



The Volunteer Dispatch

A monthly volunteer newsletter from Manatee Village Historical Park

Issue Seventeen, January 2022

In this issue you will find...

Page 1 to 2 Important Updates
 Page 3 Volunteer Spotlight
 Page 4 Volunteer Opportunities
 Page 5 Treasure Hunting With Allyson
 Page 6 Fun Stuff: Photography History & Poinsettias
 Page 7 Call For Volunteer News

A Note from Manatee Village Historical Park:

Greetings, everyone!

Please see inside this issue for important updates regarding staffing, the gift shop, volunteer opportunities, and more.

If you haven't had a chance yet, please take our anonymous volunteer survey. Your feedback is greatly appreciated. The survey can be taken by clicking [HERE](#).

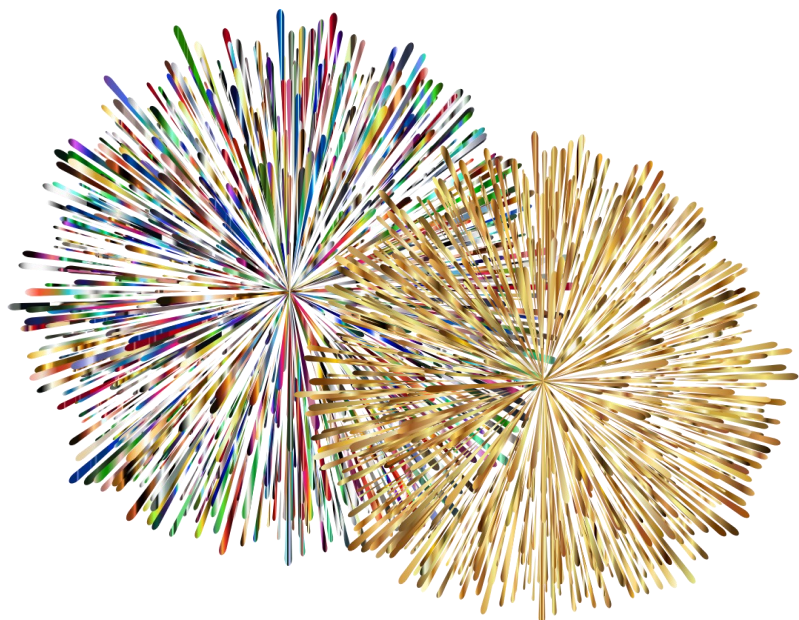
If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out to me. You can contact me directly at allyson.oleary@manateeclerk.com.

Happy New Year!

Best wishes,

Allyson O'Leary

Education & Volunteer Coordinator



Important Updates



Martin Luther King Jr.

Images Courtesy of Open ClipArt

January Closures

Saturday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day
Monday, January 17th in observance of MLK Day

Farewell, Dr. Brown!

Dr. Jeffrey Brown has served as Manatee Village Historical Park's Curator since September 2019. During his time at the museum he has completed several projects vital to the success of Collections and the museum's public outreach goals.

Check out his digital exhibits by clicking [HERE](#). Topics include the founding of Manatee Village Historical Park, the 1887 Church, the 1860 Courthouse, and the Fogarty Boat Works. Dr. Brown's newest onsite exhibit, *Wars of Manatee*, will remain up until September 2022. Be sure to stop in and see it when you have a chance.

Dr. Brown's last day at Manatee Village Historical Park will be January 14, 2022. He is returning to the field of education and will be teaching History to Polk County high school students.



Image: Dr. Jeffrey Brown in *A Digital Old-Fashioned Christmas*, December 2020

Important Updates Continued

A Note About the Gift Shop

In an effort to be transparent, staff would like to clarify some things regarding the Manatee Village Historical Park gift shop. Please see below for answers to some frequently asked questions.

1. Why is the gift shop closed?

With the current Management Agreement, Clerk staff and volunteers are not permitted to handle money transactions on behalf of the Manatee County Historical Commission (MCHC).

2. Sometimes the gift shop is open though; why is that?

At the moment, the gift shop is open during select public events, like *An Old Florida Christmas*. These openings are determined by MCHC board members during their monthly meeting. Additionally, MCHC members are responsible for staffing the gift shop when it is open.

3. Will there be a new Management Agreement?

Yes. The new Management Agreement is currently being worked on but has not had final approval. At the moment, staff does not know when final approval will occur. Staff will update everyone once the new Management Agreement goes into effect.

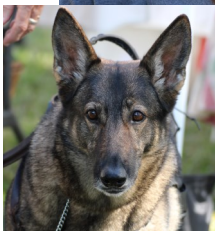
4. What happens to the gift shop once the new Management Agreement is in effect?

Manatee Village Historical Park staff members will be able to handle money transactions in the gift shop and determine its operating hours.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the gift shop or Management Agreement please don't hesitate to speak with the Education & Volunteer Coordinator.

Volunteer Spotlight

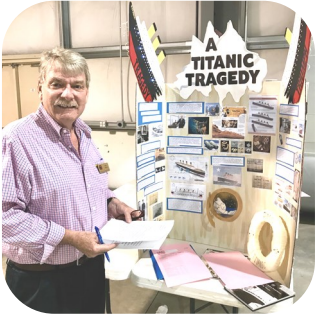
THANK YOU to everyone who helped out at An Old Florida Christmas 2021!



Images Courtesy of Jeff Downing, MCHC Board Member

Volunteer Opportunities

History Day Judges Needed for Virtual Competition



As of right now, we do not have enough judges for this year's contest. Please consider being a virtual History Day judge.

All student projects will be submitted virtually and judged virtually. Competition judging will take place virtually January 28, 2022 through February 4, 2022.

Image: Manatee History Day, 2019

Check out the Judge's Tab on Zfairs, the contest management system by clicking [HERE](#)

If you are interested in being a Judge for this competition please contact allyson.oleary@manateeclerk.com for information on how to create your Judge Account.

Cemetery Cleanup

Volunteers are needed for a cleanup of the Manatee Burying Ground on Thursday, January 20th and Friday, January 21st.

To learn more about this activity and to sign up, please click [HERE](#).



Images: Manatee Burying Ground Cleanup, 2021

Treasure Hunting With Allyson

Your Education & Volunteer Coordinator is a big fan of antique shopping. Check out her latest find below. It was found in a local antique shop and given away as part of a holiday gift to a friend.

Have a cool vintage or antique find? Let's talk about it! If you send in a photo and story of an object you've found it could be featured in the volunteer newsletter.

Email allyson.oleary@manateeclerk.com to share your photo and story.



Images Courtesy of Allyson O'Leary, 2021

Dating Vintage Postcards:

The clues are on the card! Check out [this guide](#) from the Smithsonian to learn more about postcard history and tips & tricks for dating postcards - click [HERE](#).

Fun Stuff:

Photography History & Poinsettias

Daguerreotype to Digital

A digital exhibit from Florida Memory State Library and Archives of Florida.

Learn more about the history of photographs by clicking [HERE](#).



Image Courtesy of Florida Memory State Library and Archives of Florida

Poinsettias at the Smithsonian

Did you receive a poinsettia this holiday season?

Learn more about poinsettias from a Smithsonian horticulturalist by watching this video - click [HERE](#).



Image Courtesy of Florida Memory State Library and Archives of Florida

Call For Volunteer News

Have you recently learned a fun history fact? Have you started a new hobby? Got a recipe you'd like to share? A new addition to your family? Have you celebrated a milestone?

We'd love to feature your news in the newsletter!

Send in any fun facts, hobbies, recipes, pictures, and any other information you'd like to share with your fellow volunteers and staff.

You can email your news to allyson.oleary@manateclerk.com or call 941-749-7165.

