

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

Connie Barker, Kathy Brock (Vice-President), Helen Bryan, Hydie Friend, Patty Huff (President), Donald Kim, Elaine Middelstaedt (Treasurer), Marya Repko (Secretary)

ESHP MEMBERSHIP

(renewable each January 1 except for Lifetime categories)

- Individual (\$25) Family (\$40)
- Patron (\$100) Benefactor (\$500)
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TOWN CRIER

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Newsletter

SUMMER 2022
 VOLUME 17, NUMBER 3



What's Been Happening?

As President Patty Huff says in her letter (*attached*) we've been busy working on saving the old Bank of Everglades Building. One highlight was that our **Golf Gala** in March was a great success (*see photo above*) with thanks to Lisa Resch of Carolina Catering Company (C3kitchens.com) who provided the food & services for the event pro-bono.

Another accomplishment is that we have reached out to various sources of funding (local, state, federal, and private) for grants.

One of our most recent endeavors was **soil testing** at the property in preparation for structural work on the foundation. As the engineers bored down, they found everything from sand to limestone to compressible peat. The results are being discussed by our structural engineers and architect.

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What's Being Planned?

We're already looking forward to the 2022-2023 winter season and can announce that our **signature event** will be a **Homes & Gardens Tour** when owners open their lovingly-restored historic houses to ticket-holders.

We held the first one in 2010 which was very successful and we've been asked since the last one in 2014 when we were going to do it again. The date we selected in 2023 is **Saturday, March 11**, and we've already entered it on the United Arts Council calendar.

Before that, in early November, we plan to hold another **Music Festival** on the lawn of the historic Rod & Gun Club. The attendees, as well as the performers, all enjoyed the casual atmosphere last year and the Silent Auction was excitingly successful.

See the "Mark Your Calendar" column inside ...



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, November 12: Music Festival
12-6pm, Rod & Gun Club

Friday, November 18: Welcome-Back Historical Talk
2:30pm, Lighthouse Club at Everglades Isle

===== 2023 =====

Friday, February 24: Annual Meeting & Historical Talk
5:30pm, Everglades Community Church

Saturday, March 11: Homes & Gardens Tour and Concert
10:00am, Visitor Center for ticket sales

BOARD MEETINGS

Our Board of Directors meets at 9:00 a.m. on the first Monday of the month. The next meeting will be on Monday, September 5, in the Visitor Center. Members are welcome to attend and contribute ideas. For info, phone Patty at (239) 719-0020.

Who Are We?

We are proud of our Board of Directors who have a wealth of talents that they can contribute. Half our Board members are business owners and the others are retired professionals.

Our website will soon be updated to include short biographies of all our Board members but we have attached a summary for your information.

ESHP MEMBERSHIP

We have 81 members including our first Lifetime member. To show your support, just fill in the form on the back of this newsletter or use a debit/credit card at our website www.eshp.org.

Welcome to new members:

- Mark Deitz, Clewiston
Donald Kim, Everglades City
Julie Kukk, Naples
Joan Remley, Everglades City

News from Naples

You can take a guided tour of historic Palm Cottage any afternoon but you must book in advance. And, the tours are free on Saturdays in August if you are a Collier County resident! For info, see napleshistoricalsociety.org or phone (239) 261-9164



MUSEUM OF EVERGLADES UPDATE

The subject of the Third Thursday Talk on July 21 at 2:00pm. is "See You Later Alligator; Poachers, Promoters, and Protectors" and everyone is invited to this free illustrated lecture.



The summer exhibit in the Pauline Reeves Gallery at the front of the Museum is "Legendary Gladesmen" from pioneer days to the present. For info, see www.colliermuseums.com or phone the Museum at (239) 252-5026.



Visitor Center Gathers Compliments

The new Guest Book in our Visitor Center has some interesting comments by people from diverse places.

LOVE this little town. We come here every year to have lunch at the Rod and Gun Club. (Ohio)

Everglades City is a great historic town. We need to keep it alive!! Thanks for sharing with snowbirds! (Illinois)

Beautiful place to enjoy the friendliness and warmth of the people! (Illinois)

Thank you. Enjoyed the visit! (Maryland)

Excellent info! Thanks! (Alaska)

Very enjoyable time in Everglades City. (Berlin)

Amazing town. Feels like home away from home! (California)

We love the stories of your beloved town. (no address)

What a gem! Just arrived and delighted with Everglades City's quietness, very low key! Friendly, too! (New Hampshire)

Loved the history of the city! Had a great time! (New York)

Beautiful area with so much history! (Maine)

We love it here! First time visitors. (Germany)

Enjoying the quiet small town atmosphere. (Switzerland)

Super friendly, super helpful. Merci beaucoup! (France)

Very nice presentation! Very friendly. (Nepal)

Nice visitor center. (Dania Beach, FL)

The Center is staffed by volunteers and features some lovely local artwork for sale. If you enjoy meeting people and would like to help, phone Connie at (419) 350-6650 or stop in at 207 West Broadway when you see the OPEN sign lit in the front window.

ECITY PICKED BY SMITHSONIAN

It's no wonder the distinguished people on our Board have moved to Everglades City (see Who Are We? in left column).

Our village has been selected as "One of the 15 Best Small Towns to Visit" by Smithsonian magazine in the Travel column of their June 2022 issue (smithsonianmag.com/category/travel).

News from the Historical Library



We can scan old photos and small documents in our office in City Hall while you wait if you do not want to donate the originals. We feel our filing cabinets in the closet upstairs are safe from impending storms. For info, phone Marya at (239) 695-2905.



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June 15, 2022

Letter from the President:

Summer is here and it's quiet in the Everglades! However, we have continued to stay very busy with our Bank of Everglades project. This letter is to bring you up to date on the progress of our rehabilitation of the building since March.

Our architect, MHK Architects, informed us several months ago that this would be the "slow" time for the project since it was necessary to obtain the results from the geotechnical soil testing before moving forward with the next phase. Soil testing was done on May 23 with results completed this past week. The architect and structural engineer will be providing us with their recommendations to repair the foundation. In the meantime, during the past three months we have accomplished the following:

- Held a very successful Golf Gala at the Naples Depot in March which was underwritten by our new team member Lisa Resch with Carolina Catering Company
- Continued to receive Letters of Support (see <https://save-boe.org/supporters>)
- Submitted Request Form to Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart for the 2023 Appropriations Community Project Funding
- Coordinated with our Strategic Planner and completed first draft of Case Statement
- Met with Collier County Building Inspector along with MHK Architects and structural engineer at the Bank; he was pleased with progress and plans for rehabilitation
- Established a Bank of Everglades Building Legacy Fund with Collier Community Foundation (CCF) https://cfcollier.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create?funit_id=4003
- Received feedback from interested individuals regarding our Case Statement which will be considered in the next draft
- Presented to the Everglades City Council and community, updating progress to date with rehabilitating the Bank building as the new Visitor Center / Trail Town Headquarters
- Removed trees on property that were too close to foundation
- Continued to receive donations (\$100 to \$25,000) supporting our Bank of Everglades building plans/project
- Met with Case Technologies (at the request of MHK) to make digital images of the Bank building which will be used in presentations at a national level and will become available for us to include on our website
- Submitted Application to Collier Community Foundation - FY23 Capacity Grant for Small Non-Profits
- Submitted Matching Grant to the State Division of Historic Resources Special Category (Awards to be announced Summer 2023)
- Confirmed dates for our 2023 fundraisers – Everglades City Homes Tour on March 11 – and a Music Festival at the Rod & Gun Club in November

Please visit our website www.save-boe.org for further information. Our ESHP Board is composed of business owners, retired professionals and local historians who are dedicated to preserving the history of our unique town and its buildings and artifacts. Thank you again for your support and interest!

Sincerely,

Patty

Patricia A. Huff, President



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2022 – Brief Biographies

Patricia Huff (President), a retired Financial Advisor with Raymond James & Associates, was a founding member of ESHP which was established to help save the first Collier County Courthouse (now Everglades City Hall). She and her husband purchased their historic 1920s home in 1994. In 2001 Patty founded the City's local newsletter "*The Mullet Rapper*" and continued as publisher/editor until 2016. Patty is past president of the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades and served as "Historian" on the Collier County Historical & Archaeological Preservation Board from 2005 to 2017. She continues to be invited by county and state organizations to give presentations about the local history of the area. As President Patty leads the organization in strategic planning, oversight of organizational finances, vision, mission, and long-term goal setting. More specifically, over the next several years, she is tasked to oversee all aspects of the reconstruction of the Bank Building.

Kathleen Brock (Vice-President) was born, raised, and lived in Hollywood, Florida, until 2017 when she moved full-time to Everglades City. In 1993, she and her husband purchased a 1920s old-Collier house in Everglades City, and from that moment on, Everglades City became her "home". She is the president of K Bee Marketing, a business consulting firm that specializes in consumer goods marketing, merchandising, and distribution. Kathy is the publisher of our local newsletter "*The Mullet Rapper*" and publisher of the area website www.visitevergladescity.com. Kathy is a member of the Collier County Tourist Development Board and served on the committee that secured the Trail Town designation for our area. Kathy is very active in the community and is a member of the Everglades Lions Club and a volunteer at the Everglades Community Food Pantry. As Vice President Kathy engages businesses and citizens to support the mission of the organization, as well as creating fundraising ideas

and handling all the marketing, publicity, and press releases for events and for the organization (which also includes website administration). Kathy works closely with the President in achieving the organization's goals.

Marya Repko (Secretary) moved in 2000 to Everglades City after she discovered the little planned town in the middle of the swamp and wanted to learn more. She used her background in computers to research the history and has written over a dozen "*Brief History*" books on the area (website: www.ecity-publishing.com). Marya was a founding member of ESHP and is also on the Board of the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades. She has received widespread recognition as the "authority" on the history of Everglades City and surrounding areas. She is widely respected for her depth of knowledge and is frequently asked to give her popular and well-documented presentations to community organizations throughout the county and beyond. Marya coordinates the meetings of the organization, writing the agenda and taking minutes. She also serves as the membership secretary, coordinating all aspects of ESHP's fundraising projects, sending out acknowledgements to members and donors.

Elaine Middelstaedt (Treasurer), with a law degree and a member of the NJ and FL bars, started her own pension administration business in 1996. She has been interested in historic preservation since she purchased the former two-room schoolhouse in Lordville, NY, in 1973. Since moving to Everglades City in 2001, Elaine has been an active participant and a board member in several community organizations, including ESHP, the Everglades Lions Club, ReachOut Everglades & C.O.P.S. Association, Inc., and the Everglades Community Food Pantry. She served as an Everglades City Council member for 12 years as well as four years on the Collier

County Metropolitan Planning Organization (Chairperson for two years). She is currently Chair of the Citizens Advisory Council of the Collier MPO. As Treasurer Elaine oversees the organization's finances, creating the budget, generating financial reports, and advising the board on financial strategy. She also coordinates with the accountant and the auditor to review finances.

Connie Barker has 25 years of managerial experience in retail, 10 years as the House Manager of the Ronald McDonald House, and completed her career as manager of a multi-physicians practice in Toledo, Ohio. She and her husband visited Everglades City in 1994, eventually purchasing their first home in 1996, moving permanently in 2014. When she retired, Connie decided to dedicate her time in helping others and has been very active in local community organizations: ReachOut Everglades & C.O.P.S., Inc., managing the Thrift Store; Deacon at the Everglades Community Church, assisting with the Everglades Community Food Pantry; and the Lions Club. With her organizational skills and experience, Connie serves as Manager of the Everglades Area Visitor Center which eventually will be moved from the donated space in the Glades Building to the newly rehabilitated Bank of Everglades Building. In addition to welcoming tourists and being a resource to visitors to the area, the Visitor Center / Trail Town Headquarters also promotes local artists by offering their crafts for sale. Connie's responsibilities include recruiting and scheduling volunteers, organizing inventory, coordinating with the artists, and submitting sales reports to the Treasurer.

Helen Bryan was born in Ft Lauderdale, Florida, and lived in that city until she moved to Chokoloskee in the late 1980s with her husband Jim whose father had been pastor of the local church there. She was a founding member of the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades in the 1990s and has been active in every aspect of the Everglades City / Chokoloskee community. With her acquired skills and good eye, Helen was appointed photojournalist of the local newspaper *The Mullet Rapper* in 2014 and continues serving in that capacity. Her ability to capture the history of the Everglades community over the past 30+ years is remarkable. She is everywhere, all the time, behind the scenes at events, chronicling the lives of the people and places of the swamp. Helen is

the historian for ESHP, and her photographs are documented on the Gallery page of our website.

Hydie Friend is a retired certified city planner and comes to the ESHP Board with more than forty years of experience using historic preservation for economic development. She has been recognized by her home state of West Virginia and her hometown of Wheeling for her dedication and commitment to community-led preservation and development efforts. Hydie was an early leader in the National Park Service's National Heritage Area movement. Now a Florida resident, she is applying her energy in supporting the efforts of the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation. With her extensive experience, Hydie has been appointed ESHP's Grants Coordinator and manages ESHP's efforts in obtaining grants and funding from various organizations, including state/federal agencies and local private foundations (Collier Community Foundation), communicating, and working together with the consultant grant writer.

Donald Kim joined the ESHP Board in 2022 as it broadens its membership to include more business owners and professionals. He is a recent full-time addition to the Everglades City community, having moved here from Boca Raton, Florida. As a passionate fisherman, Don had been a frequent visitor to the Everglades City/Chokoloskee area over the last twenty years. His current career in the software development field affords him the opportunity to live in Everglades City and work full time remotely. Before getting into the software/computer field, Don spent many years in the hospitality industry and earned degrees in Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management at Johnson & Wales University. Early in his hospitality career, Don enlisted as a food service specialist in the United States Marine Corps. He served in various capacities for eight years, including Mess Hall management, Food Quality Inspection, Recruiting and Information Systems Database Management, ultimately attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. As a professional in computer services, Don will be instrumental in assisting our Vice-President with marketing and in expanding our presence in the media.