



The Volunteer Dispatch

A monthly volunteer newsletter from Manatee Village Historical Park

Issue Nine, May 2021

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A Note from Manatee Village Historical Park:

Hi, everyone! I hope this message finds you and your families well!

Inside this month's volunteer newsletter you will find updates regarding COVID, some fun finds from Rachel DesRosier, and upcoming special project opportunities for volunteers.

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 & Upcoming Closures

COVID Update

As of April 28th Manatee Village Historical Park has been cleared to have all staff return to site.

Although staff is returning to site we will remain open to the public by appointment only Monday through Friday from 9:30am to 2:30pm.

Unfortunately, volunteers will not be able to return to regular duties in May. We will continue to reevaluate bringing volunteers back. We want to make sure that when we clear volunteers to return to site that the chances of sending you back home due to another shut down or partial shut down is low.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Upcoming Closures

Saturday, May 29th through Monday, May 31st Manatee Village Historical Park will be closed in observance of Memorial Day weekend.

Fast Fact!

On May 14th in 1921 Sarasota became a county! Prior to that date Sarasota was part of Manatee County.

To learn more about Sarasota's upcoming centennial celebration click [here](#).

Fast Fact!

Mary Gates, one of the first white settlers in the Village of Manatee, was so excited to see a flock of flamingos that she fell out of the rowboat she was in and straight into the water!

More Fun Finds From Rachel

Rachel DesRosier, Events & Marketing Coordinator, has more interesting stories she'd like to share with our volunteers!

Are you a fan of gardening? Love a good science experiment? Check out this ongoing seed experiment that was started in 1879!

Read the article [here](#).

Want to know what makes an old house off-limits? Check out this "forbidden" home that was built in 1861!

Read the article [here](#).



Image Courtesy of NPR

Volunteer Opportunities

Even though current COVID health and safety policies prevent us from bringing volunteers back for day-to-day operations at Manatee Village, there are still some special project opportunities available!

See below to learn more about upcoming special volunteer opportunities.

Cemetery Cleanups, May 13th and May 14th

This will be the **last** scheduled cemetery cleanup this spring. This is a socially distanced outdoor volunteer activity. If you're new to cemetery cleanups training is provided by staff.

Interested in participating? For more details and to sign up for this volunteer opportunity visit Manatee Village's [Signup Genius](#) page.

Click [here](#) to be taken to [Signup Genius](#).

NEW! Historic Document Transcriber, ongoing

This is a volunteer-from-home opportunity. Transcribe historic documents and help preserve their contents for future researchers, students, and other members of the public. An overview of transcription best practices will be provided.

To learn more about this volunteer opportunity email allyson.oleary@manateeclerk.com.

Cemetery Family Trees Research, ongoing

This is a volunteer-from-home opportunity. Conduct ancestry and genealogy research to create family trees for those buried in the 1850 Manatee Burying Ground.

To learn more about this volunteer opportunity email allyson.oleary@manateeclerk.com.

Volunteer Spotlight

A big THANK YOU to Volunteer Nancy and her group Gulf Lakes Women's Club!

The Gulf Lakes Women's Club made a donation for the purposes of helping fund the construction of a wardrobe for our historical costumes.

Check out the new wardrobe below!



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.

