

HardisonInk.com

Another iconic county clerk worker retires



(from left) Brittney Brown, Donna Cicale, Larry Cicale and Michele May pause for a family photo at the retirement party on Thursday.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © Feb. 25, 2017 at 9:57 p.m.

BRONSON -- Another iconic worker from the office of Levy County Clerk Danny Shipp retired on Thursday (Feb. 23), and a small gathering of family and colleagues celebrated the transition in the basement of the Levy County Courthouse.

Donna Cicale retired after 17 years in the Levy County Clerk's Office. Family members at the party were her husband Larry Cicale, her daughter Michele May of Kissimmee, and May's daughter and Donna Cicale's granddaughter Brittney Brown, also of Kissimmee.



The cake made by Chanda Jordan includes a bass head popping out of the top and a fish tail out one side, and chocolate pieces on the side to go with the fishing theme. There were also jelly 'worms' on the side.

HardisonInk.com

Brown coordinated with Sandy Haddock of Shipp's Office to have Brown's and her mother's appearance at the retirement party kept a secret. The surprise visit from her daughter and granddaughter was welcomed by Cicale.

Brown said that growing up, she was "raised in the clerk's office."

Shipp has 30 employees in his office. As the Clerk of the Court, he is the constitutional officer in Levy County who is responsible for all circuit and county trials records, for both civil and criminal actions.

He even must provide a deputy clerk to be available 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week in case there is a need for an order from the court to restrain one person from being in the vicinity of another person.

Shipp's Office is also responsible for keeping the records, financial, meeting minutes, etc., for the Levy County Board of County Commissioners.



(from left) Retiree Ann Moody, retiree Sheila Rees retiring Deputy Clerk Donna Cicale and County Clerk Danny Shipp are seen during part of the clerk's presentation of a plaque and card.

HardisonInk.com



Danny Shipp looks on as Donna Cicale holds up a piece of artwork by her daughter Michelle May of Kissimmee. Deputy County Clerk Sandy Haddock is in the background.

Members of Shipp's Office worked together to make the parting event a success. There were gifts and a big card. Michele May gave her mother a framed artwork of a flower that she made.

Chanda Jordan made a cake with a fishing theme. Cicale said that now that she has retired she plans to fish more, including with her husband, and another retiree from Shipp's Office Sheila Rees.

Rees was among the people present for the party, which had cake, ice cream, punch and peanuts.

Another Clerk's Office retiree who visited was Ann Moody.

Priscilla Walkers of the Clerk's Office made the punch.

Cicale said she will continue her fitness classes at the Bronson Community Church, even though she is retired.

In addition to Haddock, Jordan and Walters, other Clerk's Office members who took a few minutes to celebrate with their colleague in her final hours on the job were Deanna Whiteside Dobbins, Faith Southard and Kay Holcomb.

Levy County veterans service officers Robert Lowyns and Julie Rose dropped in to congratulate Cicale on her retirement.

HardisonInk.com



Donna Cicale and Danny Shipp are seen during the plaque presentation.



Levy County Clerk Shipp read from the plaque he presented, noting that Cicale provided the people of Levy County with “faithful and devoted service” for 17 years in the office of the county clerk.

“We’re definitely going to miss you,” Shipp told Cicale, “and we wish you well in retirement.”

HardisonInk.com



Donna Cicale makes the first cut in the work of art cake, which was as delicious as it was beautiful.

Shipp said this retiring deputy county clerk has more “Atta boys” in her file than anyone he knows. People who visit the clerk’s office to search old records find her greeting them with noticed warmth and helpfulness.

The retiring worker shared some of her

thoughts.

“What a privilege it has been to work with Danny Shipp and all of these wonderful people,” she said.

Cicale finished one of her projects before retiring. She added shelves that she made on the walls to add to the historic look of the basement.



Sandy Haddock and Donna Cicale sit on the steps leading up from the basement of the courthouse