

Background:

The City of Margate is pleased to recognize Pete Diaz, Division Leader for Lift Stations with the Department of Environmental and Engineering Services (DEES) Utilities, for being selected by the Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA) as the 2026 Distribution/Collection Operator of the Year.

Pete began his career with the City of Margate on September 28, 2020, as a Utility Mechanic assigned to the Lift Station Division. Through his dedication, technical expertise, and leadership, he advanced within the organization and was promoted to Division Leader in December 2023.

Today, Pete leads the City's Lift Station Division and is responsible for the operation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and regulatory compliance of the City's wastewater collection system. He leads a dedicated team of eight (8), four (4) Utility Mechanics and four (4) Service Workers responsible for inspections, preventive maintenance, emergency repairs, and infrastructure improvements throughout the collection system.

Under Pete's leadership, the City has made significant improvements to its wastewater collection infrastructure, including the rehabilitation of approximately 20 lift stations over the past three years. Pete has been instrumental in developing project scopes, coordinating contractors, conducting field inspections, ensuring quality control, and overseeing the startup and commissioning of rehabilitated facilities.

Pete has also taken a leadership role in implementing the City's Collection System Action Plan (CSAP) required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. His team has made substantial progress inspecting gravity sewer, manholes, and air release valves and documenting collection system maintenance and rehabilitation activities within the City's GIS-based asset management system.

One of Pete's most significant accomplishments has been transforming the Lift Station Division from a primarily reactive operation focused on emergency repairs into a proactive maintenance program centered on preventive maintenance, infrastructure reliability, and regulatory compliance.

In addition to his technical and operational accomplishments, Pete is committed to employee safety, professional development, teamwork, and customer service. He leads by example, works alongside his crews, assists other divisions when needed, and consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to the City and its residents.