

VOLUNTEER VOICE

A newsletter by and for Pinellas County government volunteers.



March 2014

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



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Partners In Public Service

The Partners in Public Service (PIPS) Awards are given each year to volunteers nominated by their supervisors and department directors for contributing needed services, increasing efficacy of the department's activities, producing a positive impact in the department, and/or being a positive example for others.

We received dozens of nominations. Selecting the top dogs was not easy. **ALL of our volunteers are winners!** Here are the outcomes.

GROUP CATEGORY

In the GROUP category the committee awarded two gold medals and one silver. The Olympic Committee may not approve.

GOLD MEDAL Group category - **The Romanskis** – Bill and Phyllis



"Bill and Phyl", as they are affectionately known, are snow birds and Auxiliary Rangers on the Pinellas Trail. Their work helps visitors enjoy the Trail even more. Their presence and visibility help prevent criminal activity and helps fill the gap when there are not enough Rangers to patrol. They spend at least two full days every week with the electric cart and pick up litter and assess conditions. They are **great ambassadors**.



GOLD MEDAL Group category - **Heritage Village Three Ladies** – Mary Chernesky, Deborah Carter and Connie Allen



These 3 ladies are real **team builders** and are a powerhouse team themselves. All three co-chair the **Flea Market** at the annual **Country Jubilee** which has earned more than \$38,000 over the past 3 years. They are all characterized as being energetic and committed. As a group they supervise over 100 volunteers. Additionally Mary leads the garden team and Connie and her husband are docents at Heritage Village. Deborah and Connie also co-chair the annual **Trees and Traditions** event.



Mary Chernesky



Deb Carter, center



Connie Allen

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SILVER MEDAL *Group category - John Chesnut Park (JCP) Volunteer Group*

Comprised of about 29 people, this group – headed by volunteer **Claire Geheb** – has significantly improved the appearance and functionality of the park. Together they volunteered over 1,300 hours in 2013! They have painted over 150 picnic tables, re-mulched the dog park, maintained the grounds around the rest rooms and shelters, and picked up litter and debris throughout the park.

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY

GOLD MEDAL *Individual category - John Spencer Lucas, III, Gulf Beaches Historical Museum*

Mr. Lucas is the “rallying and focal point for the museum’s volunteers and larger supporting community. He has done a great deal to raise the museum’s profile in the local community, including the ‘**Chowder Challenge**’ – “an event that brought together 26 restaurants and hundreds of residents in 2013 in a celebration of local food and history.” The museum has **prospered under his leadership and stewardship**. “He raised funds to support the digitization of museum’s important holdings; and with the County brought in new air conditioning resulting in a better archival preservation and working environment.”

SILVER MEDAL *Individual category - William Beattie, Natural Resources, Department of Environment & Infrastructure*

Mr. Beattie is described as “**volunteer gold**” by managers and has even been interviewed by media for his steady contribution to the Natural Resources department. He volunteers at least two days per week and has converted historical hard copy documents to electronic form to preserve the information and meet state record management requirements. His work frees up County staff to focus on providing a higher level of services to the community.

BRONZE MEDAL *Individual category - Alyce Aldridge, Heritage Village*

Ms. Aldridge brings over 43 years of professional administrative experience to her volunteer work and helps keep the program at Heritage Village running smoothly. Ultimately, the impact of her work has brought the volunteer group closer together: she “reaches out to each volunteer in a personal way, always listening for their needs”.

“Alyce provides flexibility, grace and dedication by encouraging all ages in the community to take an active role in volunteering.”



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Holiday Lights in the Garden 2013

Number of lights	750,000
Number of acres lit	30
Number of visitors	76,000
Number of volunteers	486
Amount \$\$ raised	\$90,000

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!



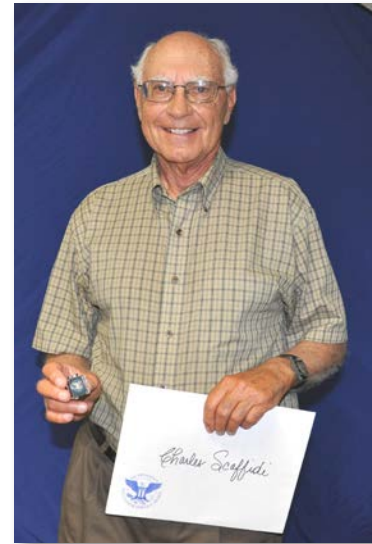
The Browns Backers of Pinellas, through their “Dawgs Helping Dogs” campaign and their “Pennies for Puppies” collection during the 2013 NFL season, made a donation of nearly 400 pounds of treats and peanut butter for the dogs at Pinellas County Animal Services. THANK YOU!!

RETIRING CATEGORY

GOLD MEDAL *Retiring category* - **Chuck Scaffidi**, Extension Services and Florida Botanical Gardens



Master Gardener, mentor, and long-time chair of the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, Mr. Scaffidi was responsible for recruiting hundreds of volunteers for Pinellas County Extension and the Florida Botanical Gardens. A **Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award** recipient, Chuck helped grow the Gardens immensely including managing events that raised thousands of dollars for the park every year. On the nomination form staff wrote "All of his fellow Extension staff and volunteers will miss him and know he greatly deserves this honor." Lauded as a "knowledgeable and trusted advisor", he will be greatly missed.



SILVER MEDAL *Retiring category*
Thelma Powell, Heritage Village

Ms. Powell dedicated **34 years** to Heritage Village. A Pinellas County resident since the 1950's, she and her husband, Bob, helped move the log cabin to Heritage Village and were very instrumental in bringing the Lowe Barn as well. She now lives in New York State with her son's family and still calls Heritage Village staff from time to time.



BRONZE MEDAL *Retiring category* - **Sylvia Ellis**, Fort De Soto



Ms. Ellis began volunteering with Fort De Soto in 1994. One of the original nature tour guides at the park giving numerous tours in five different areas of the park, she also organized and led a crafts program for children. She is also one of the founding board members of the Friends of Fort De Soto group. "Sylvia passed on her love for the park to others through innovative educational and enjoyable activities."

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Gone but not Forgotten

Henrietta "Hank" Hardy
Heritage Village volunteer
for 30 years



Ruth McCann
Heritage Village volunteer for
over 18 years



Bettie Mease
Heritage Village
volunteer since 1995

YOUTH CATEGORY

GOLD MEDAL *Youth category* - **Caleb Nagel**, Heritage Village



A Junior Docent since the age of 14, Mr. Nagel provides leadership within the Junior Docent group, leads tours of the Village for school-aged children, and assists with the living history activities for children as well. In 2013 Caleb initiated an Eagle Scout project at Heritage Village where he refurbished the outdoor cooking area: he designed and built a large sturdy table for visitors to assist in meal prep, built a large cabinet for storage of heavy black pots in the historic style, and capped off a water supply with a wooden barrel adding a spigot for washing and fire control. Caleb's work provides future opportunities for visitors and his enthusiasm encourages more youth participation.



Eight employees from Publix store #866 on Highland Ave. in Clearwater did a deep cleaning of the PCAS adoption kennels on Saturday, February 15, 2014.

THANK YOU!!



Events and Exhibits

Heritage Village

March 16 Women of the Florida Frontier

Elizabeth Neily will focus on notable contributions of women on the Florida frontier. She may talk about the Spanish conquistadores, Native American women, or other pioneer women. 2 p.m. Free.

Florida Botanical Gardens

May 4 Diggin' the Arts Festival

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation presents its second annual art event, melding the arts and flora in the gardens on this day of family fun in the beautiful, tranquil surroundings. The 2014 event includes participation with the area's leading fine art institutions, including The Dali Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts of St. Petersburg, the Florida Craftsmen, the Dunedin Fine Arts Center, Morean Center for Clay, Suntan Arts Center and the Beach Arts Center, all bringing more art to the gardens. Each museum will conduct a rain barrel raffle for a uniquely decorated rain barrel. Plein Air competition is a non-juried event featuring local artists painting along paths in the gardens. Free; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

http://www.flbgfoundation.org/events_cultivating_the_arts.htm

More Volunteer Opportunities

Click on title to view,

or email volunteers@pinellascounty.org

Interns

various departments, county-wide

email volunteers@pinellascounty.org

Clerical

various departments, county-wide

email volunteers@pinellascounty.org

Public Relations Intern

St. Pete/Clearwater Int'l Airport

Eligibility Volunteer

Health & Community Svcs., Clearwater, St. Petersburg

Weedon Island Front Desk - Saturday mornings

St. Petersburg, call Holly 453-6503 *Th, Fri, Sat*

Office of Human Rights Certified American Sign Language Interpreter

Clearwater, call 464-8477

the Colors of PINELLAS 2014

The 8th Annual Art Show is HERE!

Registration is now open

Eligible participants include active volunteers as well as employees, retirees, and employees' immediate family members (parents, spouses, children, grandchildren and domestic partners).

Registration Deadline: May 30, 2014

**Click here for more
information and to link to
registration.**

Sponsored in part by:

THE
**National
ARTS
PROGRAM**

NOMINATE A YOUNG



FOR UP TO \$10,000 in scholarships

Kohl's Cares® Scholarship Program

Nominate a young volunteer aged 6 to 18 who has made a difference in your community.

Nominations must be submitted online by 11:59 pm CT on March 14, 2014.

Information about the program and upcoming deadlines will be sent via email, so please add kohls@scholarshipamerica.org to your email safe list.

Go to <http://kohls.scholarshipamerica.org/> to get started.

Volunteer Voice

Graphics, Layout, Editor - Mary Sault, msault@pinellascounty.org or call (727) 464-5098.

How to Participate: Send questions, article submissions, upcoming events, photos, or story ideas to the editor.