



VOLUNTEER VOICE

A newsletter by and for Pinellas County government volunteers.



OCTOBER 2017

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

INSIDE

PAGE 2

Volunteer Helps Prepare for Hurricane Irma

Event Volunteers Needed

PAGE 3

Volunteers Make Brooker Creek's Event Huge Success

Homemade Yummies for Cat and Dog Tummies

Cross Bayou/Joe's Creek Cleanup

Volunteer Voice

How to participate: Send questions, article submissions, upcoming events, photos, or story ideas to: vipsocial@pinellascounty.org or call (727) 464-8477.

Volunteers Help Clean Up After Hurricane Irma



Heritage Village sends a shout out to volunteers who helped clear Hurricane Irma's debris. Pictured above are members of the **Debris Cleanup Power Team—Pinellas County School Board's Russell Neaman and his Horticulture Class**, from left to right: Joel (Teacher's Associate), Gary, James, Cameron, Nick, Dino, Raymond, Nate, Mr. John (Teacher's Associate), Christian, David (Hands On Suncoast), and Cody.

Many other volunteers helped including: Cabe and Hannah Buffalo (Junior Docents), Kimberly Connor-Savoretti, the Solid Rock Community School, and Hands On Suncoast volunteers including David Torres, John, Lily and Joey Naples, Noah and Kimberly Bennett, Zachary and Dawn Bournand.

Sent in by Paige Noel, Project Management Specialist, Heritage Village



And at Fort De Soto Park: Here's a photo of **The WaterTribe** group that helped us with post-storm debris removal. We would like to say thank you to the many volunteers that came to help clean up the park!

Sent in by Sharon Biemiller, Fort De Soto Park

Volunteer Helps Prepare for Hurricane Irma

Sent in by Natasha Dickrell, Environmental Specialist II, Watershed Management Division

The Pinellas County Environmental Management Division conducted post-Hurricane Irma monitoring to assess and provide information about the coastal and inland waters. Volunteer **William Fralin** has been a long-term volunteer dedicated to seagrass and water quality monitoring programs as he continues to help with sampling preparation, analysis, and data entry. Billy's work was essential to helping prepare so scientists could be most efficient in response and have equipment and supplies available.

We appreciate his continued contributions to our environmental programs and service to his community.



EVENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

39th Annual Country Jubilee at Heritage Village

Volunteers are needed at Heritage Village's Country Jubilee on Saturday, Oct. 28 to assist with parking (must be at least 18). Call (727) 582-2233.

Visitors to the event will enjoy more than 80 craft vendors, fantastic food, and musical offerings including Bluegrass jam sessions!

The event is sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society. [Get more information.](#)



2017 Chowder Challenge

Volunteer on Sunday, Nov. 12 at Horan Park on St. Pete Beach, and get reduced priced tickets and "chowda." The annual challenge is a fundraiser for the Gulf Beaches Historical Museum, the Pass-a-Grille Women's Club, and other local charities. [Get more information and sign up.](#)



Holiday Lights in the Gardens

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation is seeking volunteers to staff multiple positions and shifts during the annual Holiday Lights in the Gardens event from Friday, Nov. 24 through Sunday, Dec. 31. Volunteers can choose one or more shifts that run nightly from 5 to 9:15 p.m.

More than 450 volunteers are needed as entertainers, greeters and gift cart attendants.



For more information and to volunteer, contact the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation at flbgfoundation@gmail.com, or call (727) 582-2247.

Volunteers Make Brooker Creek's Annual Wildflower Festival a Huge Success

Sent in by Julia Myers, Education Support Specialist, Brooker Creek Preserve

Our Annual Fall Wildflower Festival is organized by the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve. It is a free family friendly event that includes a classroom full of kids activities, a walk-through butterfly tent, a wildflower quest, educational programs, a native plant sale, beekeeping demos and more!

Volunteers planned, scheduled, and worked the entire event that attracted 775 visitors at this year's festival! It took 58 amazing volunteers donating well over 350 volunteer hours to make this event possible.

Oh, and they are going to do it all again at the end of October for our 2nd annual Owl-O-Ween event on October 28th. Brooker Creek volunteers are going above and beyond to put together educational, fun, free, family friendly events for Brooker Creek Preserve and educates visitors on "Our Wildest Place."



Homemade Yummies for Cat and Dog Tummies

By Kim Godfrey, Sent in by Alyssa Bowers, UF/IFAS Extension, Pinellas County

UF/IFAS Pinellas County 4-H youth volunteers love to help the community in any way they can. 4-H is a national youth development organization that focuses on teaching life skills through hands-on learning experiences.

4-H is volunteer led and volunteer driven. Pinellas County 4-H volunteers lead the clubs, projects, trainings, and so much more to keep the 4-H program alive and well. 4-H also has a great number of youth volunteers, like Anastasia and Wyatt, who love to volunteer in their



Anastasia Godfrey



Wyatt Godfrey

community. They shared this story with me:

For our service project, I made cat treats and my little brother made dog treats for the SPCA. It was a learning experience because we've never made pet treats at our

house before because we don't have any pets. We are going to volunteer at the SPCA to feed the treats to the animals because we enjoy volunteering and helping our community. It also helps the staff at SPCA and it gives us a chance to spend time with animals.

The Pinellas County International Coastal Cleanup of Cross Bayou & Joe's Creek was a success thanks to our volunteers! We removed 980 pounds from these two waterways on Oct. 7th.

Thanks to our volunteers and our partners at Keep Pinellas Beautiful.

