

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Dedicated to our Unique History

P O Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139

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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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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.

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(renewable each January 1)

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TOWN CRIER

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Newsletter



MAY 2017

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 4

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 1: Independence Day Celebration

10am-1pm, McLeod Park

see article inside

Sept 30: Blessing of the Stone Crab Fleet

10am-1pm, Rod & Gun Club

see article below

ESHP BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors usually meets at 8:30 a.m. on the first Monday of the month in our Historical Library in Everglades City Hall. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, September 11**. Members are welcome to attend and contribute ideas.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 70 current members.

To join us, just fill in the form on this newsletter or pay with a debit/credit card online at www.evergladeshistorical.org.

Welcome to new members since our last newsletter:

Judy Herren Humphrey Naples

Elaine Reed, Naples

Karen Relish, Naples

SUMMER SHOW

The popular ECity School **Student Art Exhibit** will be on show at the Museum of the Everglades during the months of June, July, and August.

The Museum is the pink building at 105 West Broadway, Everglades City, FL, 34139 and admission is free. It is open to the public Monday through Saturday, 9am to 4pm For more info, phone (239) 695-0008.

Come along to see how talented our kids are!

Blessing of the Stone Crab Fleet

Join us to wish our stone crabbers well on **Saturday, September 30**, on the west bank of the Barron River at the historic Rod & Gun Club before they drop their traps. The season begins on October 15 when we can enjoy the first harvest and runs until May 15.

This is a local family occasion with games for the kiddies as well as the serious feature when pastors from local churches bless each boat.

The schedule for the festivities will be announced in our September issue so save the date!



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Photo courtesy of Thomas Lockyear

MUSEUM BIRTHDAY

Another wonderful annual celebration was held at the Museum on April 29 with tasty hotdogs, birthday cake, and a lively jazz band. The antique cars from Marco Island set the scene.

The day started with a guided walking tour of the city led by Martha Hutchenson, Museum assistant, and a talk about the Tamiami Trail by Henry Gonzalez, a ranger at Collier-Seminole State Park where the gigantic restored dredge resides.

For historians, the highlight was Story-Telling by older residents. **Ron Echols** recalled the history of the Laundry family, of which he is a member and expert. Then, **Jimmy Brewer** amused us with his recollections and funny stories. **Arita Parker**, who was born in ECity, said the kids were never bored and ran around knowing that if they were naughty, someone would scold them; the village was like one big family.

Thanks to prompting by Helen Bryan, **Mama Dot** (a spunky 92-year-old) joined the panel. She was famous for her hamburgers in the old Everglades Inn but started life in New York City where she met and married Ivan Weeks.

Everyone agreed that the Colliers treated locals very well, looking after them and helping them to get ahead in life.

**Historic Tours**

The Naples Historical Society have automated booking for their guided tours of Palm Cottage and the surrounding district. You can see the schedule and reserve your places at their website www.napleshistoricalsociety.org, click on HOME and then on Book A Tour.

Summer Events

The Marco Island Historical Society offer plenty to do over the summer months including talks and Museum events. To find out more, see www.theMIHS.org

**INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**

Join the parade on **Saturday, July 1**, which will wend its way around the Circle after the opening ceremony at 10:00am. The theme this year is *Star Spangled Banner* and there are prizes for the best entries. That is followed by arts & crafts, hotdogs, raffles, and contests for the kiddies in McLeod Park.

The schedule is:

- 10:00am Opening Ceremony
- 10:30am PARADE
- 11:00am Booths Open, Food, Music
- 11:00am Parade Winners Announced
- 11:30am Kiddies' Best-Dressed Contest
- 12:30pm Raffle Winners Announced
- 9:00pm FIREWORKS

For info, phone Dottie at City Hall on (239) 695-3781.

Donations for the Fireworks Fund are always welcome. You can send a check to City of Everglades City, P O Box 110, Everglades City, FL, 34139, or drop it in at City Hall.

News from the Historical Library

These are just some of the file boxes of research papers donated by Lila Zuck to the Library, collected over 25 years before she published her mammoth history *Naples; A Second Paradise*, reviewed in our May 2013 newsletter.

If you would like to give old books, newspapers, or photos to the Historical Library on the second floor of City Hall, where they are safe from storms, phone Marya at (239) 695-2905.