

Summer 2006
Volume 1, Issue 1



Pinellas County
Volunteer Services Department



Volunteer Voice

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.pinellascounty.org/volserv

Current Opportunities

- Animal Service Volunteer
- Education Center Assistant
- Brooker Creek Volunteer
- Weedon Island Weekend Warriors
- Heritage Village Gift Shop Staff
- Auxiliary Rangers:
- VIP - Volunteer In Parks
- Garden Maintenance Assistant
- 4H Volunteers
- Special Events Assistant
- Reception Hosts and Installers for "Colors of Pinellas" Art Show
- 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares

Did you know this policy change?

- Short term volunteers may now work up to 80 hours a month for up to 4 months continuously and consistently. At this point they must attend an Orientation and be processed as long term volunteers.

Introducing...the "Crew"

We got our voice back!

After a nearly five-year absence we are again publishing the Volunteer Voice. This will be a quarterly publication on items of county-wide interest to our volunteers.

First let me introduce you to our "crew": **Karen Barnhart** joined us in February and deals with the administrative matters including our new data management system. She had lived in Holmes County, Ohio, the heart of Amish Country, all of her life until she relocated to St Petersburg in 2003. Karen was employed for 33 years as an Administrative Assistant and Family Nutrition Program Assistant for Ohio State University Extension. Karen has also worked as a temp for Pinellas County Community Development.

Sandy Herron is our new Program Coordinator and handles a wide range of duties ranging from employee volunteer events to editing this newsletter and a lot of things in between. Sandy has been a Pinellas County employee for over 10 years; she spent 4 years at Development Review Services and 7 at the Florida Botanical Gardens/Extension. She is an eclectic generalist, having worked extensively overseas and out west. One of her favorite positions was as Illustrator to the Hanau Military Community in W Germany where she managed a cadre of youth volunteers. They did everything from painting murals to silk screening T shirts for Fun Runs to designing patches for the Outdoor Rec program (which necessitated rappelling out the

fourth floor window to capture those action shots).

I will simply identify myself as the guy who has the best job in Pinellas County and meets the nicest people, so I must be the **Volunteer Program Manager**.

Our program now consists of more than 1800 volunteers including 1100 long term volunteers. Without all of you a lot of the services and activities offered by the county would not be possible so you are filling a very important and essential role in serving the public.

For those of you that have gone through orientation you know my primary rule for volunteering is that **you must have fun!** Looking forward to talking with all of you in the coming year.

Tanks
Joe LeGath

Volunteers.....extending our reach.

VSP5 Update

Our new Volunteer tracking database, VSP5, went live as planned July 1st.

Most departments are successfully using it at this point. Karen Barnhart, Volunteer Services Secretary, has been wonderful

with personalized telephone assistance as requested.

Additionally she is available for hands on training at your site. If you feel this would be a benefit, please call her at 464-3945 to schedule a visit.

*Did you know?
You can volunteer at more than one site—in fact, we encourage it!*

Spotlight on Volunteer: Bernie Troop



By Jay and John Hornbeck, Volunteer Services Interns

Bernie Troop is a volunteer for Wall Springs Park in Pinellas County. He has been working there for six years. Despite the fact that this retired man is 71 years old, he loves the work that he does there, and plans on continuing as long as he has the strength to get out of bed. He volunteers every Thursday, and his duties would best be summed up as a "utility man". He does whatever is needed.

When asked, "Why do you volunteer", he simply replied, because he does not need income. He also indicated that he has been a volunteer almost his entire life. This former Marine volunteered for a full decade for Kendell Park First Aid and Rescue as a member of the rescue squad in

NJ; this is where his altruism began. After this he volunteered at a smorgasbord of places, including Florida Aquarium, Sun Coast Seabird Sanctuary, and as an Auxiliary Ranger for the Pinellas Trail, before transferring to the Wall Springs Park. When asked why he transferred from the trail to the park, he said it was because he would pass the park everyday, and appreciated its beauty.

Bernie says the best part of his job is "conversing with people". He enjoys talking to visitors, as well as other volunteers. When asked about the worst aspect of the job, he said it is a lot of hard work. He said that he is not a "spring chicken", but also said that they don't give him too much to handle.

When asked, "What advice would you give people interested in volunteering", he responded that if one is a people person, they will enjoy volunteering. Also, he advised potential volunteers "to watch your "P's" and "Q's". Volunteers cannot always speak their mind. A volunteer has to be careful not to get anyone in trouble or fired.

When asked, "What is the best thing about volunteering for Pinellas County", he said that they appreciate the work that you do. They dignify you, and "pat you on the back".

Bernie gets along very well with the other volunteers, and plans on staying at Wall Springs, as long as he is able.

Thank you, Bernie!

There are many things in life that will catch your eye, but only a few that will catch your heart. Pursue them." — Anonymous

Driving County Vehicles

Volunteers are now permitted to drive county vehicles off site with permission from their department. This is a help especially in some of our more remote or vast areas and during events.

There is a driver's orientation class offered by Risk Manage-



ment on Mondays from 2:30 to 3:30. If you plan to drive, we do ask that you attend this training and obtain

a county driver's license.

While you are there, they will ask for your FL Driver's License and they will run it through the state's database while you are hearing the presentation to verify that you have a safe driver's record .

The Volunteer Survey Results will appear on our website after Sept. 1st... Stay tuned! We apologize for the delay.

"Here's a test to find whether your mission on earth is finished: If you're alive, it isn't." — Richard Bach