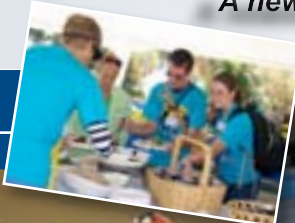


VOLUNTEER VOICE

A newsletter by and for Pinellas County government volunteers.



October 2011

We're on the web at www.pinellascounty.org/volunteer



Volunteers You can Count On

All 250 volunteers were needed for the over 6,000 attendees--a record number--at the **33rd Annual Heritage Village Jubilee October 22nd**.

The event was sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society and organizer RoseMarie Kafer said it was a wonderful success. "Everyone had a good time."

It took a week to set up the area for the event. On hand were Pinellas County VIPs including those from Heritage Village and volunteers from the Historical Society as well as other area organizations.

Volunteers were the backbone of the event helping to raise money for Heritage Village operations.

"And the volunteers thanked me!" Ms. Kafer said, a volunteer herself.

Volunteers had many jobs for the day. They helped set up for the event and managed traffic and parking. Volunteers checked in the bands and vendors and the other volunteers. The Cub Scouts volunteered for the trash detail. Volunteers were gatekeepers and picnic table movers. They were greeters and provided directions. Some worked Thursday AND all day Friday.

Ms. Kafer told us she spied one of the volunteers, a councilman from Gulfport, wading into traffic and directing drivers to parking.

There was something for everyone at the jubilee. There was a giant flea market and book sale, over 100 craft vendors with wares such as paintings, jewelry, stained glass and wooden treasures. Attendees were also treated to musical entertainment, tours of historical homes, and demonstrations of traditional crafts.

If you'd like to volunteer for an event, Heritage Village is having another big one soon; the Pinellas Folk Festival is January 28, 2012 and traditionally attracts a huge crowd. Contact Volunteer Services or Heritage Village if you'd like to help.

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Pinellas Paws Cause

Put your paw in and join the cause! You can help homeless animals by sponsoring a portrait of your pet on the Pinellas Paws Cause mural at Pinellas County Animal Services. A portion (25%) of your payment goes to the Animal Welfare Trust Fund.

Don't forget to come out on Saturday December 10! There will be:

- Food Truck Rally
- \$20 adoptions
- \$5 rabies shots
- Tours of the Adoption Center
- Pet photos with Santa and Mrs. Paws
- Animal care partners

Make sure you don't miss out on this great opportunity. Come to the Pinellas Paws Cause Party--bring your whole family, pets included, of course! 🐾



From October 1 on, volunteers who work 40 hours are eligible to receive a VIP cap or visor! Talk to your supervisor for more information.



“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”
- John F Kennedy



Foster Kittens Need Love Too

Kittens are among the cutest creatures on Earth, aren't they? Their innocence and playfulness, rolling and climbing and biting each other's tails; chasing those feathery toys, batting a ball of foil around; swatting at you through the cage door. Their faces a perfect picture of mischief, curiosity and delight.

But not when they are sick... If there's nothing more adorable than a healthy kitten, there's nothing more heart-wrenching than a sick kitten. And in the shelter environment, some kittens get so sick, they die.

That's why some Pinellas County Animal Services volunteers and employees take kittens too young to adopt into their own homes to foster until they are old enough and strong enough to resist the diseases they are likely to encounter in the shelter environment. This is an act of mercy and it is dedication to their

“These are lives” says Mary Taylor, Animal Services Program Coordinator. Mary has 3 safe spaces in her home she reserves for foster kittens. There are about 12 volunteers and 11 employees who regularly foster kittens. Mary estimates 1,000 kittens were fostered in someone's home last year.

“The problem of overpopulation of cats is tremendous in Pinellas County” Mary said. And in this climate, they mate year-round. “It slows down a bit in the colder months though”, she smiled.

While I was visiting Animal Services, a vet technician wheeled in the night's haul of unwanted felines – about 12 kittens (3 litters) and 5 adult cats – 17 more lives to be saved. Some appeared to be stunned. Others were vocal and assertive. All were very frightened.

“We typically see 5 to 6 cats plus litters left in the animal drop off area overnight,” Mary said. The numbers are staggering.

Before leaving, I found myself offering to foster. How could I not? And what's cuter than a box o' kittens?! 🐾



John Bucklin: A legacy of giving

Recently, Elaine Bucklin (County Attorney's office) told a touching story about her Father and his history with Pinellas County.

After retiring from the Navy, John Bucklin worked for Pinellas County at inspection stations, at Dog Control and at Fort De Soto on the grounds crew. A military history buff, he helped research the area that is now the newly reopened museum at Fort De Soto.

John retired from Pinellas County in 1988 after a respected career ... and became a volunteer Docent at Fort De Soto. His service is memorialized on a plaque because he had logged the most volunteer hours.

Elaine told us "My Dad loved working for the county". She added "Fort De Soto is so important to my Dad. We even bought him a brick that is at the bottom of the flagpole there."

And from Fort De Soto John witnessed history. He was working there when the Skyway Bridge was hit, when the USCG Blackthorn went down, and saw the Space Shuttle Challenger explode from Fort De Soto.

Recently, Elaine was watching TV with her Dad and found the PCC-TV program "Celebrating People in Action" which recounts the April 14, 2011 event honoring county volunteers and service to the community. At the end of the ceremony the event attendees sang "God Bless America". John was so moved, he joined in and sang the whole song with



Volunteers are becoming more and more important to the quality and level of service the County is able to offer our citizens. And volunteers are PROUD of their service. John Bucklin says so.

Elaine said "I was stunned and very moved. (My father) loves his country AND his county and he has served them well".

Upcoming Events

- **Holiday Lights at Florida Botanical Gardens**

November 25, 2011 – January 1, 2012

- **Pinellas Paws Cause**

A Pinellas County Animal Services and Murals for Mutts partnership

December 10, 2011

Put Your Paw In!! Join the Cause and help the animals being cared for at Pinellas County Animal Services by sponsoring a portrait of your pet on the Pinellas Paws Cause mural.

- **Pinellas Folk Festival – A Centennial Celebration**

January 28, 2012

Mark Your Calendars – We're Going to Celebrate YOU!

We're going to have FOUR parties January through April, 2012 – all to thank you for your service.

- Mid-County Celebration
Saturday, January 14, 2012
Extension Services building
- South County Celebration
Saturday, January 21, 2012
Fort De Soto Park
- North County Celebration
Saturday, February 11, 2012
Brooker Creek Preserve

Plan to join us at whichever location suits you best.

- April 15 – 21, 2012
National Volunteer Week. We will "Celebrate People in Action" during that week. Stay tuned!



Pet of the Month

Meet Ginger (#275685). She is a one year old shepherd mix who tips the scales at a svelte 28 pounds. She's a smart and active dog who loves to please. Her new owners can expect a lot of attention from their new four-legged family member!



When you go to visit Animal Services, bring this article with you and Ginger can be yours for \$20. This fee includes her spaying and her required vaccinations.

Come by the shelter at 12450 Ulmerton Road in Largo to visit Ginger and her other dog and cat friends all ready for their new homes. You may also take a sneak preview at the available pets – just click on **ADOPTABLE DOGS AND CATS**.



Volunteer Opportunities

Click the following volunteer opportunities for more information

- **Volunteer Animal Courier**
- **Field Steward**
- **Hike Guides**
- **Outreach and Programs**
- **Theater / Exhibits**
- **Dietetic Intern at Bay Pines**
- **Water Atlas**
- **Watershed GIS Digitizing**
- **Microfilm Equipment Operator Assistant**

Volunteer Voice

GRAPHICS & LAYOUT.....Annamarie Vanlier

How to Participate: Please send noteworthy news of your fellow volunteers, upcoming events, or story ideas. You may also ask about writing a guest column or provide photos for upcoming articles.

Phone: (727) 464-VIPS (8477) OR
Email: volunteers@pinellascounty.org

Other Publications by and for Volunteers

- **The Green Leaf**
Pinellas County Master Gardener
Newsletter
- **Florida Friendly Footprint**
Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation

