

**EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Dedicated to our Unique History

P O Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139

email: ESHPI@hotmail.com

website: www.evergladeshistorical.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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ESHP, Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation. The Society is concerned with **preserving all historic sites, structures, documents, artifacts, and memories** within the Everglades area.

TOWN CRIER

**EVERGLADES SOCIETY
FOR HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2009
VOLUME 5, NUMBER 2



ESHP ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

- Individual (\$25)
- Family (\$40)
- Patron (\$100)
- Benefactor (\$500)
- Business (\$100)
- Extra (\$_____)

*Please make check payable to "ESHP" and send to
ESHP, P.O. Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139*

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CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

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CITY _____

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MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS:

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

I would like to help with

- fund raising
- Historical Library
- special events
- merchandise sales
- publicity/website
- historical research
- legal/financial
- engineering/architecture
- other _____

DATE _____ signature _____

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ESHP will have a booth at the Everglades Seafood Festival on **Saturday/Sunday, February 7/8**. If you can help for a few hours, phone Marya at 695-2905.

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival takes place at the Museum during the week of **February 23-26**. For information about the varied program, phone 695-0008 or see www.evergladesmuseum.org.

Last Chance for Bricks!

We will take orders for engraved bricks to be placed in the walkway in front of City Hall until **February 13** when we will notify the factory of what we want. Bricks cost \$50 for a plain one or \$75 including a little picture. They make permanent gifts to commemorate a birth, anniversary, or memorial. Order forms are available at City Hall or at our website www.evergladeshistorical.org or phone 695-2905.

ELECTIONS

At the Board meeting on February 3, the Directors voted to accept the new by-laws for ESHP (see article inside). That date was also the deadline for nominations for the new Board. Ballots will be sent out on February 13 to all "members in good standing" (ie, paid up for 2009). The results will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Members' Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 3**, at 6:30 p.m. at the Seafood Depot. After a brief business meeting, there will be an informative presentation and a social evening with refreshments. For more info, phone Jean at 695-0202 or Pat at 695-4642.

MEMBERSHIP

Renewal notices for 2009 were sent out at the beginning of January. Thanks to the 40 members who have renewed promptly. Reminders for those who have not replied are included with this newsletter.

We have 72 members in the following categories:

- Individual 29
- Family 28
- Business 6
- Patron 8
- Benefactor 1



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New ESHP By-Laws

The main provisions of the new by-laws, which were adopted at the Board Meeting on February 3, are:

MEMBERSHIP. The categories are those shown on our application for annual membership. Each membership is entitled to one vote. The Board may grant Honorary membership (which is non-voting) to someone who has benefited the Society. An Annual Members' Meeting will be held each year in Everglades City.

DIRECTORS. Directors are elected annually by the membership. Ballots are counted at the Annual Members' Meeting and Directors serve from that time until the next Annual Members' Meeting. The Directors will hold regular Board Meetings at least four times per year. Board Meetings are open to all members.

OFFICERS. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer are elected annually by the Directors.

COMMITTEES. The Directors may establish Committees which will report to the Board and keep written records of their meetings.

ISLAND HISTORY ON TV

Our local public broadcasting station WGCU will show a new episode of "Untold Stories" on Friday, February 27, at 8:30 p.m. The subject is "The Story of Captiva", the barrier island off the Gulf Coast of Fort Myers. Although it is now known for its exclusive residents and celebrity visitors, Captiva was a farming & fishing community similar to our own in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The program repeats on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. For more info, see www.wgcu.org where you can also order DVDs.

THANKS to the volunteers who helped at our booth during Art-in-the-Glades on January 17:

- Jerry Fingeroff
- Tom Leonard
- Jane Rackley
- Pat Rinkevich
- Sue Turner

and to Phill Lawry for moving the tables in his truck.

News from the Historical Library



Our latest acquisition is *In Spite of Myself*, the autobiography of actor Christopher Plummer who, as a young man in 1957, played a role in "Wind Across the Everglades" which was filmed in this area.



HISTORICAL SIGNAGE

Congratulations to Everglades Community Church on the new Heritage Landmark sign which was installed in front of the building during the last week in January. The sign reads:

EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH ESTABLISHED 1926

This building was completed by April 1940 on land donated in May 1939 by the estate of Barron Gift Collier, founder of the county which bears his name and its largest landholder. The congregation at that time was Presbyterian, officially established in 1926, and had met in various places in the city. Before then, various visiting pastors served the area, the first being the Reverend George W. Gatewood in 1888. One condition of the gift of land was that the structure be erected before October 1, 1940 and that the church be non-denominational. Both conditions were met when the dedication ceremony took place on May 5th, 1940. The town was a Collier company town with buildings constructed of ship lap siding, a tin roof, and flooring made of Date County pine. A fellowship hall and breezeway to the southwest was added in the late 1950s. The digital carillon was installed in 1990 and chimes hourly. On September 4, 2007, Everglades City proclaimed the church to be historically preserved because it "provides links with the aspirations and attainments of the City's pioneers and their descendents." The bell tower and narthex were repaired in June, 2008, as the first step in a complete restoration of the building.

A FLORIDA HERITAGE LANDMARK
SPONSORED BY EVERGLADES CITY
AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ESHP has formed a project committee to help owners of other historic properties apply for a sign. For info, phone Marya at 695-2905 or Jean at 695-0202.