

VOLUNTEER VOICE

Pinellas County Volunteer Services Newsletter



April 2010 Volume 2, Issue 2

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



THANKS FOR YOUR RESPONSE

By: Dan Shannon, Volunteer Editor

As your volunteer editor, I was overwhelmed by the response of so many volunteers to the rebirth of our *VOLUNTEER VOICE*. We received many salutatory e-mails from around the county. I am privileged to belong to such a dedicated corps of county volunteers. Thanks and congratulations to each of you for all you do to enrich our community.

Enjoy this issue of the *VOLUNTEER VOICE*. We're already at work on our next issue which will feature volunteer recognition events, special lifetime achievement, and Partners in Public Service (PIPS) award recipients.

Current Opportunities

Volunteer Services is currently looking for volunteers to fill receptionist duties, including answering phones, light copying, filing, some data entry, for the following locations:

Brooker Creek, Tarpon Springs

Weedon Island, St. Petersburg

EMS/Fire, Largo

Environmental Mgt Clearwater

Extension-Natural Resources:
Desktop Publishing

Ecological Services: Environmental
Lands

Water Atlas Volunteer:
Environmental Mgt./Watershed

For a list of additional opportunities, please go to <http://www.pinellascounty.org/volserv/opportunities.htm>.

FRIENDS OF THE GBHM HONOR A PIONEER

It didn't take long for the Gulf Beaches Historical Museum (GBHM) Board of Directors to pay tribute to veteran volunteer, Jari Mogavero. Jari and her husband, Arch, both recently deceased, served for many years on various St. Petersburg City boards and with the Museum for the past 17 years.

When Pinellas County took over the Pass-a-Grille property in 1992, Jari was among the first volunteers to help clean up weeds, plant shrubs and ready the Museum for its opening to the public in 1993. She joined the Friends of the GBHM Board as its membership chairperson, acted as the first Site Coordinator, assisted in the collections and library programs, provided training for new Museum volunteers, and gladly did research as needed. All this, while being active in other city endeavors.



On January 20, 2010, the current board honored Jari at a luncheon and presented her with a special plaque which will adorn the main entrance to the Museum conference/all purpose meeting room. It is now officially the JARI MOGAVERO MEETING ROOM at the GBHM.

Jari's presence over the years has enabled many volunteers, museum visitors and school groups to learn so much about the island's historic heritage. She truly was "the wheel that kept the place together and moving in the right direction." Thanks to Sally Yoder, Collections Manager GBHM, for this beautiful tribute and to Spencer Lucas of Portraits in Paradise for his beautiful portrait.

Our condolences to the family and friends of both Arch and Jari.



VOLUNTEERS MAKE GREAT THINGS HAPPEN

If you were one of the many visitors to the 4th Annual Pinellas County Employees' Art Show held during the entire month of February in the Pinellas County Courthouse in Clearwater, you can thank a special corps of volunteers for making this dynamic Art Show possible.

Volunteers Toni Babski, John Boscarino, Linda Campi, Susan Cobb, Pat Freed, Les & Paulette Greenup, Yetta Jaworski, Marguerite Jensen, Catherine McKillips, Joan Panabaker, Michael Reilly Sr., Nancy Sanderson, Patricia Smith, Michelle Swann, Larry Wilson, and Sandy Wilson contributed countless hours to setting up and showcasing the artistic contributions of county employees and their family members. Winners in the adult, amateur, intermediate, professional, youth and teen divisions and their work can be found at [COLORS OF PINELLAS](http://www.colors-of-pinellas.com).

Volunteer Voice

EDITOR.....Dan Shannon, Volunteer
ASSISTANT EDITORBertha Battle, HR Mgr
ASSISTANT EDITOR.....Carol Strickland, HR Tech

How to Participate:

You can send noteworthy news of your fellow volunteers, upcoming events, or story ideas. You can even ask about writing a guest column or provide photos for upcoming articles.

PHONE: (727) 464-3945

REPORT FROM THE PINELLAS TRAIL

Tom Swenson, Pinellas Train Auxiliary Ranger, writes: Barbara Swenson and I came to Clearwater about 10 years ago on vacation. Since we are both members of the "Rails to Trails" organization, we knew about the Pinellas Trail. We rented bikes and went riding the trail. We met several rangers while biking. My wife told me that when we retired, she would love to be a trail ranger when we moved here. She volunteered at the Botanical Gardens in Largo and at Boca Ciega Park in Seminole. Eight years ago, she went on to become the only female Pinellas Trail Auxiliary Ranger (PTAR).



Two years later, Barbara Carvin moved into our neighborhood. She had been walking the Trail for a while before she met up with my wife. She had wanted to be a PTAR but hesitated to apply because she was a snowbird. We finally got her to join. The two Barbaras rode together almost every weekend. They told me that several times they felt uneasy if they came upon a problem with individuals along the Trail. That's when I decided to join them. Now the three of us, plus our canine companion, go out on patrol whenever possible.

We carry a collection of trail maps, first aid supplies, and biking related tools. We always have a cell phone handy to report any broken glass or tree debris along the trail, or to call 911 to report any inappropriate behavior we observe. We enjoy riding, meeting new people and, most especially, the many thank yous we receive for our presence on the trail.



Joe Santanello shares his Trail experience: My almost two years on the Pinellas Trail has been a rewarding and fun experience. I usually ride the north end of the trail from the end of Tarpon Springs to Largo and Taylor Park. My main responsibility is to be visible to others using the trail. It provides them with a genuine sense of security. When I go out between 8 AM and 10 AM, I am greeted by many people out for their morning exercise. Like many volunteers in the county, I worry about the effect of budget cuts, especially on the ranger program. Count on me for continued commitment in the future. I look forward to seeing you out on the Trail.

THIS AND THAT

- Thanks to the following site coordinators for their many years of commitment and leadership to mentoring so many county volunteers: Kristen O'Meara (Brooker Creek Preserve) continues as an employee with the Pinellas County Highway Department; Charlee Westerman (Heritage Village) has recently retired and joined the volunteer ranks at Heritage Village; Bob Browning (Fort DeSoto Park) has also recently retired and loves his new role as a Fort DeSoto volunteer.
- Thanks to so many hearty volunteers, (more than we can possibly list) who braved the elements on February 28 to celebrate the annual Florida African American Heritage Celebration.
- Three cheers for those who responded to the call for volunteers for April 3 Cross Bayou/Joe's Creek Clean-up. Your commitment was especially appreciated over the Easter holiday weekend.
- The Florida Botanical Gardens will celebrate its tenth anniversary in December. All suggestions are welcome for ways to mark this auspicious occasion. The FBG Foundation launched a Facebook fan page during the Holiday Lights Festival. Visit them on Facebook by searching for Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation.
- Thank you to the Volunteers who represented University of Florida/ Institute of Food and Agricultural Science and the Master Gardener Program on Saturday, April 24 for the Green Thumb Festival at Walter Fuller Park in St. Petersburg.
- Saturday, June 12, is Pinellas County night at Tropicana Field. See the RAYS take on the Florida Marlins in a popular interleague contest. Plan ahead and stay tuned for details.
- Many volunteers joined the Commissioners and County Administrator Bob Sala to celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Day on Monday, April 19 at the Pinellas County Extension in Largo. It was a most joyous event, with over 300 in attendance. Thank you, Volunteers, for your service. More about this event in our next edition.