



# COLLIER CLERK NEWSLETTER

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MOODY'S  
INVESTORS SERVICE

FitchRatings

## Collier County improves its bond ratings

Fitch Ratings announced on March 16 that it assigned a AAA rating to the county's water and sewer district revenue bonds. The bonds sold competitively in April at an interest cost of 3.10 percent, the proceeds of which will be used for capital improvement projects and to pay issuance costs.

Moody's Investors Service announced on March 18 that it assigned its highest possible rating for the county's water-sewer district revenue bonds, upgrading it from Aa1 to Aaa. Moody's also upgraded the county's issuer rating to Aaa from Aa1 and non-ad valorem special obligation bonds to Aa1 from Aa2, affecting about \$138 million in outstanding debt.

"The upgrade to Aaa reflects the (water-sewer) district's large service area that continues to expand due to population growth and the county's acquisition of utility systems within its boundaries, historically strong debt service coverage and liquidity position that will likely remain at current levels, manageable debt burden with limited additional planned issuances, and capital needs that are largely supported by recurring revenues," a news release from Moody's says.

Employees with the Clerk's Finance and Accounting Division were instrumental in securing the high ratings for the county from the two rating agencies. Clerk's staff participated in interviews with both rating agencies and prepared information.

## How can we serve you today?

Crystal K. Kinzel, the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Collier County, is an independently elected constitutional officer and public trustee whose responsibilities include being the accountant, auditor, keeper of court and public records, and the "watchdog" of taxpayer funds.

If you are aware of or suspect fraud or wrongdoing within Collier County government, contact the agency's Internal Audit department at (239) 252-8412 or via email at [audit@collierclerk.com](mailto:audit@collierclerk.com). If you would like more information regarding the Clerk's services and operations, please let us know by calling us at (239) 252-6879 or sending an email to [jay.schlichter@collierclerk.com](mailto:jay.schlichter@collierclerk.com).

## Learn what the Clerk does for the community

Clerk Crystal Kinzel wants the public to be aware of the many services provided by the agency.

If you are part of a Collier County civic association, homeowners group, club or other organization, we want to hear from you. The Clerk would welcome the opportunity to connect with your members and provide information at your group's meetings.

To request a presentation, contact Jay Schlichter, the Director of Community Relations and Outreach, at 239-252-6879 or [jay.schlichter@collierclerk.com](mailto:jay.schlichter@collierclerk.com).

## Dozens take advantage of 'Passport Saturday' event



The Clerk of Courts is pleased to report that many people turned out for the agency's "Passport Saturday" event on March 30, with 83 applicants able to submit the required paperwork for a passport.

Events like this are held to help those who have difficulty getting to one of the Clerk's offices during normal Monday to Friday business hours. The Clerk plans to offer additional passport events in the near future.

More than a dozen Clerk employees (several shown pictured) worked to assist the customers at the North Collier Government Center.

## Courts Division enhancing its evidence process

The Clerk recently began a project to enhance the agency's evidence and record-keeping procedures.

The Courts Division has been conducting an inventory of the files and evidence from Collier County civil and criminal trials stored securely behind the evidence vault's massive steel door. The task is part of the agency's regular efforts to keep the records and material updated.

The job is being led by Christine Sanner, evidence supervisor, with the assistance of other Courts employees.

If you know anyone who would like to sign up to receive the Collier Clerk Newsletter, send their email address to [jay.schlichter@collierclerk.com](mailto:jay.schlichter@collierclerk.com). If you wish to discontinue receiving our newsletter, please let us know. If you have any questions about the Clerk's office, we will be happy to help. For more information, visit [www.collierclerk.com](http://www.collierclerk.com).

## New website coming soon

The Clerk of Courts is excited to announce that the agency is rolling out a new version of its website.

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

Along with a new color scheme, the site includes additional features to make doing business easier for its users. With more easy-to-read buttons on the homepage, we are connecting citizens with Clerk services most frequently used and requested by our customers.

The agency is looking for the public's feedback. Let us know what you think of the new site. Click the "How Are We Doing?" button, call us at 239-252-6879 or email [jay.schlichter@collierclerk.com](mailto:jay.schlichter@collierclerk.com).