

THE VOLUNTEER DISPATCH

QUARTER 4 2025





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A quarterly volunteer newsletter from Manatee Village
Historical Park

Quarter 4- October, November, December

A NOTE FROM MANATEE VILLAGE HISTORICAL PARK:

Dear Volunteers,

I'm looking forward to better, more tolerable weather in the coming months! This is the last newsletter until 2026, which is crazy to say. The year has flown by. As we head into the new season, this newsletter includes some important updates, upcoming closures, upcoming lectures, events, rentals, and other volunteer opportunities. Thanks, as always, for all you do!

Best,

Brianna Wilson

Event & Volunteer Coordinator

In this issue you will find...

Page 3.....	Important Updates
Page 4-6.....	Events
Page 7.....	Volunteer Opportunities
Page 8.....	Call For Volunteer News

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Upcoming Closures

VETERANS DAY

Nov 11

THANKSGIVING

Nov 27 & 28

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Dec 24 – Jan 1

Upcoming open Saturdays

*Oct
11*

*Oct
25*

*Nov
8*

*Nov
22*

*Dec
13*

Upcoming Rentals

Friday, October 24: *Wedding Rehearsal. Rental of the Church from 3-4:30 pm*

Saturday, October 25: *Wedding Ceremony. Rental of the Church from 1:15 -4:15 pm*

*Please note that this is a **private rental**, not a public event. You may let visitors know that the space (Church) is booked and unavailable during that specific time. Please **do not** share any details about the group renting the space.*

New Volunteer!



Meet Ofelia, she will be joining us on Wednesday afternoons!

Ofelia is a bi-lingual/ multicultural storyteller, dance and drama teacher, and living history educator who teaches history and culture through the arts. We are excited to have her on board!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lecture

From Swampland to Self-Sufficiency: Florida Homesteading



Image courtesy: Manatee County
Library Historical Digital Collection

Saturday, October 25 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Discover how the Homestead Act of 1862 shaped Florida's landscape, communities, and spirit of independence. From the challenges of early pioneers to today's backyard gardens, this engaging talk blends rich history with practical modern homesteading tips—seed packets, grow zones, and seasonal planting—showing how the legacy of self-reliance is still alive in Florida.

Morgan Lane, Education and Engagement Coordinator

An Old Florida Christmas



Join us for
An Old Florida Christmas
Saturday, December 13, 2025 | 10 AM - 3 PM
Featuring Crafts, Vendors, Food Trucks, Entertainment & More!
FREE ADMISSION!

Manatee Village Historical Park | 1404 Manatee Ave. E., Bradenton, FL 34208

As always, we invite you to attend as a guest and enjoy the event!

Hope to see you there!

Cemetery Scavenger Hunt

THROUGHOUT SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER!

Grab a scavenger sheet and head into the 1850 Manatee Burying Ground to see what you can discover! Search for the oldest headstone, spot unique symbols carved in stone, and uncover fascinating pieces of Manatee County's past. It's a hands-on history adventure you can enjoy at your own pace all September and October!

Cemetery Tours

Join us for a free hour-long tour of the 1850 Manatee Burying Grounds led by a member of Manatee Village's staff. Tours cover different facets of life during Manatee's Founding Period (1840-1918) as well as stories of those buried in the burying grounds. Topics vary depending on the staff member leading the tour.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 13 & September 27

10:00 – 11:00 AM

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 11 & October 25

9:30 – 10:30 AM & 11:00 am–12:00pm

Cemetery Cleanups

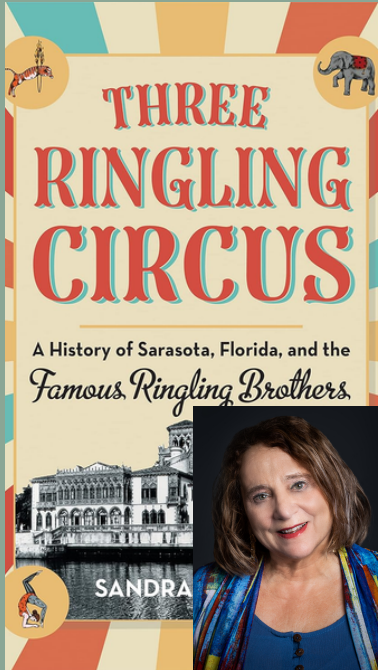
OCTOBER

Friday, October 3 & October 31

9:00 – 11:00 AM

If you're interested in helping us clean headstones and learn about

Author Talks



Saturday, November 8 1:30–3:30 PM

Author: Sandra Gurvis

Where: Wiggins Store Conference Room

Join us for a special visit with Sandra Gurvis, author of Three Ringling Circus and 17 other published books. She'll share fascinating and little-known stories about early Florida history—from Indigenous peoples, African American communities, and settlers, to the rise of the Ringling family and their forward-thinking approach to circus life. You'll also hear the behind-the-scenes tales of how the iconic Art Museum and Ca' d'Zan came to be.



Friday, November 14 2:00 – 3:45 pm

Author: Peggy Donoho & Ron Prouty

Where: 1887 Church

Peggy Donoho, a fifth generation Manatee County resident, co-authored "Miguel's Bay" with Ron Prouty. Join them for a discussion on the story of two immigrants, Miguel Guerrero, from Menorca, Spain, and Frederica Kramer, a young woman from Bavaria, seeking a new life in America and found it together on the island of Terra Ceia. Their pioneer story is one of enduring love in the face of overwhelming difficulties.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Greeter Positions

Tuesdays 10am-1pm

Thursdays 10am-1pm

Fridays 1-4pm

2nd & 4th Saturdays 1-4pm

If you know anyone who is looking to volunteer either send them my way or share my contact with them:

brianna.wilson@manateeclerk.com

Cemetery Cleanup

Volunteers needed for October 3rd cleanup

October 31st– full

An Old Florida Christmas

Volunteers Needed for various positions:

Greeter at buildings (i.e. Stephen's House, Church, Courthouse)

Parking attendant

Line attendant (for Father Christmas)

Craft Tables

Shifts are 9:30-12:30 or 12:30-3:30

OR 9:30-3:30 if you would like to volunteer for the whole day.

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 Brianna.wilson@manateeclerk.com or call (941) 741-4075 ext. 3226



BRIANNA'S NEWS

Recently Manatee County Animal Welfare posted that they had an influx of kittens, and they needed fosters to help free up space in the shelter. So, I fostered 2 kittens on June 6th. The plan was to keep them until they were big enough to get spayed and then they would be available for adoption. After a few weeks with them we couldn't stand the idea of giving them back and possibly getting separated. So, we adopted them on July 23rd! They are getting so big, and they fit right in. I now have 5 CATS!!! (Crazy, I know).

The day we brought them home. Only 4 weeks old. Jack (black one) and Joey (White one)



About 8 weeks old



About 4 months old now. Jack likes to cuddle with my oldest cat, Kitty

