

**EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Dedicated to our Unique History

P.O. Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139

ESHP@hotmail.com

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.

DIRECTORS

Kathy Brock (President), Helen Bryan, Hydie Friend
Patty Huff (Vice-President), Elaine Middelstaedt (Treasurer)
Marya Repko (Secretary), John M. Wilson, Craig Woodward

ESHP MEMBERSHIP

(renewable each January 1 except for Lifetime categories)

- Individual (\$25) Family (\$40)
- Patron (\$100) Benefactor (\$500)
- Life Individual (\$1,000) Life Family (\$1,500)

NAME _____

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CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

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MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS:

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TOWN CRIER

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PRESERVATION**

Newsletter



JANUARY 2021
VOLUME 17, NUMBER 1



VISITOR CENTER

Unfortunately, we had to close the center on March 16th because of the COVID pandemic. The highlight was a visit by Mayor Howie Grimm and Senator Rick Scott, seen above with ESHP President Kathy Brock, on February 21.

During the six weeks it was open, we welcomed about 1,600 visitors from Canada, Europe, and many American states, include a majority from Florida.

We also kept track of volunteer hours; the total was 618 from 24 people. The highest numbers were, not surprisingly, Tim & Kathy Brock and Patty Huff.

We decided at our last Board meeting to stay closed until the coronavirus vaccine is readily available and the numbers of positive tests goes down.

In the meantime, see www.visitevergladescity.com to read about what is open in our area..



NEW SIGNS

We've been busy, despite the restriction on events.

We installed four brown HISTORIC DISTRICT signs near the Rod & Gun and North Storter Avenue.

There is also a new historic plaque on Broadway near the gold fish pond which now has little metal fish since it was cleaned up by Boy Scout Troop 2001 in November, 2019.


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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

We do not plan any in-person events this winter because of the COVID pandemic.

Feb 19: ESHP Annual Meeting

will be held by ZOOM, details to be announced

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meets at 9:00 a.m. on the first Monday of the month. The next meeting will be on **Monday, February 1**, in the Visitor Center. Members are welcome to attend and contribute ideas. For info, phone Marya at 695-2905.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 61 members. Renewals are due in January of each year. Thanks to the 11 who have replied to my email reminder.

To join us or renew, just fill in the form on the back of this newsletter or use a debit/credit card at our website www.evergladeshistorical.org.

ELECTION TIME

The ESHP Board of Directors serve for three years and were last elected in 2018 so their terms will expire in 2021.



The by-laws allow for between 5 and 11 Directors. We are calling on members who wish to join the Board to fill in the attached Nomination Form by **February 1**.

We do not need to call a formal election if there are fewer than 12 candidates but we will ratify the slate at our Annual Members' Meeting on **February 19**.

The Board meets once a month except during the summer and try to finish all the business within one hour. It also uses email to decide on urgent issues.

If you have questions, phone our president Kathy Brock at (954) 662-7003.

FAREWELL

Rob Rogers passed away at age 80 in March. He and his wife Sue came here from their Canadian home to spend winters and entertained us with lively Irish music.

Barbara Portz passed away at age 92 in April. She was a Founding Member of the Friends of the Museum and a supporter of our efforts to preserve history. She grew up in Miami but retired with her late husband Phil to our area.

Jimmy Brewer passed away at age 85 in August. He spent most of his life in the Everglades area and had many funny stories to tell about growing up here. In his later years he was a school bus driver and dressed up as Santa each Christmas.

LOST BUILDINGS



We are still seeing the effects of Hurricane Irma which brought a deluge here over 3 years ago. The latest original home to be demolished because it was beyond repair was on Riverside Drive on the corner of Ixora Street. It was originally owned by the Rod & Gun Club and used as a guest house.



Gulf American developed Remuda Ranch in 1966 and built two hotels on the Tamiami Trail about 12 miles west of SR-29 at what is now known as Port of the Islands. The north site included a shooting range and stabling for horses plus a hotel which was neglected and finally condemned.

If you shop on Amazon, you can benefit ESHP by using this link: smile.amazon.com/gp/ch/list/20-2229534

Amazon donates 0.5% of qualifying sales to the charity of your choice.

News from the Historical Library



We can scan old photos and small documents in our office on the first floor of City Hall while you wait if you do not want to donate the originals.

We also welcome old books of local interest for the Historical Library, phone Marya at (239) 695-2905.