



VOLUNTEER VOICE

A newsletter by and for Pinellas County government volunteers.



JUNE 2018

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

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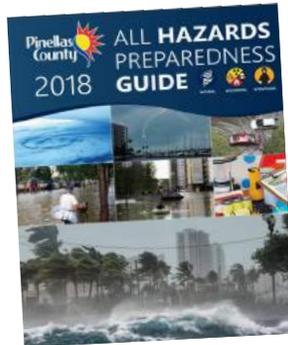
Second Quarter Update

Volunteer Voice

How to participate: Send questions, article submissions, upcoming events, photos, or story ideas to:

vijsocial@pinellascounty.org
or call (727) 464-8477.

Are You Prepared for the Hurricane Season?



It is time to get ready for the 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season, which runs June 1 to Nov. 30. As we prepare our County, we are asking our volunteers to learn about preparedness, get prepared themselves, and then help us educate the community by talking to family, friends, neighbors and organizations. There are three basic questions that must be answered:

How do I know what's happening?

CONNECT to emergency information. We suggest having at least two ways that you receive information. [Alert Pinellas](#) is a County emergency alert system. Connect to the County's [social media](#).

The Emergency Management [website](#) has a wealth of information and has the [2018 All-Hazards Guide](#). You can find the printed guide at many public offices, likely in the department for which you volunteer.

How do I know what to do?

ASSESS your risk. This means knowing your evacuation zone/level, the first step to considering your options. If you live in a mobile home park or evacuation zone/level A you will be ordered to evacuate first. If you are in a non-evacuation area, you will never be ordered to evacuate. If you live in evacuation zones/levels B, C, D, or E, listen carefully to what zones/levels are under the order to see if you must leave. There are several ways to look up your zone:

- (727) 453-3150 (landline numbers only)
- www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone
- [Storm Surge Protector](#)
- Free [ReadyPinellas](#) mobile app.
- Utility bill
- Property Appraiser records

What will I do?

PLAN AND PREPARE. If you evacuate, you have several options. First, try to find a host home: friends and family who live in a zone not being ordered to evacuate.

You might also utilize your business, church or other facility if it is not under an evacuation order and is sturdy and secured. You can organize a [host home program](#) for your business, church or organization using the tool kit.

Public shelters should be considered a last resort. If you must go to a shelter, be prepared for a noisy, hot and uncomfortable environment. Special needs shelters are available (preregister [here](#)). Pet-friendly shelters are available as well.

After the storm

As volunteers, please do not report to your County department unless you are called by your volunteer coordinator. This is for your safety. Talk to your volunteer coordinator about your own emergency plans. The best thing you can do as a County volunteer at this time is to help your neighbors. Organize a "cook out" before food spoils. Share power, cellphones and comfort each other. During a disaster, your knowledge and spirit will help to sustain our community.

Colors of Pinellas Art Show Registration Now Open

Registration deadline is September 21.

Colors of Pinellas



The Colors of Pinellas Employee Art Show provides an opportunity for employees, retirees, volunteers, interns and their families to participate in a professional exhibition and compete for cash prizes. The show is judged by professionals in the field of art. Levels include amateur, intermediate, professional, youth and teen categories.

You can enter photographs, paintings, sculpture, drawings, crafts, jewelry, mixed media or wherever your creativity takes you.

Winners are eligible for cash prizes totaling \$3,450 provided by a grant from the National Arts Program. The artwork will be displayed in the courthouse.

It's free to enter and all skills levels are welcome. What are you waiting for?

[View past shows and registration information](#) on our website.

What's New for 2018

- The show will run in the early fall. Important dates:
 - Registration deadline, Sept. 21
 - Artists deliver artwork, Oct. 9
 - Artwork judging, Oct. 17
 - Awards Ceremony, Oct. 29
 - Exhibit open Oct. 23 - Nov. 12
 - Artwork pick up, Nov. 13
- The award ceremony will be in a new location in downtown Clearwater: 14 S. Fort Harrison Avenue, 4th floor (known as the Utilities Building). Free parking will be generously granted for the duration of the event by the City of Clearwater in their parking lot across Osceola Avenue.

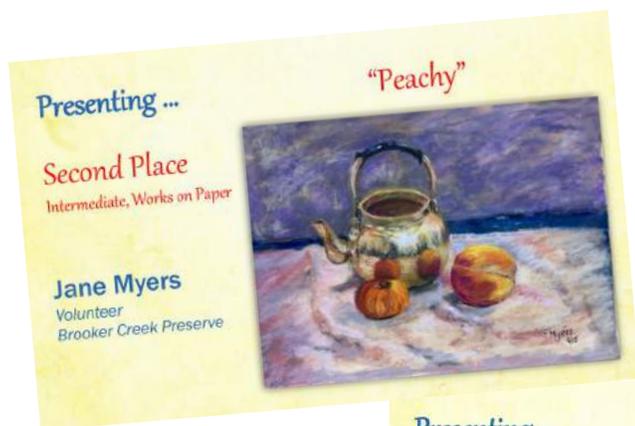
Who Can Participate?

- Employees
- Volunteers
- Interns
- Retirees

Family members of these groups are eligible to participate.

Includes employees of the:

- Unified Personnel System (UPS)
- Sheriff's Office
- Juvenile Welfare Board
- Sixth Judicial Court
- State Attorney's Office
- Public Defender's Office
- Medical Examiner's Office
- Court Administration



USF Tampa Honors College Works with Gulf Beaches Historical Museum and St. Pete Beach Library in Highlighting Local History

Sent in by Michael Heerschap, Gulf Beaches Historical Museum

The Gulf Beaches Historical Museum was fortunate to have students from the Honors College at University of South Florida (USF) Tampa Campus to undertake a semester-long effort to capture the history of the southern Gulf beaches in words, photos, interviews, and video narratives. The Honors College offers the course “How to Make History” which introduces students to a range of archival and creative means to capture local history.

They worked with the museum and St. Pete Beach Library on various projects – many added to the Pinellas Memory Project digital archives. Students prepared individual and group projects which



capture a range of local history and helped the museum look at new ways to display its holdings. The students created a [website](#) to showcase their work.



Foster Care Tales: 3 Musketeers

Sent in by Season Groves, Animal Services

We thank Pat Buza for sharing her experience as a Pinellas County Animal Services foster care volunteer.

My first experience with fostering were these three adorable kittens – two females and one male. They weighed about 1.5 lbs each and it was my job to get them to 2 lbs.

I quickly found that wasn't going to be easy since my pet Henry wouldn't let them near the food bowl. Separating them when feeding wet food was the easiest solution which also gave me time to bond with them individually. They had no problem with taking over the space they were living in as evidenced by Coco finding her own private sleeping space in the sink with her own wash cloth mattress that she skillfully arranged.

They were an absolute joy to foster. It was tough giving them back to Pinellas County Animal Services, but I'm sure they were adopted immediately. If you are interested in fostering, please visit Pinellas County Animal Services' [website](#) or call (727) 582-2600.



GE Aviation Employees' Day of Caring at Heritage Village

Sent in by Paige Noel, Heritage Village



GE Aviation employees partnered with Heritage Village maintenance volunteers and staff to complete six preservation projects. The caboose is clean, windows throughout the Village sparkle, the Gandy Tower is washed in and out and ready to receive a fresh coat of paint. The Madeira Beach Cottage (Gift Shop) has a coat of linseed oil and turpentine to help preserve the cypress boards, the Coachman tractor has been detailed and pine needles from around the McMullen Log Cabin and pathways have been removed.



A total of 32 GE employees and 10 Heritage Village volunteers participated. GE employees also generously donated \$500 worth of cleaning supplies and grounds and maintenance equipment to help throughout the year.

That same day, over 200 other GE employees participated in a countywide Day of Service in five other locations including: our very own Fort De Soto Park, John Hopkins All Children's Hospital, Habitat for Humanity, St. Pete Free Clinic, and the Humane Society.

Thank you GE! Teamwork and community partnership in action.

If you are interested in supporting local history in your community, consider volunteering with Heritage Village.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome with special projects for groups and civic organizations.

Contact Paige Noel at (727) 582-2125 or email her at pnoel@pinellascounty.org.



Grateful for Our Brooker Creek Volunteers

Sent in by Julia Myers, Brooker Creek Preserve

The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve's 8th annual Wildlife Safari was amazing! Recently, we welcomed over 1,200 safari adventurers to our Preserve to visit live native wildlife stations along our trails. This event would never have been possible without the 40 volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it happen! Volunteers did everything from planning and setting up the event to registering and greeting participants and guiding them through the stations. Volunteers also handed out prizes and cleaned up everything after a very long day. Well over 300 volunteer hours went into making this event so successful. A huge round of applause to the Brooker Creek volunteers.



Duke Energy Day at Taylor Park

Sent in by Park Ranger Bonnie Desmond, Taylor Park

It was another amazing project day at Taylor Park for the Duke Energy volunteers. They put in a combined total 104 man hours. Taylor Park and visitors are fortunate to have this group of dedicated individuals. Their work effort is commendable.

SAFETY & SECURITY The area in front of and around Shelter 7 was very overgrown and was creating security issues for lack of visibility as well as lack of access to a side walk.



PAINTING Taylor Park had several needs and Duke was ready to deliver. The first project was painting picnic tables, which is the fun part. The hard part is the sanding that has to be done first. No worries though. Volunteers jumped right on that. A couple of them even snuck over to the playground to give some old benches a much needed makeover. The playground mommies and daddies were happy. There were enough completed tables to switch out bad ones for these brand new ones. The shelters are looking great for the holidays to come.



TRASH & LITTER As the morning progressed we had additional tasks such as canal cleanup. We did ask for volunteers for this mission seemed impossible but with the right spirit and strong stomachs they fished out the debris captured by the buoy from

its murky and stinky depths. True heroes here. These canal buoys capture the trash but they are not self cleaning. The Super Duke heroes saved the day and made it safe for the resident wildlife!



Before, during and after – Canal Buoy

VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT If one aesthetic and safety issue prevails on the grounds it is the vines. The vines at Taylor Park love to climb the trees and over the understory plants. Some of the bravest people went on vine patrol. The vines can be dangerous because they add weight and can cause potential tree failure. The vines also tend to choke out the native vegetation and destroy habitat. In many areas vines were removed from under brush. Also a small elite strike force set out and tackled the Virginia creeper on the pines. Cutting them will make the remainder of the vine wither and die. This allows us to spray more effectively and efficiently to gain control in our war on these creepers.

Not only did volunteers make Taylor Park more beautiful, they impacted the lives of the people and the value of the property. The animals are safer from litter and trash. The patrons have more visibility for safer passage. The trees and understory can flourish and grow creating more habitat. The Duke Energy Adopt a Park group also donated \$300 worth of hand tools to the volunteer program at Taylor Park. Thank you Duke — we appreciate you.



Honoring Gulf Beaches Historical Museum Volunteers

Sent in by Michael Heerschap, Gulf Beaches Historical Museum

The Gulf Beaches Historical Museum hosted a volunteer luncheon on May 11th to honor the hard work of its many volunteers. The museum has a large number of volunteers — but a smaller contingent that are active on a regular basis. Entirely volunteer-run over its entire 25 year history, the museum relies on their hard work and commitment. Last year, the museum had almost 5,000 visitors from all 50 states and a host of foreign countries.

It was for the purpose of thanking our volunteers that we hosted a luncheon to honor their service. Another important reason was to allow folks to get to know each other and to review museum and County procedures and answer any questions. A number of new volunteers were able to attend the event as well. We gave volunteer awards to those present ranging from one-year service pins to pins for those with 25 years of service. A couple of the museum's volunteers were instrumental in the creation of the museum and have

volunteered since the very beginning in 1993.

The museum is very much appreciative for their service over the years and without them, we couldn't have operated or survived as well as we have. Of particular note, Jerry Ingram and Sally Yoder received their 25-year pins for service rendered. Both were critical in the early success in getting things started at the museum. Others include Lance Peterson for his 15-year pin and Barbara Poole and Bobby Ross for their 10-year pins. Lance Peterson and Bobby Ross were honored with 2,450 hours of volunteer service with ribbons, Mark Schmidt for 3,150 hours and Sally Yoder for 7,350 hours. Sally was one of our first volunteers and is the museum's resident historian. We greatly appreciate all of our volunteer's service and hard work for our museum.

The museum also thanks the County's Volunteer Services program for helping host the event.



Celebrating Extended Transition Program Volunteers

Sent in by Season Groves, Animal Services

Each year, the Extended Transition Program with Pinellas County School Board helps young men and women who have graduated from high school learn important skills to use in the work force. The program assists them with job skills, resume work, interview skills and much more.

Most of those skills are learned through volunteering with Pinellas County's three largest volunteer programs — Heritage Village, Animal Services and Florida Botanical Gardens. The young adults assist with a variety of tasks from groundskeeping to dish service and facility maintenance. With more than 8,000 hours in the 2017/2018 school year alone they are our biggest single contributor. At the end of each school year, we hold a joint appreciation luncheon to thank them for their tireless service and to let them know how much they will be missed over the summer.



Auxiliary Rangers Complete Bollard Building Project

Sent in by Carol Gray, Parks and Conservation Resources

The yearly Auxiliary Ranger Bollard Building Project on March 28, 2018 at Ridgecrest Park was again a huge success.

These bollards are removable traffic control devices placed at the intersections of the trail to deter motor vehicles from entering the Pinellas Trail. Ten long-term volunteers participated to make 291 bollards in 3 hours. To observe the project, it is very much like an assembly line in a factory.

The time and dedication these volunteers provide is a great value to the department. The stockpile of bollards provide an ample number to support the replacement needs and also provide the staff and volunteers a means to replace the bollards promptly, keeping the safety of the trail users as a priority.

Within the last year and since the last bollard building, the staff and volunteers replaced approximately 225 bollards. Based on this historical use, 291 bollards should last more than a year.

In addition, Pinellas Trails Inc., a support organization for the Pinellas Trail, provided pizza and sodas to all who participated.



Thank you Pinellas Trails Inc. Thank you Jim Wedlake, Bill & Phyllis Romanski, Mike Siebel, Harry Chambers, Drew Delmore, Elaine Stewart, Jim Elaine, Larry Herring and Billy Landreth. And a kudos to Ranger Byron Bozarth for the logistical coordination of the project.

Volunteers Needed

Group Exercise Instructor The Wellness Center is currently seeking a certified group exercise instructor who is interested in sharing their expertise, skills and talents. Motivate employees to get fit, stay healthy and feel good! Lunch and evening openings available. Various exercise formats are welcome, including Zumba, abs/core, pilates and cardio. Must possess current certification and CPR/AED. Contact Jane Grannis at jgrannis@pinellascounty.org.

Emergency Management (EM) Ambassador Are you interested in helping the citizens of Pinellas County prepare for disasters? Are you a good public speaker? Consider training to be an EM Ambassador and joining a team that speaks to community groups and organizations about hurricane preparedness. Bilingual ambassadors are most welcome!

Our EM Ambassadors make a difference. If you are interested in learning more, please call (727) 464-3815 or email maryburrell@pinellascounty.org.



Brand Ambassador Program Visit St. Pete/Clearwater, the County's official tourism marketing agency, is looking for high-energy brand ambassadors with excellent communication skills to help us promote our destination to visitors at local events and festivals such as Outback Bowl Beach Day, John's Pass Seafood Festival, Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, Vaspar Championship, Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival.



We are looking for brand ambassadors to engage with guests, answer questions and hand out Visit St. Pete/Clearwater SWAG.

Interested? Sign up at PinellasCVB.com/brand-ambassador-program or email Brandee Bolden at activate@VisitSPC.com.

Intern with Pinellas County

By Volunteer Services

Do you know someone who would like to gain work experience and build their resume while creating important connections to professionals in their field? Interning with Pinellas County Government yields many personal benefits while making a positive difference.

Who can apply?

High school and college students currently enrolled, in good standing, in an educational program that has a formal academic student internship component may apply for internships.

What internships are available?

Pinellas County Government Internship Program offers [opportunities](#) in a variety of fields.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for updates and photos.

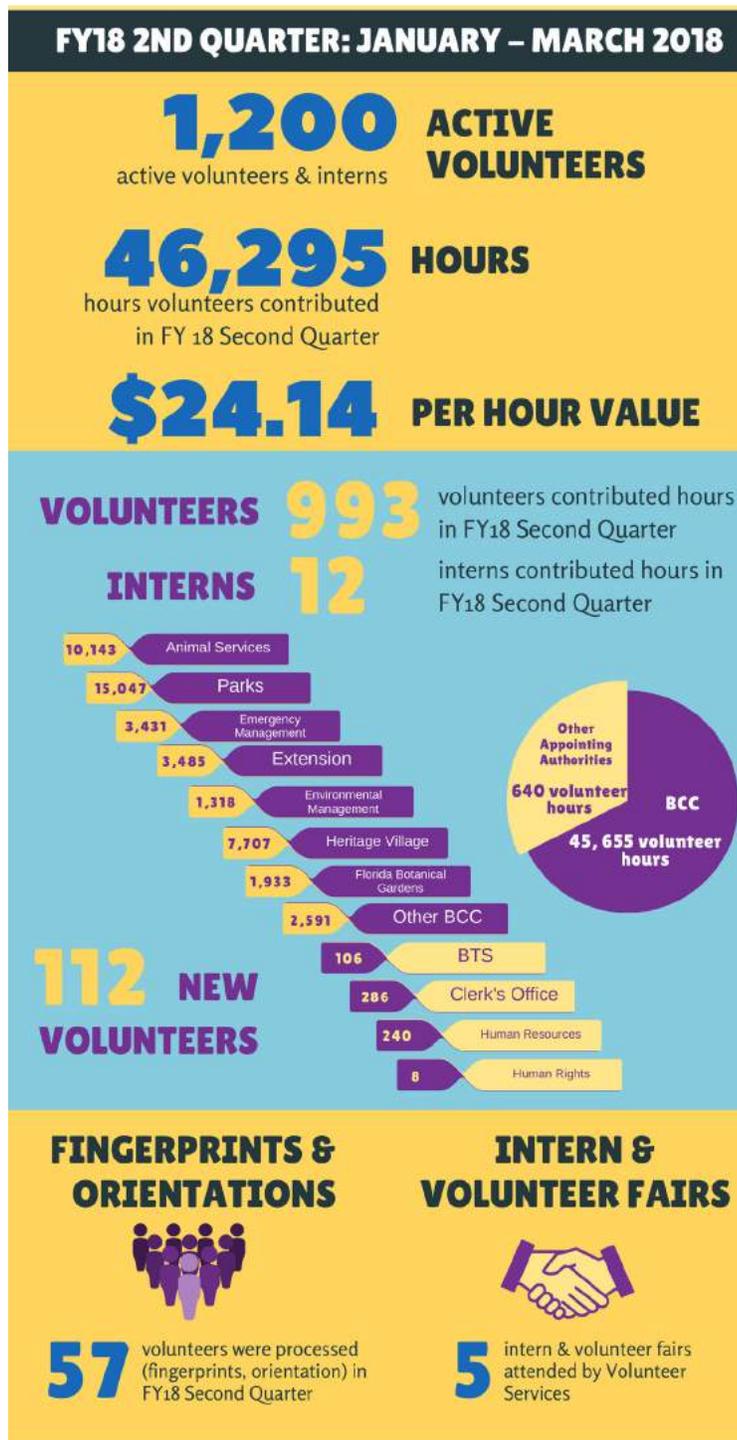
Employment Opportunities

A dynamic career awaits you at Pinellas County Government! Our employees deliver first class service and make a difference in the community where we live, work and play.

We offer competitive pay and excellent benefits including a generous time-off package. We also offer development opportunities which will help you to reach your potential and grow in your career.

Nine out of ten of our employees recommend working for Pinellas County Government. Our Unified Personnel System includes more than 3,000 positions.

View our [current openings](#) and apply today. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



Our wonderful volunteers and interns contributed a total of 46,295 hours in the second quarter of FY2018.

Volunteer positions

www.pinellascounty.org/volunteer

Intern opportunities

www.pinellascounty.org/intern

Facebook

www.facebook.com/VolunteersinPinellas

Twitter

www.twitter.com/VolInPinellas

www.pinellascounty.org/volunteer | volunteers@pinellascounty.org | (727) 464-8477