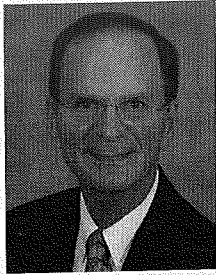


My Community

 **city of clearwater**

A Million Dollar Thank You

by George Cretekos
Clearwater City Councilman



As residents prepare for the Holidays and the start of the new year, the City of Clearwater is well into the first quarter of the new Fiscal Year, which began on October 1st.

The General Revenue budget for Fiscal Year 2010/2011 is \$111,437,900. This amount is 3% less than last year. It maintains the same millage rate of 5.155 mills, because the City Council realizes that limited resources are available. Moreover, the City staff continues to manage costs so as to minimize service reductions.

But, after several years of cuts to the budget, these reductions have become more visible. The challenges to balance "needs" with "wants" will be even more difficult if the projected loss in property values does not end and the economy does not improve next year.

Consequently, the City has reached out to the community to partner with businesses in an effort to do "more with less". There are also many opportunities for residents to give of their time at a library, recreation center, park or as a police volunteer.

For example, volunteers at the City's Parks and Recreation Department logged over 50,000 hours of service this year. That contribution saved the City's taxpayers over \$1,000,000. Organizations, such as the Heritage United Methodist Youth Group and the St. Petersburg College's Applied Ethics Institute helped in debris removal and cleanup projects throughout the City.

Individuals such as Mark Quering, the 2010 "Volunteer of the Year" and Carol Taylor, this year's "Most Dependable Volunteer" gave their energy and enthusiasm to make events at Coachman Park and other local venues successful.

So, when you see these neighbors or any of the hundreds of other community volunteers, remember to thank them for a job well done; and just as important, consider joining their ranks next year. Think how much better Clearwater could be if those who can would give just one hour of their time to community service.

Thank you and best wishes for a joyous Holiday season. ♦

City Councilman George Cretekos can be reached at (727) 562-4050 or by email at george.cretokos@myclearwater.com.

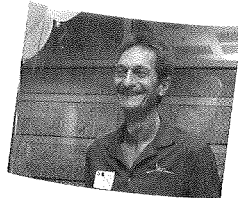
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

To volunteer, call 562-4803 or send an e-mail to Karen.Maldonado@myclearwater.com.

Volunteer of the Year

Mark Quering

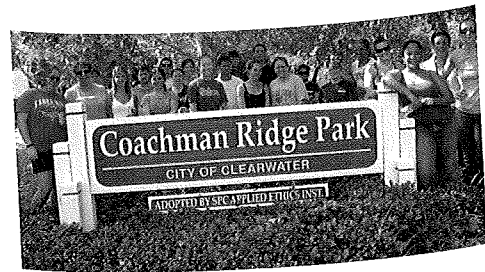
Through the years Mark Quering has played an instrumental part in making several City of Clearwater special events a success. Mark's enthusiasm, work ethic and positive attitude are an important factor in the successful implementation of events such as Clearwater Jazz Holiday, Knology Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival, and the Hispanic Heritage Festival. Mark has been known to take entire weeks off from work to be a part of these events and is a dependable and responsive volunteer. He is a team player, leader and eager to help out with whatever it takes to get the job done. He has taken several leadership positions, coordinated several merchandise areas, assisted with set-up and breakdown, and is one of the invaluable "go to" volunteers that can always be counted on to make himself available to others.



her employer, and completing projects for Hands on Tampa Bay. Carol can often be found making peanut butter sandwiches at the soup kitchen before putting in an eight-hour day at Coachman Park. The Parks & Recreation Department staff feels blessed to have her on the team and hopes she knows how much she is appreciated.

2010 Service Group of the Year

SPC Applied Ethics Institute



2010 Most Dependable Volunteer

Carol Taylor

Although a fairly new member of our volunteer family, Carol has made her mark as the Hospitality Queen of Events. Anyone who works at Coachman Park would recognize Carol as the friendly face who serves you lunch and/or dinner at the top of Library Hill. Carol not only works hard and gives her all, she has a good heart. Carol likes everyone, is polite to everyone and even hugs other volunteers from time to time. She is a joy to work with and a true gem. Carol became a Parks & Recreation volunteer in the last few years, but her volunteer resume stretches far into the past. Other activities include getting involved in her child's pursuits, volunteering with



SPC Applied Ethics Institute is one of the city's oldest and most reliable adopt-a-park partners. The group has cared for Coachman Ridge Park for four years. They often bring 30-50 students to work on a project and have tackled large scale invasive and debris removal. They also refer countless students each semester for assigned hours. SPC Applied Ethics Institute is a truly valuable partner and their advocacy for volunteerism and community assistance is appreciated.

Thank you to all volunteers. Whether you give one hour or 1,000 hours, you are an important and appreciated part of the Parks and Recreation family!

To view more photos from the Volunteer Appreciation Party please visit http://www.flickr.com/photos/city_of_clearwater/sets/72157625313999450/%20.