



The Village Post

October - December 2011

The Heritage Village Museum Newsletter - compliments of the Pinellas County Historical Society

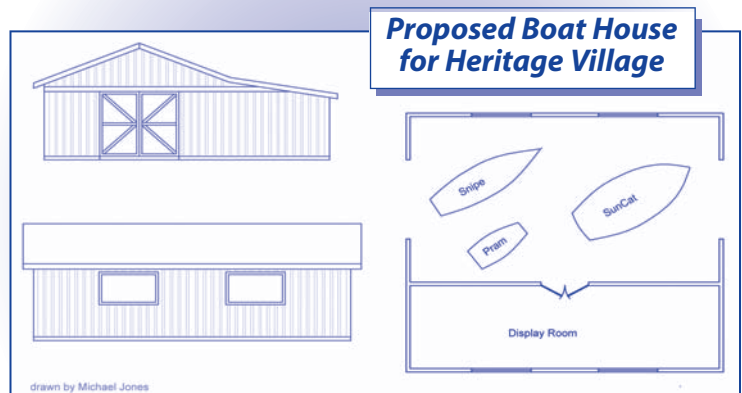
"Cruising into Coastal History"

The Pinellas County Historical Society (PCHS) proudly hosts a fundraiser with the Clearwater Yacht Club (CYC) that will benefit Heritage Village and enshrine an important chapter of our history. Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 12**. Beginning at 4 p.m., PCHS and CYC will sponsor an event at the Yacht Club's beautiful facility at 830 S. Bayway Boulevard that includes food stations from area restaurants, a variety of seafood dishes, a cash bar, musical entertainment, and a silent auction. It is hoped that proceeds from sponsorships and the \$40.00 individual admissions will allow the Society to construct a new boat house at the Village that will exhibit the history of boat building in Pinellas County.

Built along the lines of a period boat shop, the structure will provide a place to tell the story of the county's early boat builders and to store, preserve and exhibit other materials that are presently in the museum collection, as well as to provide for growth in this collection in the future. Currently, the museum has two vintage boats, built by Florida master boat builder Clark Mills; an Optimist Pram and the wooden prototype for the family sized Sun Cat, as well as the pending donation of an additional boat and materials.

Best known as the original designer of the Optimist Pram, "Clarkie" was a member of the Clearwater Optimist Club. In 1947, another member of the Club, Ernest Green, talked with Mills about the possibility of starting a "soapbox derby on water" after helping with a land-based derby for children. Mills, a resident of Dunedin, saw great potential in this idea. Three days later, Mills constructed his first "Pram." Similar in appearance to a short and deep rowboat, the prams Mills designed were made of quarter-inch plywood, 7.5 feet long; they weighed less than sixty pounds and cost between \$40 and \$70 to construct.

Clark Mills and other members of the Clearwater Optimist Club wanted to create a fleet of affordable, easy-to-navigate boats with a simple design that would instill a love of sailing in the boys and girls of the area. The first Florida Pram regatta took place in 1948. By the early 1950s, regatta entrees included boats from many other states and the races became popular events along the waterways of Clearwater Bay and Dunedin. At that time, skippers in the fleet were children between the ages of nine and fourteen who paid dues of \$1.50 a year. When the skippers turned fifteen, they "graduated" from the fleet so younger children could join. The Optimists



helped with maintaining the fleet. By the time of Mills' death in December of 2001, more than a quarter of a million of the Optimists had been built worldwide.

Your support of this fundraiser can assist PCHS as we maintain the memories and legacies of local boat builders like Clark Mills. Funds from this event will allow for the construction of a boat house along the McKay Creek watershed on the Village's eastern boundary. This boat house, when finished, will celebrate an important chapter of coastal living in Pinellas County and will include trophies, tools and other memorabilia, as well as space to restore and exhibit the Optimist Pram and Sun Cat in our collection.

For more information, please contact the PCHS office at Heritage Village at (727) 582-2233.


Museum News



As excitement builds for the creation of a boat house spear-headed by our friends at the Clearwater Yacht Club, a new phase of construction has just been completed on the Gulf of Mexico Sponge Warehouse. An ADA accessible ramp way leading to the side entrance was built this

summer, and pathways from the warehouse to the main brick trail will be finished soon.

Pin-Mar Antique Car Club paid Cross Signs to reproduce the two original advertising signs found on the building. The Pinellas County Historical Society is now looking for sponsors to fund an interior exhibit. Both the boat house and the sponge warehouse are integral elements in the Coastal Living component of our master plan. Thanks to all of our community partners!

 *Ellen Babb,
Museum Operations Manager*

Celebrate

"Trees and Traditions - A Centennial Celebration"

December 3, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Create a Christmas memory
- Enjoy refreshments
- Listen to holiday music
- Visit our beautifully decorated homes
- Stroll through holidays past
- Share memories with Santa
- Purchase special treasures in the Gift Shop



\$2 suggested donation

Heritage Village Flea Market/Book Sale at the Fall Jubilee on October 22

The 2011 Flea Market/Book Sale has expanded and will take place in 4 different locations on the Heritage Village property:

- **Harris School** – books, videos, CDs and related items
- **Lowe House** – holiday decorations, craft items and supplies
- **Safety Harbor Church** – vintage clothing, linens, antique furniture and collectibles
- **Pinellas Room** – house wares, tools, decorative items, toys, pictures, furniture and more

There is a great variety of quality items at bargain prices. Watch for balloons outside each of the Flea Market buildings. The Flea Market is sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society for the benefit of Heritage Village.

Pinellas by the Decades: A Centennial Celebration

Speaking of History Lecture Series
Sundays at 2 p.m. in the Pinellas Room

On January 1, 2012 Pinellas County celebrates 100 years of independence from Hillsborough County. As part of the centennial activities taking place between the fall of 2011 and the end of 2012, the Pinellas County Historical Society plans an engaging series of multidisciplinary lectures titled "Pinellas by the Decades."

September 11

Pinellas by the Decades: 1842-1911

"From Punta Pinal to Peerless Pinellas"

As the opening lecture for this year-long series, this program examines early settlement along the Pinellas Peninsula from the Armed Occupation Act of 1842 through the years before independence from Hillsborough County. The lecture will describe events in the area during the Civil War and Reconstruction years, as well as the period after the arrival of the Orange Belt Railway in 1888. Early communities, notable pioneer families, and growing sentiments for division from Hillsborough County will be traced.

October 9

Pinellas by the Decades: 1912-1921

"Independence, New Challenges, and New Opportunities"

Winning separation from Hillsborough did not end the political struggles along the peninsula. Battles over the location of the county seat, the expansion of agriculture and truck farming in mid- and upper-Pinellas, the arrival of spring training baseball, and the early stages of the real estate boom carved out new communities and new identities. A devastating hurricane in October 1921 punctuated the end of this decade.

November 13

Pinellas by the Decades: 1922-1931

"The Land Boom and Distant Clouds on the Horizon"

Although much of the real estate boom took place in St. Petersburg, ripples of economic activity covered the entire county. Frenzied speculation brought many investors and seasonal residents to the area, and the opening of the Gandy Bridge connected lower Pinellas with industrial activities across Tampa Bay. The boom began to wither by 1926, with its demise hastened by hurricanes in 1926 and 1928 that devastated portions of Florida and served as knock-out punches long before the rest of America entered the global depression in October 1929.

No December program due to holidays. Series resumes in January 2012.

News & Notes from the Pinellas County Historical Society

The Pinellas County Historical Society Welcomes These New Members

Judith B. Anderson & Family
Russell & Karen Barmmer
John Bauer & Carolyn Burke
Christopher Benjamin
Mr. & Mrs. E.W. Bie
Carol Ann Bradley
Linda Canale
Jennifer DeCresie
Vada Mae Eder
Daun Fletcher
Christine Frankford
Mark & Kim Godfrey and Family
Jackie Green
Timothy Huff
Dolores Johnson

Patricia Knislet
Sandy Kritch
Marilyn Lenihan
Jim & Mary McCormick
Carol Milner
Pamela Most
Michael Nash
Marcella Piniero
Fran & Tom Schettino
Marilyn Short
Martha Snow
Tim Suttle
Irma Wehle
Lorraine Wert
Paul Ryan & Deirdre Whelan

Green Bench Supporters

help preserve
Pinellas County's Historical Home

Green benches dot the landscape at Heritage Village, providing a place to rest while strolling the winding paths among the historic buildings; to enjoy performances at stages during festivals; and to contemplate in this special environment.

Celebrate a milestone event or honor a loved one by becoming a Green Bench Supporter. A commemorative plaque on a bench plus a prominently displayed recognition sign will be a visual expression of your commitment to preserving our past for future generations. Take a seat at Heritage Village and mark your place in history with your Green Bench contribution to help support the ongoing restoration and interpretation of our historic structures. Call (727) 582-2127 for more information.



Thank you to the following who have marked their place in history with a Green Bench contribution.

In Memory of Gary Sanders Ratcliffe
Supporter – Nancy R. Westerman

In Memory of Lester J. and Rita M. Westerman
Supporter – Nancy R. Westerman

**In Loving Memory of
Dr. James and Hettie Bardsley**
Supporters – Dr. James and Elaine Bardsley Jr.

Help Build the



One Book at a Time

The Heritage Village Archives & Library provides answers to numerous research requests each month. To keep up with the demand for information, the Pinellas County Historical Society developed a program to help supplement this 3,500-volume library. You can help the Heritage Village Archives & Library continue to grow by making a minimum contribution of \$50 for a book to be purchased in memory or in honor of someone special to you or to celebrate a milestone event. Recognition of your gift will appear on a nameplate inside the book and will be noted in a leather-bound book displayed in the Archives & Library. For more information, please call (727) 582-2233.

Join us in recognizing these recent donations to the Book Recognition Program

In Honor of Fran and Howard Johnson
Pinellas County Historical Society

In Memory of Jeff Prokop
First Coast AMC

In Memory of Maggie Nichols
Pinellas County Historical Society

In Memory of Mona Rohrbough
Family and Friends

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Donor Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Please check one and fill in the name:

In Honor of: _____
 In Memory of: _____
 In Appreciation of: _____

Check box if you want the honoree or family member of honoree to be notified.

Name of honoree and/or family member of honoree: _____

Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

Please make check payable to: **PCHS**

Mail check and form to: **Book Donation -**

Pinellas County Historical Society P.O. Box 4862, Seminole, FL 33775



PCHS SUPPORTERS

Many special events and exhibits are held throughout the year and each feature unique opportunities for you or your business to become involved as a sponsor.

The Pinellas County Historical Society is now seeking sponsors for:

Events

- Heritage Village Fall Jubilee (October 22, 2011)
- Pinellas Folk Festival (January 28, 2012)

Exhibits

- Period Boat Shop
- "Soaking up History" Exhibit for Sponge Warehouse

Please call the Society at 582-2233 for further information

Thank you to our current supporters!



Naomi & Francis Seavy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11909 125th Street North, Largo, FL 33774 • (727) 582-2123
Hours: Wednesday–Saturday 10 a.m.–4 p.m. • Sunday 1 p.m.–4 p.m. • Closed Monday, Tuesday and County holidays.

Visit our website for further details! www.pinellascounty.org/heritage

schedule of activities subject to change

See It–Do It–Share It

Festivals & Events



Heritage Village Fall Jubilee*
October 22, 2011 – 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Farm City Day
November 19, 2011 – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Holidays at the Village*
November 26, 2011 – December 31, 2011
Normal operating hours
*Closed Mondays, Tuesdays, Christmas Day
and New Year's Day*

**Trees and Traditions
A Centennial Celebration***
December 3, 2011 - 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
\$2.00 suggested donation

**Pinellas Folk Festival
A Centennial Celebration***
January 28, 2012 - 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
\$5.00 suggested donation

National Quilting Day
March 17, 2012 – 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Antique Appraisal Fair*
June 16, 2012 – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

* Sponsored by The Pinellas County Historical Society

Education

For Teachers

www.pinellascounty.org/Heritage/for_teachers.htm

- Pop into History – “Enter-Action” History Fun!
- School For A Day
- Heritage Village History Kits



Heritage Village Vegetable Gardening Workshops

Experienced and “want to be” gardeners are invited to attend a two hour workshop on **November 5, 2011 and February 11, 2012 from 10 a.m. until noon**. The classes will take place in the Pinellas Room and the 1890’s garden at Heritage Village and will feature **“Planting and Growing Tips”** and **“Garden Pests and How to Prevent Them.”** Advance registration is required. Cost per class is \$5 per person or \$8 for two people in a family. Call (727) **582-2233** for further information or to register.

Historical Writing Workshop

If you ever wanted to write a novel or have an interest in historical settings, this workshop on **October 7 from 10 a.m. until noon** is for you. This fun filled class will show you how to find the information you need for your novel and then translate it into a work of fiction through the use of hands-on exercises. \$10.00 per person. Advance registration is recommended. Call (727) **582-2233** for further information or to register.

Pinellas by the Decades: A Centennial Celebration

Speaking of History Lecture Series
Sundays at 2 p.m. in the Pinellas Room

On January 1, 2012 Pinellas County celebrates 100 years of independence from Hillsborough County. As part of the community centennial activities taking place between the fall of 2011 and the end of 2012, the Pinellas County Historical Society plans an engaging series of multidisciplinary lectures titled “Pinellas by the Decades.”

September 11 Pinellas by the Decades: 1842-1911
“From Punta Pinal to Peerless Pinellas”

October 9 Pinellas by the Decades: 1912-1921
“Independence, New Challenges, and New Opportunities”

November 13 Pinellas by the Decades: 1922-1931
“The Land Boom and Distant Clouds on the Horizon”

No December program due to holidays. Series resumes in January 2012.

Connect with the Past with the Present

Become a volunteer at Heritage Village and provide your community with a greater understanding of local and state history and the importance of preserving it for future generations.

Saturday, October 1, 2011

10:00 a.m. Junior Docent Orientation
1:00 p.m. New Adult Volunteer Orientation

Saturday, February 4, 2012

10:00 a.m. New Adult Volunteer Orientation

Unique Volunteer Opportunities

Docent Tour Guide: Are you curious or interested about architecture, historic houses, Pinellas County or Florida history? Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge and passion with others? Then join our docents at Heritage Village and welcome visitors to our historic structures. Engage guests in conversation about community life, architectural styles, artifacts and more. One on one training and mentoring by experienced volunteers is provided.

Museum Greeters: Meet school groups, bus tours and visitors, provide tour information, help guests read their maps and answer questions in the field. Morning and afternoon shifts available.

Historic House Caretaker: "Adopt an historic house" and provide special care and detailing utilizing historic house preservation guidelines.

Maintenance: Are you experienced with home or commercial repair or are you interested in historic preservation? Help staff with behind the scenes upgrades, light maintenance and simple repairs. Inside and outside work is available.

Grounds Assistant: Do you love the Florida piney woods? Help keep Heritage Village pathways, porches and walkways clear of debris and provide upkeep to plantings around historic houses. Heritage Village Garden volunteers provide interesting info on the history of agriculture, crops and growing vegetable gardens in Florida.

Call (727) 582-2125 or email pnoel@pinellascounty.org for further information.

Heritage Village Gift Shop



Discover unique items:

- **Holiday Gifts**
- **Stocking Stuffers**
- **Old-fashioned toys**
- **Local interest books**
- **Glassware & collectibles**
- **Citrus crate label post cards**

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

727-582-2219

10% Discount for PCHS members

Operated by the Pinellas County Historical Society.
Proceeds benefit Heritage Village operations.

GET INVOLVED

Volunteer at Heritage Village

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Docent
- Greeters
- Interpreter
- Receptionist
- Maintenance
- Junior Docent
- Office Assistant
- Craft Demonstrator
- Gift Shop Volunteer
- Collections Assistant
- Grounds Management
- Special Events Assistant
- Historic House Caretakers



For more information call (727) 582-2125
or e-mail pnoel@pinellascounty.org

Become A Member

Become a member of the Pinellas County Historical Society and help support Heritage Village. Society membership includes a subscription to the Society's newsletter; invitations to special programs; use of the library and archives; 10% discount in the Gift Shop and participation in special interest projects.

Please write name the way you'd like it to appear in print.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Please check one:

- Annual
- College Student \$10
 - Individual \$20
 - Family \$35
 - Contributing \$50
 - Sustaining \$100
 - Patron \$500
 - Benefactor \$1000

Make membership check payable to:
PCHS - Pinellas County Historical Society
727-582-2233

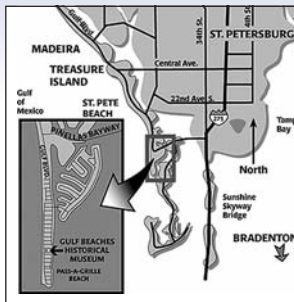
Mail to:
Pinellas County Historical Society
P.O. Box 4862
Seminole, FL 33775

Be sure to visit Heritage Village's affiliate museums!



The Gulf Beaches Historical Museum

115-10th Avenue
St. Pete Beach
FL 33706
(727) 552-1610



North Pinellas Historical Museum

2043 Curlew Road
Palm Harbor, FL 34683
(727) 724-3054



Museum Staff

Ellen Babb
Museum Operations Manager
727-582-2127

Paige Noel
Living History Interpreter
727-582-2125

Marcella Piniero
Museum Collections Custodian
727-582-2464

Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To obtain accessible formats of this document, please contact the Communications Department at (727) 464-4600/TDD (727) 464-4431.

Funding for this newsletter was provided by the Pinellas County Historical Society. 1,200 copies were printed at a cost of \$1,091.00 or \$0.85 each. Produced in cooperation with Heritage Village - A Pinellas County Government Program.

Heritage Village is a collection of more than 25 historic structures and features moved here to create a 21-acre living history museum. Explore the history of the Pinellas Peninsula as you wander the winding paths through the native pine and palmetto landscape.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 8076
St. Petersburg, FL

Pinellas County Historical Society
Heritage Village
P.O. Box 4862
Seminole, Florida 33775