



The Volunteer Dispatch

A monthly volunteer newsletter from Manatee Village Historical Park

Issue Sixteen, December 2021

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A Note from Manatee Village Historical Park:

Happy Holidays!

In November, the new Events & Engagement Coordinator began working at Manatee Village Historical Park. Staff also decorated the grounds for the holidays. Special thank you to Volunteer Barbara T. for helping decorate the 1887 Church!

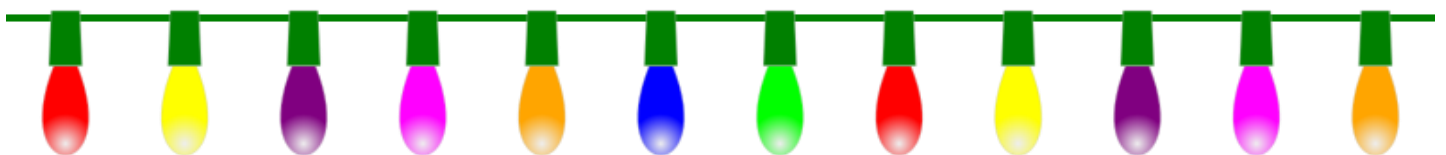
There are still several open volunteer positions for the Old Florida Christmas event. Please see page 3 for more details.

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.

Best wishes,

Allyson O'Leary

Education & Volunteer Coordinator



Important Updates



Image Courtesy of Open Clipart

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Thursday, December 23rd through Sunday, January 2nd

Donation Dip Jar

Manatee Village Historical Park no longer has the two donation Dip Jars available in the Wiggins Store for credit/debit card donations.

Some of you may be wondering why the Dip Jars are no longer available. In order to use the Dip Jar service Manatee Village Historical Park was required to pay an annual fee. It was discovered that the annual fee was higher than the amount of credit/debit card donations being received. As a result, the Manatee County Historical Commission voted to stop using the Dip Jar service.

How can visitors donate money to Manatee Village Historical Park?

1. Cash

Cash can be dropped off in the glass donation jar on the Wiggins Store counter or in the donation box located next to the Gift Shop.

2. Online Credit/Debit

Visitors who would like to make a donation using a credit or debit card may do so by visiting our website and clicking on the red **Make a Donation** button located on our homepage here: <https://www.manateevillage.org/>

Want to make a donation?
Click the red button below. Thank you for
supporting our museum!

Make a Donation

Important Updates Continued



New Staff Member

Karla Szekeres is the new Events & Engagement Coordinator at Manatee Village Historical Park!

Karla comes to us from the Florida Maritime Museum. She looks forward to getting to know all of you!

Please Note

In prior years, staff and volunteers have gotten together at Manatee Village for a Volunteer Potluck event in November or December.

In an abundance of caution, Manatee Village Historical Park will **not** be able to host the potluck event this Fall.

Our goal is to host a volunteer appreciation event in the Spring during National Volunteer Week. More details about this event will be forthcoming in a future issue of the newsletter.

Volunteer Spotlight

THANK YOU to Volunteer Nancy H.!

Nancy is one of Manatee Village Historical Park's weekly volunteers. Currently, she volunteers as a Wiggins Store Greeter and has also helped the museum with special projects in the past.

Nancy always greets each visitor warmly and is happy to talk history with them! Recently, she connected with some visitors about the Vanderipe family. They were eager to tell her about the Lone Grave and Nancy was a great listener during their story!

Thank you, Nancy!

Your ability to help spark visitor curiosity helps bring Manatee County history to life for our visitors!



Image: Volunteer Nancy H. in the Wiggins Storefront, 2021

Volunteer Opportunities

An Old Florida Christmas Event Help

The Signup Genius is now available for anyone interested in volunteering on December 11th at An Old Florida Christmas. We will need help with pre-event set up, the admission tables, the craft booth, and more.

Click [HERE](#) to review the roles and sign up.

Unable to access the link? Contact us directly at 941-749-7165



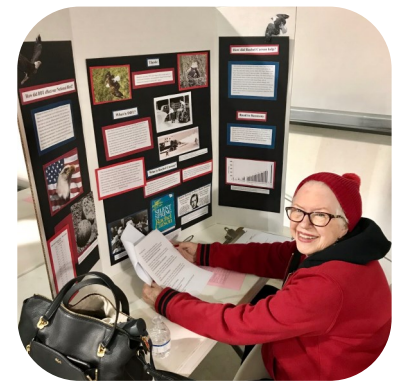
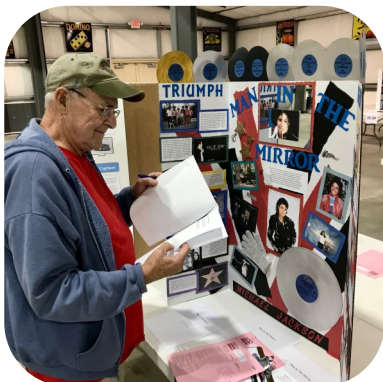
Image: Wiggins Store holiday tree, 2019

History Day Judges Needed for Virtual Competition

This year's Manatee History Day competition is virtual. All student projects will be submitted virtually and judged virtually. Competition judging will take place virtually January 28, 2022 through February 4, 2022.

Check out the Judge's Tab on Zfairs, our 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



Images: Judges at Manatee History Day, 2019

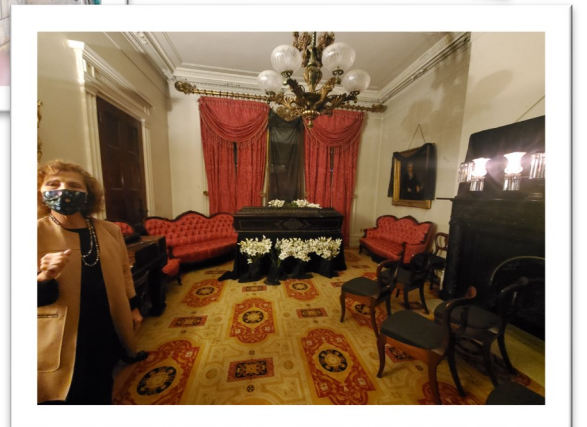
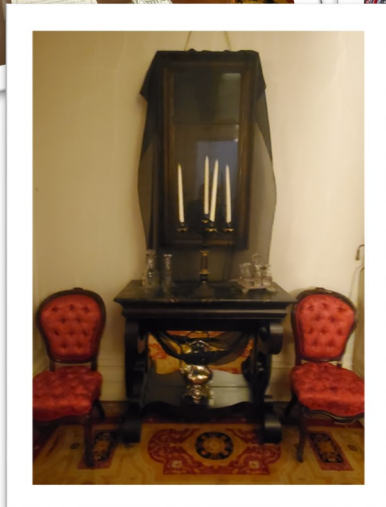
Crystal's NYC Adventure

Your fellow volunteer, Crystal, went on vacation to New York City in October. She visited the Tenement Museum and the Merchant's House Museum.

Crystal had this to say about her visit to the Merchant's House Museum...

"Being me and what I'm into, I was excited I got to see the house set up for their Victorian Wake and Mourning traditions. It was fun to see how they compared to ours."

You can learn more about the Merchant's House Museum by clicking [HERE](#).



Photographs Courtesy of Volunteer Crystal K.

Holiday Fun

Interested in seeing what a Victorian Christmas tree looks like? *Christmas Morning in the 1800s—A Victorian Christmas* has a great depiction of one.

See the Christmas tree and other Victorian traditions in the video by clicking [HERE](#).



Image Courtesy of Open Clipart



Image: Our Curator, Dr. Jeffrey Brown, reading the Manatee Village version of *The Night Before Christmas*, 2020

Did you miss Manatee Village's Digital Old Fashioned Christmas last year? Watch it by clicking [HERE](#).

Hear *The Night Before Christmas* with a Manatee Village twist, learn how to create a holiday pomander, and bake some snowball cookies with our former staff member, Rachel!

On the right is a photograph from 1902. These young women competed to be crowned Christmas Queen.

Learn more about this historic photograph by visiting the Manatee County Public Library's website [HERE](#).



Image Courtesy of Manatee County Public Library Historical Digital Collections

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.

