

**EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Dedicated to our Unique History

P O Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139
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The *Town Crier* newsletter is produced periodically and is printed courtesy of Everglades Island Properties and Snook Publications. We welcome news and feedback ... write a letter and/or email us or phone Marya at 695-2905.

ESHP is currently concentrating on the restoration of the City Hall building which was constructed in 1928 as the original Collier County Court House. The Society is also concerned with preserving all historic sites, structures, documents, artifacts and memories within the Everglades area.

ESHP ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP 2005

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

*Please make check payable to "ESHP" and send to
ESHP, P.O.Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139*

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I would like to help with

- fund raising publicity/website
- special events merchandise sales
- grant writing engineering & architecture
- legal/financial political liaison
- other _____

TOWN CRIER

**Newsletter
of the
EVERGLADES
SOCIETY FOR
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

May 2005
VOLUME I, NUMBER 2



sketch courtesy of Jurg Furrer

COMMISSIONERS SUPPORT US

The **Board of County Commissioners (BCC) of Collier County** issued **Resolution Number 2005-208** on May 24th supporting our grant application for City Hall restoration. The resolution states that the BCC “... **expresses its unconditional support of an application by Everglades City to acquire a Major Development Grant to partially fund the ongoing restoration (rehabilitation) of the City Hall of Everglades City**”.

The BCC also wrote a covering letter to the Department of State saying “**we strongly encourage the Division of Historical Resources to award grant funds to Everglades City for use in the restoration of the Everglades City Hall building,, an historic landmark of significant importance to Everglades City, Collier County, and the State of Florida**”.

The BCC and County Manager recognized our urgency to meet the application deadline (May 31) and were exceedingly helpful in getting the resolution written and signed only hours after it was requested at their meeting.

George Given Key at Dinner

Over 50 people enjoyed dinner in honor of Jurg “George” Furrer, the cartoonist who donated his City Hall sketch which is featured on the newsletter masthead and on our cards, T-shirts, and bumper stickers (all for sale at City Hall). Highlight of the evening was the presentation by Mayor Sammy Hamilton of the **Key to the City** to George.

Our thanks to everyone at the historic Rod & Gun Lodge for accommodating us so well and to all the attendees for joining us.

MEMBERS’ MEETING

The next general members’ meeting of ESHP will be held on Wednesday, June 15, at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall. The feature of the evening will be an update on our grant application and restoration plans. **Everyone is welcome** so bring a friend or neighbor.



GRANT APPLICATION

The Mayor is applying for a grant to repair the foundations under City Hall and ESHP is helping to get all the paperwork done. We've hired consultant Mikki Hartig who successfully submitted our first grant in 2001 to fund the engineering survey of the building.

The grant application consists of:

- history and significance of the building
- projected work schedule and costs
- local contributions to cost
- show of local support

We were heartened by the number and quality of the **letters of support** that we received from public representatives and officials and from local leaders. And, a **petition of support** in Everglades City attracted about 150 signatures. They will all be included in the grant application along with the **BCC resolution** and covering letter (see story on front page).

Dan Summers of BSSW Architects in Naples is one of our directors and is generously donating his time to help with the technical aspects. Dan has experience with historic restoration, having worked with Collier County Museums on Roberts Ranch in Immokalee, among other major projects.

The **historical research** has been undertaken mainly by Carol Moseman, Patty Huff and Marya Repko. We have had invaluable help over the Internet from the Florida State Library, Collier County Museums, and several university libraries. Unfortunately, there is not much documentation about the changes which took place to the building during the Collier years because it was just done on an ad-hoc basis by local workmen. The County archives have opened their doors to us so that we could examine the minutes of early Commissioners' meetings (the first one was held on July 7, 1923, at the Rod & Gun Club and elected G.W. Storter as chairman). We are grateful to the new **City Engineer Jeff Davidson** who gave us drawings and architectural specifications for modifications to the building in 1956 (signed by his grandfather!).

The grant application was mailed to the Division of Historic Resources at the Florida Department of State before the May 31 deadline and will be evaluated at a public meeting in Tallahassee on September 20-22. *Mark your calendars* because we hope to send a delegation (outfitted en-masse in City Hall T-shirts, of course) to support our hearing.



FUND RAISING

We have over \$11,000 in the bank which is only a small ring on our fund-raising tree but not a bad start. We met on May 17 with consultant Sally Woliver from Naples who advised us to cultivate a network of supporters. She said that, although events could be entertaining, they are usually not greatly profitable. It is the contacts we make that could eventually help to provide the funding we need.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 24 "Founding Members" who joined by March 16, our inaugural meeting. Total membership is 45: 2 benefactors, 4 patrons, 10 businesses, 15 families and 14 individuals. Most are from Everglades City and Chokoloskee, but we are striving to target potential members in greater Collier County.

It is rare in this fast-growing area to find buildings of the relatively ancient vintage of our City Hall and with such historic importance to our County. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to fill in the form on the back of this newsletter and send it to PO Box 46 or drop it off at City Hall. We need all the support we can get so don't forget to indicate how you can help with activities and practical advice.



photo courtesy of Collier County Museums, Naples, FL

When was this picture taken?

Do you know any of the people?

When were the double stairs built?

We found some lovely old photos of City Hall while we were doing our research but we need help to date them. If you have any ideas, please phone Carol at 695-2159 or Marya at 695-2905 or email ESHP@hotmail.com.