

PSL Historical Pioneer News



Volume 6, Issue 1

Winter 2024

Dear Port St. Lucie Historical Society Members,

I know you have heard me say this before, but “ the opening of the city’s first museum is just around the corner,” and I am here to say that it truly is “just around the corner.”

If you have driven by the site on Westmoreland Boulevard, you will see that the construction equipment has been removed, the paint/stain on the exterior has been completely striped, the stairs are in, among other things. The interior was almost complete in December, with only lighting to be installed, and it’s beautiful. The last report I had from the City was the punch-list is short with only a few items left to complete and that the plan to turn the keys over to the Society would occur in March!

Even though we will have the keys, it will still be a few months before we have our Grand Opening. We have to move in, organize the many boxes of archives collected over the years, and create displays and exhibits. But this is where you can help. We need more hands, in the way of volunteers, to make this happen. If you are interested in volunteering, please go to our website and fill out the volunteer form.

Our goal is to have an official ribbon cutting sometime in late April or early May, and then there will be a big grand opening of the museum along with the whole Pioneer Park at the Port on June 15th. The City of Port St. Lucie is planning a whole day of events, free to the public so everyone can come out to enjoy and explore.

One of the features, that the Historical Society will be putting on is our first Classic Car Show. Classic and antique car owners will be invited to enter the show.

Letter continued on page 3

Society Annual Election of Officers Held

The Port St. Lucie Historical Society’s Annual meeting was held on January 30th at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens.

During the meeting, the election of officers took place. Members re-elected were Patricia Christensen as Chairperson and Wade Willnow as Vice Chairperson.

Christine Williams was elected as Treasurer and new to the board is Stephanie Morgan, who was elected as Secretary.

In addition to the Officers election, three Board members were re-elected to the Board for a four year term. They are Marty Zientz, Maria Bordonaro and Wade Willnow. Stephanie Morgan was elected to fill an unfinished term.



Port St. Lucie Historical Society members, (L to R) Marty Zientz, Maria Bordonaro, and Wade Willnow all re-elected to the Board of Directors and Stephanie Morgan was elected to the Board for the first time.

Elections continued on page 3

Thanks to our members who continually support the Port St. Lucie Historical Society in so many ways!!!!

GIVE A BRICK ... IT WILL LAST FOREVER

As "The Port" takes shape on Westmoreland Boulevard, and the restoration of the historic homes began, the Port St. Lucie Historical Society took on a brick paver project to build a plaza between the two historic homes. The purpose of the project is to make the Society more financially sustainable, especially with the museum and education center opening sometime in 2023.

Be sure the names of your family, friends or firm will be cemented into Port St. Lucie's history. Show your pride in and support in your community. You can purchase one or more bricks

to help

build the patio between the historic homes. Engraved bricks will be installed on the plaza between the buildings. Two sizes are available at \$100 or \$200.

Ordering a brick is easy. Go to the PSL Historic Society website at pslhistory.org to complete the form.



Annual membership invoices mailed

Invoices for 2024 membership renewal were mailed out in January. If you didn't receive an invoice, don't worry. We implemented a new plan where you are invoiced in the quarter you joined the Historical Society. So if you only joined or paid later in the year, your invoice will be sent in that quarter that you originally paid.

For those who have already renewed, we thank you. If you haven't already renewed, please consider doing so, soon. With the opening of the new museum just around the corner, funds will be needed to purchase things needed for the museum. You can renew by going on our website or mailing a check.

Dues went up this year in anticipation of opening the museum, and some new levels of membership were added. Go to our website and review the new tier levels. You can change your level when you make your payment. It's simple. Just go to the Society's website by at pslhistory.org.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE
PORT ST. LUCIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



Find us on:
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Letter continued from page 1

So if you are a classic car enthusiast, plan on stopping by.

There will be awards and prizes for several different categories. So if you are an classic care enthusiast plan on stopping by.

Finally, for all members of the Society, we will have a few special surprises for you who have helped make this a reality. Make sure you renew your membership to ensure you will receive the invitation. More information will be coming via email and the spring edition of this newsletter.

We hope you will join us and be a part of making history in Port St. Lucie!

Best regards,

Patricia Christensen

Chairperson

Holiday Raffle Winner

During the month of December the Port St. Lucie Historical Society held a raffle of a Christmas Tree with over \$300 dollars worth of gift cards, donated by the Board members and a decorative gnome, donated by member, Linda Bagley.

Tickets were sold at the Holiday Light Show at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens for several weekends, at the Holiday Gathering and the Shell Bazaar. On the 16th of December, just in time for Christmas a winner was drawn from the hundreds of tickets sold.

The winner was Debbie Kliff, daughter of long-time historical society member, Lee Hicks. Congratulations to Debbie, and thank you, to everyone who purchased tickets and made donations to the Historical Society. The drawing brought in over \$1500 in ticket sales and another \$700 in donations, which will go towards purchasing furnishings for the museum.



Christine Williams, Board member of the PSL Historical Society along with member, Lee Hicks and daughter Debbie, winner of the Holiday Gift Card Tree

Election continued from page 1

In other business, Board members were appointed to Standing Committee chair positions the operation of the organization.

All members of the Society are welcome to volunteer for any of the Standing Committees and work with the Board. "This is going to be an exciting year," said Chair Patricia Christensen referring to the opening of the museum. "It is the perfect time to get involved and be a part of making history." If you are interested in getting involved, contact Patricia Christensen at pchristensen@pslhistory.org

Some of the areas to volunteer are archiving, writing, exhibit creation, fundraising and event planning.

Board Meeting Notices

Join us at our Port St. Lucie Historical Society Board meetings. We meet monthly at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens. Our meetings begin at noon the LAST Tuesday of every month, not the fourth.

All our Society members in good standing are invited to attend our meetings. We are doing a lot of planning to get ready to move into our new Museum. Consider joining us and be part of this momentous occasion.

We hope to see you soon!

Society members celebrate the holidays with good cheer and prizes

In December the Society hosted it's Annual Holiday Gathering for it's members at Santa Lucia River Club. Great crowd, fun, food, music and games with some prizes.

There were lots of raffle prizes and a 50/50 drawing. Ralph Villani provided our musical entertainment. A big thank you to member, Linda Bagley and her sister for making two beautiful gift baskets, which they donated for the raffle.



It's time for the
Port St. Lucie Historical Society's first
Membership Gathering of the Year!

**Wednesday, February 21, 2024
beginning at 5:30 PM**

Located at Santa Lucia River Club at Ballentrae
3325 Ballantrea Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL

We will also have a raffle and 50/50, (CASH ONLY)



Our guest speaker is
Michelle Franklin, St. Lucie
County Property Appraiser

Please RSVP for your name to be on the list at the entrance gate.
\$26.00 per person, includes dinner and 1 drink ticket

For your convenience you may reserve and pay online at pslhistory.org

Payment at the door is acceptable with cash, check or credit.

Bring a friend to help expand our membership and become a
little part of history at the same time.

Must RSVP to Membership@pslhistory.org by February 14, 2024