

## **Residents answer call to preserve city history**

By [Tim Pallesen](#)

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Greenacres native Phyllis Johns and 16-year-old history buff Christopher Merino are among volunteers ready to begin the Greenacres Historical Society.

"This is where my roots are," Johns said last week at her Fleming Avenue home, where she was born 66 years ago. "That makes my town special."

Merino, a junior at Lake Worth High School, says he's ready to start work because he loves history. "And it will look good on my college applications to say I'm a historian," he added.

Johns, Merino and 17 other enthusiastic citizens answered the city council's call to become the keepers of Greenacres history.

Each volunteer has a different reason for accepting the historical challenge.

Robert Clements, the commander of American Legion Post 258 in Greenacres, volunteered largely because of his friendship with Wally Tietboehl, the city's lone historian before he died three years ago.

"Greenacres is fairly unique because it's been able to keep a hometown type of atmosphere in a big county," observed Clements, a resident since 1977.

Other volunteers are Rita Auletta, Alyson Bisogno, Brett Brown, Robert Dimesky, Gilbert Ford, Anne Hudnall, Robert Horey, Kathy Johnson, Doris Kanner, Harry Lambert, Frank Melograno, Sandra Proc, Larry Pruitt, Ivan Toolsie and Betty Turso.

Council members were delighted by the response at their Aug. 7 meeting. "This is a good sign that this effort will be successful," Councilman Chuck Shaw said.

Councilman Norman Rose, who first proposed the historical society, pondered whether a "society" might be too formal for Greenacres. "If we call it a club, maybe people will be more likely to speak their piece," Rose suggested.

The council assigned City Clerk Sondra Hill to set a date for the historical group's first meeting.

Mayor Sam Ferreri said the city should give start-up help and space for the group to meet. "But I'd like to see them become financially independent," he told the council.

Greenacres' early historical records now exist mostly in the scrapbooks that Tietboehl donated to the city.

"I've seen those scrapbooks," Johns said. "My birth announcement is in there."

New Yorkers know the story of the Palm Restaurant on Second Avenue.

The original owners didn't have enough money to decorate.

But because the Palm was a favorite for cartoonists working at the nearby headquarters of King Features Syndicate, the owners would give a plate of spaghetti to cartoonists who drew their creations on his restaurant walls.

Cartoons drawn by the original artists of Beetle Bailey, Popeye, Batman, Hi & Lois and others still adorn those walls, now insured for \$500,000 each.

**In western Lake Worth, the owner of the Beef O'Brady's restaurant on Hypoluxo Road also had a bare wall.**

**A publicist sends us word that owner Aaron Carricato "came up with the idea of creating a VIP wall (similar to the Palm Restaurant) in which an artist (Captain Cartoon)" draws caricatures of children on Monday nights, when business typically is slow.**

**Beef O'Brady's has about 200 faces on its wall so far.**

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