

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Dedicated to our Unique History

P.O. Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139
ESHP@hotmail.com • www.ESHP.org

The **TOWN CRIER** newsletter is issued periodically to keep ESHP members and the public informed of our activities. We welcome news and feedback.

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Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. The Society is concerned with the **preservation of all historic sites, structures, documents, artifacts, and memories** within the Everglades area.

DIRECTORS

Connie Barker, Helen Bryan, Hydie Friend (Vice-President),
Patty Huff (President), Donald Kim,
Elaine Middelstaedt (Treasurer), Marya Repko (Secretary)

ESHP MEMBERSHIP

(renewable each January 1st except for Lifetime categories)

Individual (\$25) Family (\$40)
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*Make your check payable to "ESHP" and send it to
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TOWN CRIER

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Newsletter

JANUARY 2023
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 1



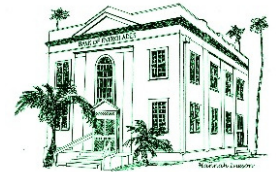
BUSY DAY ...

It's all happening on **Saturday, January 14**, in historic Everglades City as we start the Collier County Centennial Year (1923-2023) in the first County seat.

9am-11am: **Guided Bike Ride**, meet in McLeod Park
10am-12pm: **live Radio Broadcast**, Visitor Center Porch
10am - 1pm: **Art-in-the-Glades**, McLeod Park
12pm - 6pm: **Music Festival**, Rod & Gun Club

Our thanks to Pete Gallagher for organizing the musicians and bringing his "Florida Folk Show" on 96.7FM to our little city. And, thanks to all the local businesses and artists who have donated wonderful items for our auctions.

Events are free except for the Music Festival which is a fundraiser for the Bank of Everglades Building. Tickets are available online at www.Save-BOE.org and will be for sale at Art-in-the-Glades.



Visitor Center

The Grand Opening of the Everglades Area Visitor Center at **207 West Broadway** was on February 1, 2020, with a plethora of dignitaries to wish us well.

There was obviously a need for a place that tourists could get information about what to do in our locality after the Chamber of Commerce was dissolved so ESHP stepped up to fill the gap and promote our historic area.

We also made space for artists to display and sell their work but we decided not to compete with local businesses.

When the old **Bank of Everglades Building** has been rehabilitated, the Visitor Center & Trail Town HQ will be downstairs with more space for displays, information racks, and artwork. The original vault will become a theater showing the film "Wind Across the Everglades" which was made around Everglades City in 1957 with some locals acting as extras.

The Center is staffed by volunteers. For info, phone Connie at (419) 350-6650.


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MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Saturday, January 14: Busy Day!

See Front Page.

Weekend, February 17/18/19: Everglades Seafood Festival

 See website: www.evergladeseafoodfestival.org
Friday, February 24: Annual Meeting & Historical Talk

5:30pm, Everglades Community Church

Saturday, February 25: Art-in-the-Glades

10am-1pm, McLeod Park

Thursday, March 23: Barron Collier 150th Birthday

Details to be announced in future.

Saturday, March 25: Art-in-the-Glades

10am-1pm, McLeod Park

Saturday, April 29: Tamiami Trail 95th Anniversary

Museum of the Everglades

 See www.colliermuseums.com
BOARD MEETINGS

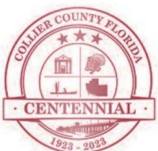
Our Board of Directors meets on the first Monday of the month. The next meeting is on **February 6**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Visitor Center. Members are welcome to attend and contribute ideas. For info, phone Patty at (239) 719-0020.

ESHP MEMBERSHIP

We have 82 members. Renewals are due in January and notices will be sent out by email and post. Save time by filling in the form on the back of this newsletter and sending it with your check. Or, avoid the annual hassle by becoming a Lifetime member.

Model-A Club Visit

If you like vintage cars, stop by the Rod & Gun Club on **Saturday, January 21**, when the Ford Model-A Club of Fort Myers will be visiting for lunch. Dating from 1928-1931, these antique vehicles were just in time to cross Collier's new Tamiami Trail which was finished in April, 1928.


COLLIER CENTENNIAL

The County was established in 1923 so we will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary throughout the year. See www.colliercounty100.com.

Our City lamp posts will be festooned with **banners** depicting historical sites. For info about how you can contribute to this project, contact Patty at (239) 719-0020.

News from Naples

Historic Palm Cottage is currently closed for repairs after Hurricane Ian. See website www.napleshistoricalsociety.org or phone (239) 261-8164.


GOOD NEWS!

The Federal omnibus funding bill for Fiscal Year 2023 which was passed by Congress and signed by the President just before Christmas includes **funding for our Bank of Everglades Building project**, thanks to our local representative Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart who submitted an appropriation of \$3million for us.

The grant is from the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) as part of their Community Projects.

These Federal funds will cover the costs of stabilizing the foundation and other structural issues. We anticipate that the total project to rehabilitate the Bank of Everglades Building will be closer to \$5 million so we will continue to fundraise and apply for state and private grants.


YEA! Year-End Appeal

More good news. Our email campaign at the end of December brought in over \$22k for the Save-BOE Fund.

MUSEUM OF EVERGLADES


The Special Exhibit is "**Gearheads in the Glades**" showing how vehicles were adapted to the swamp. It will be replaced on February 14 by a display about the Southwest Mounted Patrol.

The Third Thursday Talk at 2:00pm on **January 19** is titled "Legends & Lore of the Everglades" and explores some of the strange things in our area such as the Skunk Ape.

For info, see www.colliermuseums.com or phone the Museum at (239) 252-5026.

100 YEARS AGO...

We're not the only ones celebrating a Centennial. Hendry County was also established in 1923 with LaBelle as its seat. It was cut out of Lee County because residents in the eastern part of the area complained that Ft Myers was too far away

The legislation went through on May 11 that year so Collier County is older by 3 days!

The history is similar to ours. The road across the State connecting Ft Myers and Palm Beach (now SR-80) was completed in 1926. The Courthouse in LaBelle was finished in 1927 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A Bank was founded in 1922 and moved to a new building in 1925. Business suffered in 1927 after the land boom collapsed and the Bank was dissolved in 1937. The building became shops and lodging.

The new County was named after Francis A. Hendry, a cattle rancher and large landowner who settled the area in the 1890s. You can listen to a self-guided walking tour online at www.citylabelle.com, click on Community.

