

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)

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$40) |
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ESHP, P.O.Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139*

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MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS:

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If this is a gift, we will send a card. Tell us who it is from:

TOWN CRIER

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Newsletter

FALL 2024
VOLUME 19, NUMBER 4



MUSIC FESTIVAL


ESHP would like to thank the Rod & Gun Club for providing the venue for our music festivals every year. This year, in addition to a full menu inside, they offered drinks and delicious tacos and fried gator snacks. We are grateful to all our 40 businesses that donated gift certificates and items for our raffle and silent auction. And, of course, we couldn't have this festival without the musicians (like Aubee Billee and Raiford Starke in the photo) who were gathered by Pete Gallagher to come here and support us with their time & talents. Thank You!!

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



Have you seen the Marco Cats?

There are two of them ... the historic one inside the Museum and the big bronze statue outside. That now shines beautifully thanks to the efforts of the Marco Island Historical Society who raised funds for its professional restoration and conservation.

The ancient artifact in the Museum is so small but so dark and so dense – there is a block of the same weight that you can pick up to get an idea of how he must have survived all these years. 

The current special exhibit features the artwork of Paul Arsenault over 50 years in Southwest Florida.

The address is 180 S. Heathwood Avenue, next to the public library. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9am to 4pm, and admission is free.

The huge feline guarding the front entrance is on watch all the time if you want to pet him.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, December 7: Swamp Heritage Festival

Big Cypress National Preserve, 10am-3:30pm

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Preserve!

[Swamp Heritage Festival - Big Cypress National Preserve \(U.S. National Park Service\)](http://www.nps.gov/swamp)

Saturday, December 7: Art-in-the-Glades

McLeod Park, 10am-1pm

for info, phone Marya at (239) 451-0265

=== 2025 ===

Saturday, January 11: White Pelican Festival

Smallwood Store, Chokoloskee, 11:00AM

Live Music, Seminole Stories, Food, Boat Rides

Saturday, January 18: Art-in-the-Glades

McLeod Park, 10am-1pm

Sat/Sun, February 8/9: Everglades Seafood Festival

Everglades City Circle, 10am-6pm

www.evergladesseafoodfestival.org

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, December 2**. Members are welcome to attend and share ideas with us. For information, phone Patty at (239) 719-0020.

ESHP MEMBERSHIP

Give the Gift of History!

If you buy a membership for a friend or neighbor or relation, we will send a little gift and card to the recipient. See *the form on the back page*.

All memberships received now will extend through the end of 2025. You can avoid annoying annual renewal notices by becoming a Lifetime member.

MUSEUM OF EVERGLADES



The Special Exhibit in the Pauline Reeves Gallery at the front of the Museum is **"Python Hunters; Preserving Paradise One Snake at a Time"** – now through January 11.

The interesting subject of the Third Thursday Talk on **December 19** is "The Dauntless Dr. Snyder – Physician, Hotelier, and Politician in the Swamp".

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

News from Naples

The Naples Historical Society at Palm Cottage has a full calendar of events planned for the 2025 winter season.

For information, visit www.napleshistoricalsociety.org or phone 239-261-8164.



President's Update

Bank of Everglades Building

by Patty Huff



Exciting news to report! The permitting process has begun, and we will soon be signing a contract with a general contractor to oversee our rehabilitation project for the historic Bank of Everglades Building!

REG Architects have been working very hard the past three months to complete all the necessary documents and application forms to move this project forward.

I was scheduled to attend the Division of Historic Resources Special Category Grants review process in Tallahassee when Hurricane Helene formed and headed to north Florida. This was followed two weeks later by Hurricane Milton so the meeting is now scheduled for November 19-20. The Commissioners review all the applicants and ask us to be present to answer any questions. This is our grant requesting a matching grant of \$25,000 to help fund the replacement of the historic Palladian window over the front door of the Bank Building. We are looking for matching funds so please consider our non-profit organization when making your year-end tax-advantaged contributions.

REG also sent out bids to four qualified general contracting firms in south Florida. We then narrowed the bid process to two contractors and have now made a decision which will soon be announced once the contract is signed. Hopefully, with the permitting process underway and final selection of the GC, we will begin with the demolition of the rear 1950s section of the building and then proceed with repair of the foundation, replacement of windows, etc.

Funding is still needed in order to complete the entire project so, again, we appreciate any contributions our members and friends can provide before the end of the year.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me at 239-719-0020.

Best wishes for the holiday season!



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 and telling them about local businesses here. If you would like to volunteer, phone Patty at (239) 719-0020.

Stop in to see the work of amazing artists on sale there ... and do your holiday shopping!