

VOLUNTEER VOICE

A newsletter by and for Pinellas County government volunteers.



December 2016

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

Gratitude for Our Volunteers

We are grateful for your benevolence all year round. And you sure are generous people! In fiscal year 2016 (October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016) Pinellas County government volunteers donated over **231,000 hours**! That's almost 29,000 full time work days.

Which departments saw the most volunteers? You guessed it: most of your time was spent maintaining or enhancing our parks and natural places, and helping to care for our homeless dogs and cats. You might be surprised at some of the other departments that have benefited from your kindness.

Volunteers donated over 2,700 hours at the St. Pete/Clearwater Airport, welcoming guests to our larger community. The Clerk of the Circuit Court was favored with over 2,500 volunteer hours. Over 12,000 hours were donated at Mosquito Control assisting with the battle against the Zika virus. Over 14,000 hours were donated at Emergency Management during an unpredictable hurricane season.

You've shown your love for our greater community. We simply can not thank you enough.

Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.

Albert Camus



Happy Holidays!



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Volunteer Voice

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How to participate: Send questions, article submissions, upcoming events, photos, or story ideas to mkvam@pinellascounty.org.

Gulf Beaches Historical Museum

Did you know the [Gulf Beaches Historical Museum](#) (GBHM) in the national historic district of Pass-A-Grille, St. Pete Beach, is staffed entirely by volunteers?

Formerly a church, the building was purchased by Joan Haley to save it from the wrecking ball. Upon her passing, she left the building to Pinellas County to use as a museum.

2017 is the 100th anniversary of the building of the church/museum. It is also the 60th anniversary of the consolidation which created the City of St Pete



Beach. GBHM is partnering with the City in staging an Island Festival and celebrating both anniversaries on March 4th. On hand will be the MG

Car Club, bands, vendors, food, and beer and wine trucks. They are looking for people to work inside and outside the museum during the event.

Interested in volunteering at GBHM? According to a recent email, Lance Peterson (a lead volunteer) said, "there are about a dozen volunteers who work regularly; we would like that number to increase." If you are interested please call (727) 552-1610 and leave a message. Or contact GBHM by using their online [contact form](#).

Country Jubilee

October 22 was a beautiful day for the Country Jubilee, an annual fundraising event hosted by the Pinellas County Historical Society to benefit operations at Heritage Village. There were close to 6,000 visitors who enjoyed the music, the crafts, demonstrations and tours.

Talented volunteer **Chuck Rennick** took some fabulous photos of the event. See below for a few samples.



Caught in the Act

Park Ranger Keith Hollon caught these volunteers in the act ... of volunteering. Don Nolan, Betty Nolan, Karl Cummins, Brian Fairbank and Becky Bartly spent some of their day on November 1 painting shelters at Joes Creek. Thanks folks!



Happenings

Roc Day

Saturday, January 7

Join the members of the Pinellas Weavers Guild in celebrating Roc Day as part of your New Year's celebrations. This year's annual Roc Day event will be held at Heritage Village on Saturday, January 7, 2017 at the McMullen House (also known as the Fiber Arts Building) from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The guild members plan to demonstrate fiber arts including weaving, spinning and other portable fiber projects, answer questions about fiber crafts, share holiday stories and generally have an old-fashioned good time. Members will also have examples of their work on display, including handspun yarn.

Music Jamboree

Sunday, January 8

Dust off that guitar, fiddle, banjo or other acoustic instrument and bring it to the **Brooker Creek Preserve** for a jam session in the outdoor music pavilion with a gorgeous view of the woods. Meet other musicians and learn some new songs. Music lovers of all ages are encouraged to come, listen and enjoy. The jam session will be lead by a local musician. 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. Free; advance registration required. [Register online.](#)

• Volunteer Ops

• Return the Preserve Work Day

Saturday, January 21

- This day will focus on areas within **Brooker Creek Preserve** where workers can apply some hands-on help removing exotic invaders or overgrown native vines. It is hard work but it is rewarding. Meet in the parking lot at 7:45 a.m. Bring clippers, loppers, and handsaws. Remember your gloves, hat and sunscreen! Long sleeved shirts, jeans and closed toed shoes are recommended. Breakfast snacks and water will be provided. For more information or to sign up [email Evan Earle.](#)

• The Great Weedon Bird Quest

Saturday, February 11

- Participants will learn the identifying marks and behaviors of our year-round feathered residents and seasonal visitors while assisting in compiling an annual checklist of Weedon Island Preserve's birds. This hike is designed to take advantage of all levels of birding experience. Binoculars and bird guides are available. 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Free; advance registration required. [Register online.](#)