For many residents of Pinellas County, crossing a bridge is a daily activity. These structures allow us to move forward, make new connections, explore various places, and safely return to our homes. Without bridges, many areas of Pinellas would be difficult to access.

The bridge in this photograph connected St. Petersburg and the lower Pinellas Peninsula with the Seminole/Largo area for more than forty-five years. Built shortly after the 1921 hurricane, this narrow concrete span replaced earlier, rickety structures erected in 1910-1911 and 1914 that had either collapsed or washed away.

Bridges on this site had an important role in our history: The faulty construction of the first wooden bridge located on Long Bayou angered residents of this remote region, then a part of western Hillsborough County. The frustration expressed by these early settlers helped to garner support for the movement to separate from Hillsborough and create a new political entity—Pinellas County—in January 1912.

Although waves of uncertainty and a low tide of resources threatened access and impeded progress after the original bridge collapsed, pioneers a century ago joined hands, worked together, mobilized resources, and persevered. Many of us realize that Heritage Village faces difficult challenges today due to a decline in budgetary allocations and staff reductions. We must work together so that the bridge connecting our past with our future remains accessible even as financial roadblocks and hazardous obstacles impede our efforts.

We have responded in a variety of ways. Though fewer in number, Heritage Village staff members continue their excellent work. Volunteers devote additional hours to assume duties once handled by county employees. The Pinellas County Historical Society has expanded its financial commitment to support Village operations. We continue to seek partnerships and sponsorships, as well as others who can offer their support.

Similar to a bridge that connects where we have been to where we will soon be on life’s journey, friends and supporters of Heritage Village have devoted their energies to bridging important gaps. We appreciate those of you who have helped us on this important journey, one that will allow us to reach our destination and fulfill our mission of promoting and preserving Pinellas County’s history.

Jim Schnur,
Heritage Village Volunteer and PCHS Member
Many of you have expressed concern about the future of Heritage Village in light of recent and possible future budget cuts.

We are definitely here to stay, although we continue to evolve as an organization with an emphasis on a core mission of preserving the museum collection (archival materials and artifacts) as well as our collection of historic structures.

After the new budget year begins on October 1, we will be a staff of three: me, Paige Noel (living history interpreter and volunteer site coordinator) and Marcella Piniero (museum collections custodian.) The Pinellas County Historical Society will be providing the County funding support for one of these positions. Their generous support will allow us to maintain baseline operations, while your volunteer work will allow us to continue to provide a quality experience for guests visiting Heritage Village.

In addition to our “traditional” types of volunteers (receptionists, docents, etc.) we are also busy recruiting new kinds of volunteers to help us support the physical site and preservation of our buildings. Be sure to read the feature in this newsletter focusing on our new maintenance, grounds assistant, and historic house caretaker positions!

The next time you are at the Village you will notice that new pathways have been laid on the north end of the Village. (See photos.) We are happy to report that American with Disabilities Act (ADA) pathways were put down this summer using Flexi-Pave, a sustainable trail solution made of recyclable passenger tires, an aggregate which does not crack even with root intrusion; and allows for groundwater discharge. Funding for the pathways was provided by a federal grant. Visitors with wheelchairs or strollers and walkers will find it much easier navigating the Village on their next trip!

Thank you for your continued support.
All the best -

Ellen Babb,
Museum Operations Manager
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 Mona Rohrbough
Family and Friends

In memory of Patricia Williams and Edith Holland
Kim Keane and Anita Holland

Heritage Village Flea Market/Book Sale at the Fall Jubilee on October 23

The 2010 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.

**Farm City Day – November 20, 2010**

Heritage Village will host a Farm-City celebration on Saturday, Nov. 20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The free event is the kickoff for Farm-City Week, celebrated nationally each year during the week leading up to Thanksgiving. It was created to educate citizens about agriculture, and to enhance links between rural and urban dwellers.

Activities will include vegetable gardening, knot-tying, fence building, and lessons on rain barrels. Children will have the opportunity to hand-squeeze fresh orange juice and make ice cream in a plastic bag. Visitors will learn how farms may become more prevalent in the future. There will be agriculturally-inspired arts and crafts, and “olde-time” games to play such as dominos, checkers, jacks, and marbles.

Farm-City is sponsored by Pinellas County Farm Bureau, Pinellas County Government, Heritage Village, the UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension Service, the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association, and the Largo Area Historical Society.
Welcome back to another exciting year at Heritage Village! For almost thirty-five years your Society has served as a stakeholder preserving Pinellas County history and educating both young and old about the past. This past year has been both challenging and rewarding.

A very successful flea market was held in the fall. At the same time we held a lovely “Market in the Park” which introduced many new visitors to the Village. When we heard the Village might be closed, you came forward with over 7,000 signatures which were later presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

Rain seemed to always be with us, but it did not dampen your spirits. Many people joined us for our “Trees and Traditions” open house. “Folk Festival” brought over thirty-eight groups to perform. Although the rain again slowed things down, it was a very enjoyable day.

In the spring we were awarded a grant by the Clearwater Community Women’s Club to refurbish our EnterAction exhibits. Another “Antique Appraisal” finished a successful year of activities.

This next year the Society has taken on the responsibility of paying for one staff position at the Village plus additional operational expenses. In these most difficult times it has become more important than ever for your Society to help our partner with its needs. Our officers and committee members need your help.

Please join us in making this the most successful year yet.

- Join the Society – Encourage a friend to join
- Sponsor an event
- Volunteer your time
- Join us for pot lucks and the “Speaking of History” Series
- Our Jubilee and Flea Market will be one of the largest yet. Come volunteer, buy and support it

On behalf of a hard working group of officers and volunteers, I want to wish you a most enjoyable fall and winter season.

I’ll see you at the Village.

Fran Johnson, President
Pinellas County Historical Society

Celebrate Trees and Traditions on December 11

Heritage Village will present a festive display of trees and decorations from Dec. 1 – Dec. 30, 2010. The houses will be decorated true to their time period, locality and lifestyle, ranging from an elaborately decorated Victorian home, to a simply adorned 1852 log cabin.

Heritage Village will also offer a special day of free holiday-related activities on Saturday, December 11. The Pinellas County Historical Society will sponsor an open house from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with refreshments and an old-fashioned ornament-making workshop at 1 p.m. Entertainment will include The Salvation Army Brass Ensemble, Company B Ballet Center performing scenes from the Nutcracker Suite, and Karina’s School of Hawaiian and Belly Dance performing traditional Christmas music and Hawaiian Christmas dance. Be sure and save time for unique holiday shopping at the Beach Cottage Gift Shop!

Bring your family and friends - donations support operations at Heritage Village. Stay and visit the Florida Botanical Gardens from 5:30-9:30 p.m. See how more than 425,000 colorful lights can transform the Florida Botanical Gardens into a holiday wonderland.
**Everyday items can tell us the most interesting stories.**

Florida began issuing license plates in 1918. From 1938 to 1977, license plate numbers used a numeric county code prefix. The codes were originally assigned by population. Dade County was number 1, Duval number 2, Hillsborough 3 and Pinellas number 4. Numbering went on up to 67, which went to rural Liberty County. Letters also had a “secret” code. The v on the license plate on the left means “trailer less than 500 pounds.” (information taken from www.floridalicenseplates.com)

The mission of Heritage Village is to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of Pinellas County within the context of Florida history.

Did you know?

Everyday items can tell us the most interesting stories. Florida began issuing license plates in 1918. From 1938 to 1977, license plate numbers used a numeric county code prefix. The codes were originally assigned by population. Dade County was number 1, Duval number 2, Hillsborough 3 and Pinellas number 4. Numbering went on up to 67, which went to rural Liberty County. Letters also had a “secret” code. The v on the license plate on the left means “trailer less than 500 pounds.” (information taken from www.floridalicenseplates.com)

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 Memory of Ethel Harju**
  Pinellas County Historical Society

- **In Memory of Mona Rohrbough**
  Pinellas County Historical Society

- **In Memory of Cuong Ta**
  Pinellas County Historical Society

- **In Memory of Guy McMullen**
  Pinellas County Historical Society

- **Donation of license plates and oversized Webb’s City postcard by James Cate.**

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

**Help Build the Heritage Village Archives & Library**

**One Book at a Time**

- Mrs. E. Buchweitz
- Shelley Eckert
- David Glenn, Jr.
- Carolyn Hoedl
- Ruth Leaders
- Barbara Neville
- Tina Neville
- Paige Noel
- Larry Romig, Sr.
- Natalie Rush
- Jean Shields
- Toni Walker
- Patricia Bell
- Molly Gaylord
- Carolyn Herr
- Dolores Johnson
- Lucy Parks
- John and Cyndi Tarapani
- Alva L. Jones
- Paul Ryan and Deirdre Whelan
- Sharon Butera
- June and Gene Meyers
- Patricia Jacopille
- Bob and Susan Churuti
- Dorothy Fitchett
- Ruth Gillette Guth
- Dede Rice

**The Pinellas County Historical Society Welcomes These NEW MEMBERS**

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- Shelley Eckert
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- Carolyn Hoedl
- Ruth Leaders
- Barbara Neville
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**Collections Corner**

- In Memory of Ethel Harju
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Looking Back with Pin-Mar

The Pin-Mar Antique Car Club (Pinellas Model A Restorers) is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the antique automobile and its role in the development of modern America. Originally formed in 1964 as a Model A Ford club, Pin-Mar is a not-for-profit hobbyist organization based at Heritage Village. While the club’s original mission some 45 years ago was nostalgic in nature, its role has expanded to include educational experiences in the community. In the late 1980s, Pin-Mar adopted Heritage Village as a site for volunteer work and to demonstrate automotive history and the automobile’s impact on our daily lives and culture.

In 1988, Heritage Village acquired a 1915 mercantile store, relocated from Sixth Avenue South in downtown St. Petersburg. When the store first arrived, it needed major repairs and Pin-Mar members organized work parties on weekends and after hours to get the job done. Volunteers worked with staff to remove and replace siding; pressure wash and paint interior walls and ceilings; paint signage; and locate and move original hex paving block to lay as flooring.

The store was moved without a floor and placed on a concrete slab. With the original hexagon block floor missing, Pin-Mar members located and moved 16 tons of hex paving blocks (22 pounds each) from St. Pete Beach to the Store and worked with Eagle Scouts to “lay them in,” said Paul Dobbin, a long time member.

Members also solicited donations for artifacts to fill the display cases and the nooks and crannies in the garage and the adjacent barber shop and post office. Some of these donations include a 1925 Model T Truck, a gas pump, and a 1927 Zeon United Motors Service Sign.

On October 22, 1988 the Store was dedicated and opened to the public. Members continued to donate time as docents, and scheduled work parties as needed. The Club also paid for air-conditioning to be installed in the store for the comfort of the volunteers and to protect the artifacts from humidity and dust. In addition, they paid for a fire sprinkler system and a phone system to keep communication open between the museum and the volunteers.

For their efforts on behalf of the Village, in 2004 Pin-Mar was awarded the “Partners in Public Service Award” by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners.

In 2009, Pin-Mar hosted its 23rd annual Antique Car Show at Heritage Village. This annual event drew almost 6000 attendees and served as a fundraising activity for programs and activities at the living history museum. In recent years Pin-Mar volunteers have donated and refurbished a rare 1929 “Doodlebug,” and subsequently located a 1940 Ford Truck and a 1950 Chevy which the county purchased - initiating a fleet of vintage vehicles for Heritage Village which are brought out for programs and are used by our maintenance volunteers. Said Paul Dobbin, “Right now, we’re trying to get the 1917 American LaFrance Fire Truck running too.”

Today the cooperative relationship between the Village staff and Pin-Mar members continues. Current President Bob Croslin says, “The partnership with Heritage Village has been one of the most rewarding and positive aspects of my 39 years in Pin-MAR. I strongly encourage other organizations to form a relationship with the Village. They’ll be glad they did.”
Over the last three years Heritage Village has experienced staff reductions that have impacted every area of operations. One of the greatest impacts was the loss of a five-member maintenance team.

To fill the gap, Village staff created several new volunteer positions: Maintenance, Grounds Assistant and Historic House Caretaker. To assist with the transition, the maintenance team trained interested new and long-term volunteers to take on many of their responsibilities. Others came to us with their own experience.

Lon Mackey and Mickey Knapp, members of Pin-Mar, the Antique Model-A Restorers Club headquartered at Heritage Village (see related article in this edition of The Village Post) and recently retired David Wegener, signed on as maintenance volunteers. Lon says, “I began volunteering as a Docent in the General Store after joining Pin-Mar. I enjoy volunteering since I’m a bit of a history buff and it gives me an opportunity to interact with interesting people who visit the park. My work background was in building maintenance so volunteering for that is a good fit. It gives me a real sense of satisfaction to preserve artifacts that reveal such craftsmanship.” Mickey enjoys the challenge of solving problems: his experience with home repair, restoration projects and his work experience make him an ideal fit for the new position.

These “lead” volunteers work in teams with volunteers Ron Bilby, Greg Krause, John Reed, John Eason and others. Greg came to Heritage Village to work with “Hands on Tampa Bay” and “A Day for Disney.” The enthusiastic helper explains his reasons for volunteering. “I enjoy the outdoors and had fun clearing debris. I also like to meet new people and feel I have practical experience in grounds and machinery maintenance; I feel comfortable helping in this role.”

Michele Kopp and Michael Williamson are the first duo to take on the Historic House Caretaker position. Both came to Heritage Village and asked: “What can we do to keep Heritage Village open?” They work full time running their own business supporting the elderly and recognized how important the Village was to their community. They have now adopted several historic homes. Once a week, arriving before the gates open, they sweep, dust artifacts and wash windows in these locations. What a difference their work makes! We need more folks like Michele and Michael to help keep our buildings clean and tidy.

If you are interested in helping with maintenance, grounds or as one of our new historic house caretakers, please call Paige Noel at 582-2125 or email pnoel@pinellascounty.org

**Florida History Mini-course**

**Presenter:** Jim Schnur, former PCHS President and part-time college history instructor since 1996

**Dates:** Thursdays, January 6, 13 and 20 from 2 - 4 p.m.

**Fee:** PCHS Members: $15/session; $40/mini-course. Non-members: $20/session; $60/mini-course. All funds raised will be used by PCHS to support Heritage Village operations.

**REGISTER NOW!** Call (727) 582-2233 to register or for further information.

**Session 1: Footprints in the Sand: Early Floridians and Spanish Explorers**

Learn about Pre-Columbian cultures along the Florida peninsula and how early contacts with Spanish conquistadors and colonists transformed the present-day Southeastern United States. A lively discussion will introduce participants to the expeditions of Juan Ponce de Leon, Panfilo de Narvaez, and Hernando De Soto. Discover the network of Spanish missions that dotted the landscape along northeast Florida and the “Big Bend” region of Florida after the establishment of St. Augustine in 1565.

**Session 2: Colonial Settlements, the American Revolution, Slavery, Civil War, and Reconstruction**

This session examines the transformations as Florida fell under the flags of Spain, England, the United States, and the Confederate States of America. The focus is on the period from the 1720s through the pivotal election of 1876. A peripheral colony of the Spanish realm, Florida existed as two separate colonies during the British period and as the fourteenth and fifteenth colonies of the American Revolution. After a second period under Spanish control, Florida became a territory of the United States and gained statehood in 1845. This session also describes Florida’s contributions during the Civil War era and the rebuilding of infrastructure during Reconstruction.

**Session 3: Dreamers, Schemers, Real Estate Booms and Busts**

The final session traces the explosive transformation to the Florida peninsula that began with the Hamilton Disston land purchase and arrival of railroads during the 1880s. Less than thirty years later, real estate speculators began selling the “Florida dream” on easy terms and installment plans. Although the Great Depression slowed speculation, air conditioning and postwar transportation improvements allowed for unprecedented growth after World War II. Learn about notable events that have redefined Pinellas County during its first century of existence.

**Our Volunteers Get the Job Done!**

Over the last three years Heritage Village has experienced staff reductions that have impacted every area of operations. One of the greatest impacts was the loss of a five-member maintenance team.

To fill the gap, Village staff created several new volunteer positions: Maintenance, Grounds Assistant and Historic House Caretaker. To assist with the transition, the maintenance team trained interested new and long-term volunteers to take on many of their responsibilities. Others came to us with their own experience.

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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

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.
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 Workshop
Experienced & “Want To Be” gardeners are invited to attend a 2 hour workshop on October 9, 2010 from 10 AM to noon. The class will take place in the Pinellas Room and the 1890’s Garden at Heritage Village. This class will feature: **Planting & Growing Tips** (planning, soil preparation, time of year for planting, care of plants) and **Garden Pests & How to Prevent Them** (insects, caterpillars, powdery mildew, blight). To register for this free class call 582-2233.

“Speaking of History” Lecture Series
All programs begin at 2 p.m. in the Pinellas Room at Heritage Village unless otherwise noted. Sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society

Sunday, October 17, 2010 - Speaker: Dr. Warren Clark
  **Topic:** “Florida’s Romantic Past”
  **Location:** Pinewood Auditorium, former Gulf Coast Museum of Art

Sunday, November 21, 2010 - Speaker: Willie Tellis
  **Topic:** “Growing up in Rural Pinellas County”

Sunday, January 16, 2011 - Re-enactor: Elizabeth Coachman, M.D.
  **Topic:** “The Life and Times of Mary Jane Safford”

Sunday, February 20, 2011 - Speaker: Dorothy Smiljanich
  **Topic:** “Then Sings My Soul: The Scott Kelly Story”

Sunday, March 20, 2011 - Speaker: Mac Perry
  **Topic:** “The First 12,000 Years in Tampa Bay: The Extinct Pre-historic Indians of Florida”

Sunday April 17, 2011 - Speaker: Dr. Terry Parssinen
  **Topic:** “The Oster Conspiracy of 1938: The unknown Story of the Military Plot to Kill Hitler and Avert World War II”

Sunday, May 15, 2011 - Speaker: Tom Iovino
  **Topic:** “The History of Hurricanes in Pinellas County”

Programs are free but donations support Heritage Village operations.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unique Volunteer Opportunities

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.

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

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.

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

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:

- [X] 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

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.

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