

**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), 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)

NAME _____

STREET / P.O. Box _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

ALTERNATE ADDRESS

STREET / P.O. Box _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS:

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

If this is a Gift, we will send a card and goodie bag. Please tell who it is from:

TOWN CRIER

**EVERGLADES SOCIETY
FOR HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

Newsletter

JANUARY 2024
VOLUME 19, NUMBER 1




EXCLUSIVE ~ 20 @ \$20


Come along during Seafood Festival on the weekend of **February 3/4** to sign up for an **Exclusive Tour** of the old Bank of Everglades Building. We will be giving a guided walk-through of this historic landmark to a limited group of only 20 people each day and explain what we have planned for it.

ESHP will also have tables of interesting items for sale (including John Apte's wonderful aerial photos) in the **parking lot behind the Bank**, facing the tennis courts, so stop by to see what's on offer or just to chat.

To learn more about ECity's signature event, see website www.evergladesseafoodfestival.org where you will find a schedule of events and a line up of performers.



**EVERGLADES AREA
VISITOR CENTER**
207 West Broadway
Everglades City, FL, 34139



Visitor Center Welcomes You

Our Everglades Area Visitor Center & Trail Town Headquarters is in the coral-colored building at **207 West Broadway**. Stop in for information about area businesses and to see the work of amazing local artists on sale there.

If you are interested in volunteering, drop by or phone Patty at (239) 719-0020.

 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, January 13: Art-in-the-Glades

McLeod Park, 10am-1pm

Sat/Sun, February 3/4: Everglades Seafood Festival

Everglades Circle, 10am-6pm

See article on front page.

Friday, February 23: Annual Meeting & Historical Talk

Everglades Isle, 2pm

Saturday, February 24: Art-in-the-Glades

McLeod Park, 10am-1pm

BOARD MEETINGS

Our Board of Directors usually meets on the first Monday each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Visitor Center. The next meeting is on **Monday, February 5**. Members are welcome to attend and share ideas with us. For info, phone Patty at (239) 719-0020.

ESHP MEMBERSHIP

We have 97 active members. **Help us reach the magic number of 100 by joining.** See the form on the back page of this newsletter or visit our website www.ESHP.org to use a credit/debit card.

You can avoid annoying annual renewal notices by becoming a **Lifetime member**. Our Lifetime members are:

Patricia Huff, Everglades City
Judith Humphrey, Naples
Michael Krauss, Naples

Welcome to new members since our last newsletter:

David Ornato, Chokoloskee
Larry Morris, Boxford, MA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Our by-laws stipulate that we hold elections for Directors every three years. That deadline is coming up this year, 2024, so we're calling for nominations to the Board.

You can fill in a form with your own name if you want to serve or suggest someone else if you have their permission. The deadline for submitting nominations is **Monday, February 5**, at 9:00 a.m. during our Board meeting.

The Board meets once a month and decides on major projects, especially those that need expenditure. If you are not here during the summer, you can still attend meetings remotely by phone. We also use email if we need to decide on urgent matters.

Ballots will be sent to members at the beginning of February and the results announced formally at our **Annual Members' Meeting on Friday, February 23**. Officers are selected by the new Board at their next meeting.

For more information, contact ESHP Secretary Marya Repko on ESHP@hotmail.com or at (239) 451-0265.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR



We had a busy, successful 2023.

It was the **Centennial of Collier County**, established in 1923 so that Barron Collier could fund the completion of the Tamiami Trail through his vast land holdings. He selected the village of Everglade as his headquarters because it had a settled population and a navigable river which he renamed after himself. Thus, Everglades also became the County Seat with the majestic Courthouse on the new circle in the center.

Although the Seat moved to East Naples in 1962 after the population had shifted, we celebrated by hanging **banners with historic photos** on the new solar lamp posts around the town which had been declared a City in 1953.



We started the year on a frosty January 14th with the **Music Festival** postponed from November 2022 after Hurricane Ian that fall.

We commemorated Barron Collier's 150 birthday at our **Annual Meeting** with cake and champagne while hearing an update from ESHP President Patty Huff on our activities and plans.

Members of the Collier family joined County staff in ECity on May 8th to mark the date in 1923 when legislation was signed establishing the County.

At the end of May, we mourned the passing of **Bob Flick** who had donated the **Bank of Everglades** building to ESHP two years previously. The renovation of his gift looked feasible after we received a \$3million grant from HUD and a further \$55k from the state. However, we are still fund raising because the final cost is projected to exceed those amounts.



We kicked off the fall/winter season with another successful **Musical Festival** in November and followed that by participating in the **Swamp Heritage Festival** at Big Cypress National Preserve where we talked to the many visitors about our projects.

We appointed **REG Architects** and heard from principal Rick Gonzalez about his "Visions of the Bank Building" at our Welcome-Back talk on November 17th which attracted several new members.

We continue to operate the **Visitor Center** and appreciate all the volunteers who assist us in welcoming more tourists, especially Europeans, returning to the area.

We look forward to an active 2024 which should be a productive year as we get closer to the ESHP goal of preserving our unique history.

If you are interested in helping as a volunteer or by contributing ideas, call Patty at (239) 719-0020.