

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Dedicated to our Unique History

P O Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139
email: ESHP@hotmail.com

The *Town Crier* newsletter is produced periodically and is printed courtesy of Everglades Island Properties and Snook Publications. We welcome news and feedback. Send a letter or email or phone Marya at 695-2905.

ESHP is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation. Our current project is 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.

DIRECTORS:

Patty Huff (President)
Karen Cabral (Vice President)
Carol Moseman (Secretary)
April Breton (Treasurer)
Marya Repko (Membership & Newsletter)
Jean Schultz (Fundraising)
Daniel Summers (Architectural Consultant)
Mayor Sammy Hamilton (ex-officio)

COMMITTEES:

Fundraising
Membership
Grant Writing
Public Relations
Historical Research
Architecture & Engineering

WISH LIST

What you can do right now to help:

- ❑ Donate one-hundred 37-cent stamps for newsletter circulation and membership mail-shots.
- ❑ Donate photocopy paper for newsletters and brochures.
- ❑ Look for grants and foundation funds suitable for our City Hall restoration project.
- ❑ Sign up for our booth at Seafood Festival (Feb 4-5) to sell merchandise and recruit new members.
- ❑ Give out ESHP Save City Hall brochures everywhere you visit or shop in Naples.

HELP NEEDED WITH WEBSITE

We are designing a website but need **technical help** to translate our ideas into HTML pages. If you have any experience, we would like to hear from you!!! Please email Marya on ESHP@hotmail.com.

TOWN CRIER

Newsletter
of the
EVERGLADES
SOCIETY FOR
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sketch courtesy of Jurg Furrer

MAYOR SAYS "KEEP RAISING MONEY!"

City Hall was condemned after Hurricane Wilma struck Everglades City on October 24th but Mayor Sammy Hamilton has said repeatedly, publicly and privately, that he is determined to save the building.

Some **temporary measures** have already been taken; the roof has been patched up and the inside has been cleared out and treated for mildew.

Although he is talking with FEMA, the Mayor warned that we should not stop raising money to restore City Hall "*We need all the help we can get*". Large donors may even have rooms named after them when the building is finished. But, any contributions are welcome ... large or small.

Special Category Grant

Architect Dan Summers, Karen Cabral and Marya Repko attended the hearings for the Special Category Grants from the Bureau of Historic Resources at the Department of State on November 8-9 in Tallahassee. We were **welcomed sympathetically** because of all the fantastic media coverage after Wilma.

Unfortunately, the City Hall project ranked 45 and the funding budgeted by the legislature stops at project 43. However, there is a chance that more money will be voted in. Please lobby your state representatives for increased funding.

CITY HALL FEATURES IN CALENDAR

Magnus Research of Pompano Beach have featured the old Collier County Courthouse on the February page of their 2006 calendar. The firm specializes in litigation research and sends the calendar to their clients all over Florida.

THANKS!!!

- to member **Betty Campbell** for all her help with newsletters and mail-shots. We'll miss her enthusiastic willingness to work after she moves to Jacksonville.
- to **John Bruce** for generously flying us to and from Tallahassee for the grant hearings.



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TAX RELIEF

If you make a donation to ESHP before the end of the year, you may be eligible for an **income tax deduction** in your return for 2005. We are a 501(c)3 public charity and we will issue receipts that comply with IRS regulations. Please write "City Hall Restoration" on the memo line of your check.

PLEDGE FORMS

We are accepting pledges for future donations. Well-wishers have asked us if they can wait until work starts on City Hall before writing their checks. Potential donors on fixed incomes may also find it more convenient to be able to schedule their contributions over the years.

ESHP can use the pledges towards the "**matching local share**" in applications for grants from the State, such as the Special Category one, and Federal government, such as FEMA. The pledges will also **encourage other donors** and **help to plan** how much more funding is necessary as work on the building progresses.

BRICK BY BRICK

The next time you need a gift, why not buy a brick with a commemorative message that will be seen by everyone? These beautifully glazed blocks have three lines of text in which you can wish your friends and family a Happy Birthday, Congratulations on an Anniversary, Well-Done on Graduation, or any other message (but, obviously, nothing obscene).

The bricks will be laid in the Circle initially and, when City Hall is eventually completely ready, may be moved. Proceeds will go to the Restoration Fund.

The "brick by brick" campaign will begin in the New Year. For more information, phone Robin Barnes at 695-8475 or on ESHP@hotmail.com.

FUND RAISING



The last newsletter was mailed to over 200 selected addressees who were known to have an interest in history. We gained 6 new memberships from this **mail-shot** and, hopefully, made more Collier County residents aware of the plight of the original Courthouse.

We sent unsolicited letters to almost 100 private **charitable foundations** in Naples and are hoping for a positive response before the year-end. Volunteers Mari Varello and Robin Barnes are following up with phone calls. We also investigated large philanthropic donors on the Internet and filled in several applications.

Carol Moseman and Marya Repko attended a seminar held by the **Community Foundation in Naples** to learn about grants that are available from them for training, consultants, technology, and community projects. Possible uses for ESHP would be hiring a fund-raising consultant for a specific event (eg, the bike rally) and contracting an Internet website provider.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 63 paid members: 2 benefactors, 7 patrons, 23 individuals, 19 families, and 12 businesses. Of these, 38 receive their newsletters by email, saving about \$14 per issue and the effort of stuffing envelopes. Renewal notices will be sent out in the New Year.

Welcome to new members since our last newsletter:

INDIVIDUAL

Shirley Beckwith, Marco Island
Vernon Peoples (historian), Punta Gorda

FAMILY

Lois A. Bolin, Naples
Lucy & the late Lem Storter, Naples
Peter & Robin Strauss, Ft Lauderdale, Everglades City

BUSINESS

Katy & Fred Roberts, Everglades City Motel

Robert Lemuel Storter. We were sorry to hear of the passing of one of our newest members who was a grandson of Everglades pioneer R. B. Storter and son of fisherman-turned-artist Rob Storter. We last saw "Lem" at the Museum birthday party in April and enjoyed talking with him about his memories of olden time. Our best wishes to his widow Lucy House Storter, herself the descendent of another local pioneering family, and the rest of his family.



Do you remember the Red Cross helping out after Donna? Tell us your old hurricane stories!