

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

Helen Bryan, Hydie Friend (Vice-President),
Patty Huff (President), Hannah Ineson, Donald Kim,
Elaine Middelstaedt (Treasurer), Tony Pernas,
Marya Repko (Secretary)

ESHP MEMBERSHIP

(renewable each January 1st except for Lifetime categories)

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

*Make your check payable to "ESHP" and send it to
ESHP, P.O.Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139*

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MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS:

- JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN
- JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

TOWN CRIER

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Newsletter

SUMMER 2024
VOLUME 19, NUMBER 3



**Highlighting
Board
Member
Tony Pernas**

At our 2024 annual meeting in February Tony Pernas was elected to the ESHP Board. Tony, a 1988 graduate of Environmental Studies at Florida International University in Miami, served most recently as the Chief of Resource Management at Big Cypress National Preserve until his retirement in early 2022. Tony was responsible for managing all park science and resource management operations. From 2015 to 2019, he was a botanist at Big Cypress, managing and supervising one of the largest invasive plant management programs in the National Park Service and was responsible for writing grant proposals that resulted in approximately \$700,000 in grants annually for invasive plant management and ecological restoration from outside funding sources. He also developed partnerships for threatened and Endangered (Federal/state) Plant Monitoring with Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens, Naples Zoo, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Atlanta Botanical Gardens as well as establishing and managing the Burmese python volunteer program (>100 snakes in 2017/2018). Tony currently serves on the Everglades City Council, the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization Board, the Collier County Local Planning Board, Associate of the Institute for Regional Conservation, the Communities of Everglades Disaster Recovery Committee Chair, Disaster Ready Collier County Board of Directors, and Past President of the Lion's Club of Everglades. Tony has been instrumental in assisting ESHP with the required Environmental Review for our federal funding.



For all the latest news and photos, see our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/ESHP.org>.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, November (TBA): Annual Music Festival

Rod & Gun Club, 12 noon

BOARD MEETINGS

Our Board of Directors meets on the first Monday (except for holidays) each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Visitor Center. The next meeting is on **Monday, September 9**. Members are welcome to attend and share ideas with us. For information, phone Patty at (239) 719-0020.

ESHP MEMBERSHIP

We did it! We have over 100 active members. The number is important to show that we have local support when we go for funding. *To join or renew, see the form on the back page of this newsletter or visit our website www.ESHP.org. Your membership supports one of our most important projects, the Everglades Area Visitor Center, located at 207 West Broadway in the Glades Building, as well as our other projects, including all the Banners celebrating our 100th anniversary last year and our recent high school graduates.*

Welcome to our 7 new BUSINESS members:

The Mullet Rapper
Marilyn's Luxury Boutique on 5th Avenue, Naples
Captain Morgan's Seafood Grill, Everglades City
Skunk Ape Headquarters, Ochopee
Diving Pelican Restaurant & Bar, Everglades City
Gator Hole Bar, Everglades City
Glades Haven Gift & Tackle Shop, Everglades City

MUSEUM OF EVERGLADES



The Special Exhibit in the Pauline Reeves Gallery at the front of the Museum is **"Thank You for Your Service – A Salute to the Everglades Veterans"** – now through September 14. This exhibit is augmented with historic information about the area's contributions to our country's armed conflicts in both natural resources and manpower.

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

News from Naples

The Naples Historical Society at Palm Cottage invites everyone to **"Council of Longtime Friends"** on Friday, October 4, 2024, 5 pm to 7 pm.



Naples Historical Society invites you to join Naples treasured "Old-Timers". Share memorable stories of life here "back in the day". This is a FREE event and refreshments will be served. Reservations are required. Call the Society to RSVP at 239-261-8164. For information, visit www.napleshistoricalsociety.org.

President's Update on the Bank Building Project

by Patty Huff

Over the past six months ESHP has been working diligently, completing necessary documents and applying for funding through both state and federal agencies. The following is an update that we want to share with you:

- **Environmental Review:** With the acceptance of the \$3 million federal appropriations last year, we were required to complete an Environmental Review to HUD. This was a 16-month process with the ER finally submitted on May 6. We recently received notification that the "environmental review for this project was adequately completed and approved/certified" by HUD. Great news to be able to start the project!
- **Additional Federal Funding Request** for \$2 million submitted on March 22: We received a letter on May 22 from our U.S. Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart that the Appropriations Committee decided that "non-profits are ineligible to apply for Community Project Funding projects for fiscal year 2025." This was a disappointment!
- **Palladian Window:** On May 31 ESHP submitted a matching grant application for \$50,000 (total) to the State Division of Historic Resources to cover the cost of the historic Palladian window. This cost includes installation and estimated price increase.
- **State Funding Request** for \$1.559 million: Our Florida State Appropriations Request was approved by both the House of Representatives and the Senate in May, then vetoed by the Governor when he signed the 2024-25 budget.
- **Construction Documents:** REG Architects has completed the construction documents for permit review and will soon send out bids for a general contractor.

So, we have had some good and some bad news recently. During the upcoming months, we should be able to see great progress and will keep you updated. We would also like to thank you for your past support and appreciate your interest in our Bank of Everglades Building Project.



EVERGLADES AREA
VISITOR CENTER

207 West Broadway
Everglades City, FL, 34139



Visitor Center Welcomes You

Our Everglades Area Visitor Center & Trail Town Headquarters is busy greeting visitors from around the world. If you are interested in volunteering, drop by or phone Patty at (239) 719-0020.