 31, 2025 (7-year term). However, the ordinance also has a provision for an earlier sunset date of December 31 of any year in which the total aggregate distribution of surtax proceeds equal or exceed \$490 million.

The formal sunset provision language in County Ordinance No. 2018-21 is as follows:

#### **SECTION SIX. Expiration Date; Survival of Certain Restricted Uses.**

*Sunset.* In all events, this Ordinance shall be in effect only through December 31, 2025. It shall sunset and expire thereafter, without further action by the Board and the electors, at which time it shall be repealed and of no further force and effect, and the Surtax levied hereunder shall terminate.

*Continued on pg. 5*

*One-Cent Sales Surtax continued:*

Alternatively, this Ordinance shall sunset on December 31<sup>st</sup> of any year during the term of this Ordinance in the event that the total aggregate distribution of Surtax proceeds equal or exceed the amount of \$490,000,000 at any time during that calendar year, in which event the Board shall take necessary action to repeal this Ordinance and notify the Florida Department of Revenue prior to the applicable deadline so that the Surtax will not continue for the following year.”

#### **Future Outlook**

Based on current revenue levels, it is likely that the infrastructure surtax will reach the \$490M revenue cap within five (5) years of collections, thereby able to sunset two years early. Any surplus revenue above the \$490 million cap would be available to offset any project cost increases above the programmed amounts or be available to fund long-term capital replacement of existing infrastructure projects or fund new projects.

Due to the current economic conditions (high inflation, rising interest rates, war in Ukraine, stock market volatility) there is potential for a recession that would adversely impact discretionary revenue and ultimately impacting infrastructure sales tax receipts. Monthly revenue receipts will be monitored closely to determine whether any softening in collections is occurring.

***Questions or concerns regarding the status of funds from the One Cent Sales Tax?***

**Collier County  
Infrastructure Surtax Citizen Oversight Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, June 22, 2022 8:30 am  
BCC Boardroom Chambers  
3299 Tamiami Trail E.—Bldg. F, 3rd FL**

*“The Committee shall have the responsibility to review the expenditure of Surtax proceeds against the ballot referendum approved by the voters and this Ordinance. The Board may expend proceeds of the Surtax on projects not specifically stated herein or in the County’s back-up materials to the Board, so long as those projects (1) comply with the intent of the ballot language, (2) have a positive recommendation by this Committee, and (3) fall within the projects and categories identified. The Committee shall not recommend alternative projects, unless requested by the Board. The Committee shall meet monthly, or as otherwise needed to fulfill their duties and responsibilities.”*

For information on meetings or agendas, contact Geoff Willig at 239-252-8369 or [Geoffrey.Willig@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:Geoffrey.Willig@colliercountyfl.gov).

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP COLLIER

The Clerk, as one of the 5 founding women lead by Donna McNiven in 2005, started the Youth Leadership Collier (YLC) program as part of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce. Donna's vision was of a program specifically designed for high school juniors going into their senior year in high school that would develop the next generation of Collier Leaders. Through hands-on business and leadership experiences, as well as exclusive behind-the-scenes sessions, students explore local government, healthcare, law enforcement, agriculture, media, human services, environment, the arts, and more. Students are exposed to opportunities in our community and hear from experienced area leaders who deal with our community's biggest opportunities and challenges. With the benefit of new perspectives and connections, participants are prepared to take their place as our community's future leaders.



Proclamation designating June 2022 as Youth Leadership Month in Collier County. Accepted by Crystal K. Kinzel, Collier County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller and Tiffany Lehman, YLC Chair.

## Individual Benefits

- Unforgettable experiences and relationships that support students' future success.
- Empowers students to become effective leaders through hands on experiences and field work with key organizations.
- Highlights Collier County as a quality place to begin careers and community leadership.

## June 13th—National Abused Women and Children Awareness Day

If a person is experiencing abuse, a petition may be completed to request an injunction for protection from the Court.

An injunction for protection usually places restrictions on the abuser that are intended to protect the victim. There are several types of petitions based upon the type of violence and the victim's relationship to the alleged abuser. We furnish petitions for protective injunctions against domestic, repeat, dating and sexual violence and stalking.

To file a petition with the Court for a protective injunction, visit the third floor of the Courthouse Annex or our satellite office in Immokalee. Safety is our top priority, so we provide a secure and private location within the courthouse for the petitioner to confidentially meet with staff.

Additionally, we partner with the Shelter for Abused Women and Children to provide an on-site victim's advocate to assist the victim in completing forms. The advocate provides information regarding the many helpful services offered by the



Shelter including emergency living quarters for the victim, children, and pets in danger, as well as legal and financial services that are most needed during an ongoing domestic violence proceeding. We even have a few children's books and toys to help keep children occupied during these difficult times.

Additional excellent resources include the 24-hour hotline at The Shelter for Abused Women and Children, (239) 775-1101 and the National Domestic Violence Hotline, (800) 799-SAFE. A victim may communicate by phone, text, or online chat with an advocate. If a client's safety is at risk, emergency help may be sought by dialing or texting 9-1-1. Let's all do our best to make others aware of these important resources.

