

VOLUNTEER VOICE

A newsletter by and for Pinellas County government volunteers.



February 2015

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



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Volunteers Set the Sail for Pinellas County

April 9 is the date to save. That's the date of the County-wide annual celebration. So please mark your calendars and look for your email invitation during the first week of March!



Click icons/page numbers to view

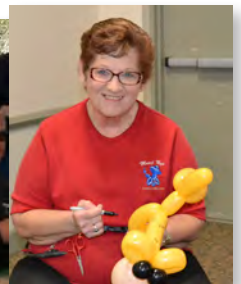
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Here are some photos of volunteers from other celebrations this year.



Partners In Public Service

GOLD

Airport Volunteers *St. Pete/Clearwater Airport*

A cooperative group of 14 volunteers who contributed over 1,600 hours in 2014 assisting arriving and departing passengers

Auxiliary Rangers *Parks*

Goodwill ambassadors to visitors on Trail (now over 40 miles long), in parks, and in facilities; 110 active Auxiliary Rangers who have donated over 10,000 hours.

Turner Bungalow Volunteers *Heritage Village*

Readied, inventoried and sorted contents of bungalow; created new exhibit; now in Heritage Village permanent collection; 26 volunteers contributed approximately 2,340 hours

RoseMarie Kafer *Heritage Village*

12 year volunteer; "go-to" person for many activities at Heritage Village; initiates partnerships; provides a "consistency in leadership that is invaluable"

Dorothy Vitrone *Parks*

Without fail comes in to perform needed data entry; now office is always up-to-date on hours and reporting functions.

Shane Hudak (Youth category) *EMS and Fire Administration*

Organized/analyzed data for Water Rescues and Trauma Transports; "It's rare to have a young volunteer with such a good working knowledge of our system."

Alice & Jack Leach (Retiring) *Parks*

"Spud Busters" for 14 years at Lake Seminole Park; picked up invasive air potatoes

SILVER

Extended Transition Program *Animal Services*

Performed landscaping and physical plant maintenance while receiving on the job training and developing employability skills.

James McCook *Animal Services*

Professional photographer takes photos of all the dogs, uploads to Petfinder; takes videos – uploads to YouTube; greatly increases adoptability of the dogs

Cindi Schneller *Animal Services*

Professional photographer takes photos of all cats and kittens weekly, uploads to Petfinder; manages all foster care stats freeing up medical department staff from the paperwork

Max Gillespie *Heritage Village*

Junior Docent, enthusiastic and always wants to learn more; initiated Saturday Teen Grounds Group; is an in-demand team leader

Angel Hollinger *Animal Services*

Cat cuddler and dog walker; helps citizens find lost pets at shelter; "a tremendous asset"

Bonita K. Harader Good (Retiring) *Fort De Soto Park*

One of the original nature tour guides, passed on her love for the park; was a PIPS winner in 2004!

Gerry Wise (Retiring) *Heritage Village*

Started in 1986; played dulcimer, shared local history as a docent in the H. C. Smith Mercantile

BRONZE

Kristin Bobowski *Animal Services*

Has fostered many litters in her home – if she didn't, many kittens wouldn't live

Robert Bostley *Animal Services*

"Bob the Filer"; does ALL the filing every week – NEVER misfiles; organized the file room

James McCook



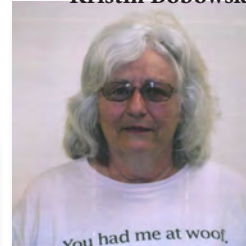
Max Gillespie



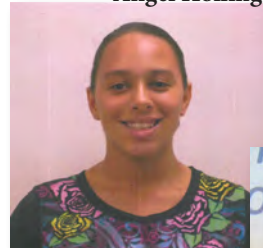
RoseMarie Kafer



Kristin Bobowski



Angel Hollinger



Gerry Wise



Dorothy "Dottie" Vitrone



"Bob the Filer"



Extended Transition Program



the Colors of PINELLAS

Registration is now open! Click [HERE](#) to enter your works of art in the 2015 Colors of Pinellas Art Show. The juried art show is open to Pinellas County employees and active volunteers as well as others. Here are the important dates:

May 29	Registration Deadline
June 12	Artwork Drop-off Day
June 18	Artwork Judging
June 29	Awards Ceremony
June 29-July 28	Artwork Exhibition Dates



Vote for the **Best of the Best** from the National Arts Program 2014 online art exhibit featuring the Best of Show winners from 2014. There are over 45 entries and the winner of the First Prize wins \$150.



March 28 - Cross Bayou and Joe's Creek Cleanup: Pinellas County is again partnering with **Keep Pinellas Beautiful** to clean up two waterways, the Cross

Bayou Canal and Joe's Creek. The cleanup event needs volunteers to collect and bag trash, and sort recyclables. Volunteers will be either land-based or can participate on the water from a canoe or kayak. Volunteers can bring their own watercraft, or borrow a canoe (provided on a first-come first-served basis). Check-in for volunteers begins at 8 a.m., with trash collection taking place from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Registration is required online at www.cleanupcrossbayou.eventbrite.com.

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.



The young boy with "Riley Adam the Bear" is Jamari Allan. He is the little brother to one of the Friends of the Dog Park members - Nick DeSantis. Nick is an active volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters as well as with the Friends of the Walsingham Dog Park.

The Friends of the Walsingham Dog Park have renewed their Adopt a Park status. The new Chairperson is **Joy Phillips**. The new contract was signed in January. Parks staff welcomes the new officers and this returning Adopt a Park group and are very grateful for the support they give to all dog park patrons.

This group also had their annual Pet Photo with Santa event on Saturday, Dec. 13th at the park. In all, 42 people and their pets had their photos taken with Santa. Attendees were also able to bid on items donated by community partners. This popular event raised enough funds for the Friends of the Walsingham Dog Park to make a \$1,000 donation to the SPCA.



April 1 - Bright Futures Ranger Naturalist Program:

To complete required volunteer hours, high school students, ages 15 to 18, can work with the Weedon Island Preserve's faculty

and staff over the summer to develop an enjoyable and meaningful volunteer experience. An overview will be given on the Ranger Naturalist Program. 6 to 7 p.m. **Free**; registration required. Contact Libby Carnahan by phone (727) 453-6522 or email lcarnahan@ufl.edu for more information. www.weedonislandpreserve.org

Three Generations of Music

My name is **Sheila Jackson** and I have been a volunteer with the Courthouse Ambassador program in Clearwater for three years. My daughter, **Lisa Boling**, is a supervisor in Recording Services at St. Pete and my granddaughter, **Ashley Boling**, worked as a temp in Civil at Clearwater for a year while attending college.



I sang from a very young age into early adulthood. When Lisa was born, she inherited the talent. We moved to Florida when Lisa was 18 and my singing ceased. When Ashley was born, singing came back into our lives with the superb voice she exhibited from a very early age. Throughout Ashley's school life she performed both in school and in competition and both Mom and Grandma were there for every performance. We even proudly watched her sing a solo on the stage of the Grand Old Opry in Nashville during competitions there.

During all this time I had not sung and my voice had gradually disappeared. I turned 70 last year and confided in my husband that I was sad at the loss of my voice. In November last he pointed to an article inviting members of the public to join a men's barbershop chorus in their Christmas show. I asked my daughter and granddaughter if they would like to come along; it was an item on my bucket list that all three of us would perform together on the same stage. The chorus welcomed us with open arms.

We had a wonderful time at rehearsals with a great group of people and gradually my voice came back. We enjoyed every moment of the concert, and were introduced as three generations of the same family to a round of applause. All three of us agreed that the concert must become an annual tradition for our family and look forward to singing together again next Christmas. We are all so happy to have music as part of our lives again and something we can enjoy together.



You give your community hours and days of your lives. Let us help you celebrate your life! Send us stories of events or special achievements, with photos if possible, and we'll include them in every issue.

Pinterest

In 2014 nearly 14,000 people viewed Pinellas County Volunteer Services' Pinterest boards. Click [HERE](#) to see what you are missing!



Volunteers and staff put together a wonderful display to promote Florida Botanical Gardens' [gift shop](#), the [Diggin' the Arts](#) upcoming event, and the [Children's Trail](#). Thanks to Terry Berube, Glenda Ouellette, Mary and John Sweeny, Terri Zeigler, and Stacey Zidi. You can see it at the Clearwater Courthouse, 315 Court Street in Clearwater.