

HISTORY CENTER TIMES

A NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

Kim Patton
Manning,
President

David Harper,
Vice President

Don Bayley,
Treasurer

Kathryn Chesley
Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS:

Frank Cassell

Linda Lester

Andrew Littaur

Kendall
Southworth

DONATE
JOIN US

PUBLISHED BY
FOSCHC
P. O. Box 91
Venice, FL 34284

WEBSITE



FRIENDS OF THE
SARASOTA COUNTY
HISTORY CENTER

Celebrating 20 Years!

The Friends Organization was founded in 2005 by Pete & Dianne Esthus.

Friends Fest 2025!

LIVE MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS, BOOTHS, PICNIC, GAMES!

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, October 26, 2025 from 11am to 3pm

Sarasota Farm Bureau, 7289 Palmer Blvd., (near I-75 & Fruitville Rd.)

Registration is now open to all! This is going to be a lot of fun! Lots of special things going on: LIVE MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS, vendors, county-wide historical organizations, storytelling, trivia contests, old time lawn games. Long Timers of Sarasota County will be there and you can join if you are a member of the Friends and have lived in Sarasota County 30 years or more. And we will be honoring the pioneer Carlton family. More info and registration forms [HERE](#)

We are planning it to be an old-time type Sunday picnic with music and more. Bring your own picnic lunch and set up on the beautiful grounds of the Farm Bureau. Bring a blanket, rent or bring a tent, table & chairs.

Everyone will be encouraged to mix and mingle. There will be entertainment by Chucko the Clown, contests and more on the County ShowMobile Stage and all your favorite music from the 1960s by:



Friends Members: \$10, Non-Members: \$20, Children: \$5 (5yrs and under Free)
Join the Friends and enter for FREE! [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TICKETS](#)

It's Been a Busy Summer!



Friends **Ken Esthus** and **Kim Manning** have been participating in the **Sarasota Farmers Market** on Saturday mornings in downtown Sarasota. Ken tells us, "This has been a great opportunity to meet locals interested in Sarasota County's rich historical past while also promoting the work of the Sarasota County History Center. Check out our **social media sites** to find out when we'll be at the Farmers Market; stop by and say 'Hi' and find out what's new."

In other news, the Friends supplied foam boards for a new "**Summer in Sarasota**" exhibit.

New Memory Lab



The History Center launched its pilot Memory Lab in August 2025. This do-it-yourself digitization space provides equipment for members of the public to preserve and share priceless family memories trapped in outdated formats, such as VHS tapes, 8mm reel-to-reel film, cassette tapes, Betamax, vinyl records, 35mm photographic slides, photo negatives and others. The lab is available to anyone by appointment; for more info visit: <https://www.sarasotacountylibraries.org/about-us/memory-lab>

New History Center Groundbreaking!





Ground was broken on the new 30,000 square-foot Sarasota County History Center on July 3, 2025. Actual construction is now underway, and the project is on schedule—still slated to open in late 2026 or very early 2027. These are architectural renderings of the new Center, being built next to the Fruitville Library.

New Acquisitions

- * Frances Dorrien-Smith donated an extensive collection of slides, project files, drawings, renderings and other materials from the architectural practice of renowned Sarasota architect **Frank Folsom Smith**. These materials will be combined with the existing Frank Folsom Smith collection donated by Smith himself in 2022 (2025.015).
- * Dorothy Dekmar donated two luggage tags from the **Sarasota-Bradenton Airport** with a vintage logo, as well as ephemera from **Hap's Cycle Sales** (2025.016).
- * **Friends Board member Frank Cassell** donated a collection of correspondence, notes, meeting minutes and other materials relating to his work on the Sarasota County Historical Commission, **the Friends of the Sarasota County History Center**, the Sarasota County Centennial Steering Committee, etc. (2025.017).
- * Angel Cappar donated yearbooks for the **Out-of-Door Academy** from 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1997-2025, as well as a copy of the school's 85th anniversary book (2025.018).
- * Christine Draper donated two historical photographs of **early Sarasota** (2025.019).
- * Olivia Haynes donated records relating to the business and activities of the **Sarasota Garden Club** (2025.020).
- * Martha Bohn purchased a **Ruth Richmond doorknob** for the History Center's collection (2020.021). **This donation was facilitated by the Friends.**
- * **County Commissioner Mark Smith** donated two architectural renderings for homes in **Lido Shores**, as well as an antique architectural ruler used by his father (2025.022).
- * Raymond Young donated two **books relating to local history** (2025.023).
- * Becky Aych donated permission for the History Center staff to make digital copies of the contents of a binder containing early records from the **Miakka Community Club** (2025.024).
- * **Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources** donated one hard hat and one ceremonial shovel from the groundbreaking for the new History Center building adjacent to the Fruitville Library (2025.025).
- * Terry Green donated a collection of maps and aerial photographs relating to **Venice, Englewood and the Myakka River corridor** (2025.026).
- * Wilma Davidson donated a collection of meeting minutes, reports, ephemera, photo albums and other documentation concerning the **National League of American Pen Women - Sarasota Branch** (2025.028).
- * The **Sarasota County Department of Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources** donated materials recovered from a newly-purchased property on Center Road, including one birds-eye aerial photograph of the 900 Center Road property, a high-school photograph of Gordon Galbraith, Gordon's selective service card from 1970, and **two ceramic sculptures** made by Lois Galbraith (his wife and local Sarasota artist) - one sculpture is a raccoon holding a catfish and the other is a larger otter holding a baby otter (2025.030).
- * The Sarasota Succulent Society donated digital copies of documents, photographs, newsletter, histories, yearbooks, graphics, etc. relating to the activities and business of the **Sarasota Succulent Society between 1950 and 2025** (2025.031).
- * The Sarasota County Department of Planning and Development Services donated **58 aerial photographs of Sarasota County** (2025.033).
- * Ron Bordner donated three albums of photographs relating to the activities of the **Gulf Coast Carvers Guild of Sarasota** (2025.034).
- * Scott Bocock donated a **Sarasota Kennel Club season pass** (2025.035).
- * The **Sarasota County Fire Department** donated one copy each of their annual yearbook and calendar (2025.039).
- * Paul Gilmartin donated 2.5 cubic feet of records (including maps, legal documents, newsletters, etc.) from the **South Venice Civic Association** (2025.040).

New Arrivals

We welcomed 2 **new Board members** this Summer: **Kendall Southworth** and **Linda Lester**.



Kendall (pictured) is serving on our Communications Committee and posted the photos below and several more along with this description on our [Social Media pages](#):



Though nearly a century has passed for some of these faces, they don't feel far away. These portraits of Sarasotans, some as early as the 1940s, remind us that history isn't just old buildings or distant dates—it's people. People who walked these same streets, felt the same gulf coast sun on their faces, and carried their own hopes, stories, and visions for the future of our city

These portraits were found using the handy "Random Images" button on the Sarasota County History Center's Digital Collections database, which contains 10,000 digitized versions of items from their holdings. Access the database [HERE](#).

The History Center welcomed a new Historic Preservation Specialist, **Nicholas Dietz**, to the team in June 2025. Nicholas comes to us from the University of Georgia, where he just completed a master's degree in historic preservation.

Speaker Series

October	November
 <p>Sarasota County History on a Plate Thursday, Oct. 23 2-3 p.m.</p> <p>Which kinds of dishes were on dining room tables in Sarasota County 50 years ago? What about a century ago? Maybe even earlier? The handwritten recipes and cookbooks in the Sarasota County History Center's collection hold all sorts of clues to our local culinary history. Join Dr. Josh Goodman for a unique look at our fascinating heritage through the lens of food.</p> <p>Dr. Josh Goodman, Manager, Sarasota County History Center</p>	 <p>Order Up! Sarasota Restaurants of the 50's Monday, Nov. 17 2-3 p.m.</p> <p>Like many communities in Florida, residents in the early formative years of Sarasota relied heavily on local agriculture and markets to fuel their families. However, as Sarasota grew and residential populations rose (not to mention the growth in tourism), more options became available through local eateries and the convenience of fast food. Join us as we take a look at rise of popularity in restaurant culture in Sarasota during the 1950s!</p> <p>Elisabeth Jimenez, Archivist, Sarasota County History Center</p>

All programs are free and open to the public.

Registration required. Scan the code to register or visit SarasotaCountyHistory.org.



Here are two of the Speaker Series lectures scheduled for this Fall at the History Center. The Friends contributed honoraria for this summer's series. We were also present at each lecture, setting up a table with information about the Friends.

Timeline

The History Center has prepared a **Timeline of Sarasota History**. Here's a sample for the month of October:

October 14, 1926 The **Edwards Theater** reopens after sustaining extensive damage during the Great Miami Hurricane. The roof of the theater had caved in, causing massive damage to the stage, furnishings, projection equipment, and the theater's pipe organ. The first performance at the newly opened Edwards Theater was a showing of the film **Mantrap**, an adaptation of Sinclair Lewis' novel of the same name. The film was directed by Victor Fleming and starred Clara Bow, Percy Marmont, Ernest Torrence, Ford Sterling, and Eugene Pallette.



October 16, 1955 A new five-story wing for Sarasota Memorial Hospital is dedicated. The new building cost \$2.4 million dollars, and at the time was one of very few hospitals in the Southeast to be **fully air-conditioned**. Congressman James A. Haley was the keynote speaker at the dedication ceremony.

October 19, 1968 The South Gate Fire Station (now Station 12) on Bee Ridge Road is dedicated. **State Senator Warren Henderson of Venice** was the keynote speaker. The new fire station was dedicated to the memory of Captain Clarke Wolfe, who served 12 years with the South Trail Fire Control District.

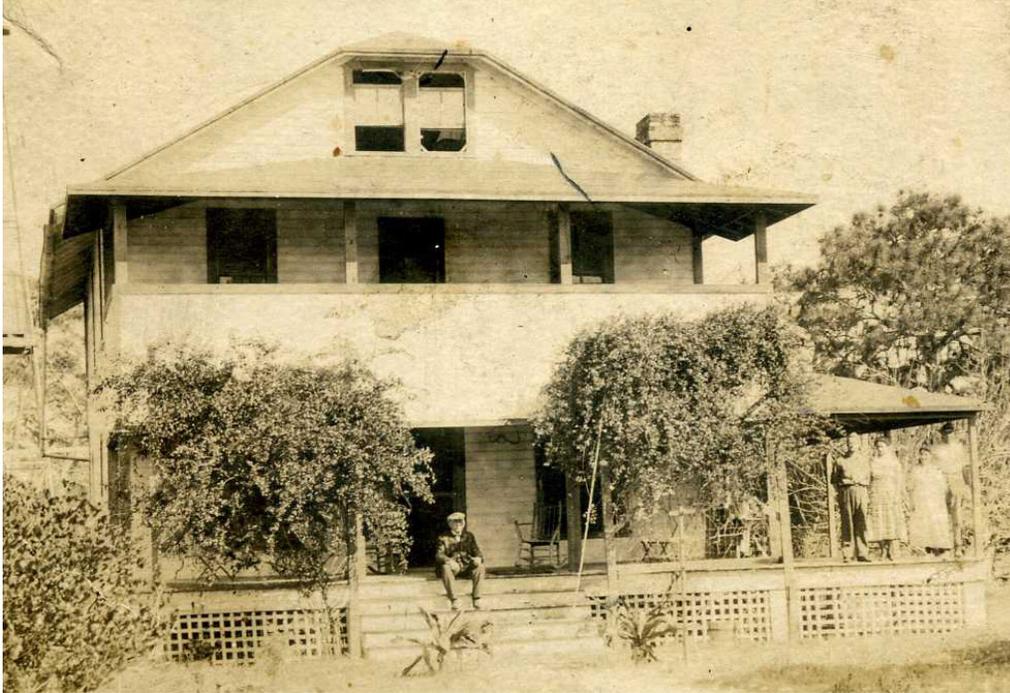
October 22, 1960 A new post office is dedicated in **Englewood**. The new office, which utilized a former Sears storefront on Dearborn Avenue, replaced the former location on Elm Street. Rev. Byron P. Richardson was chairman of the dedication committee, and attendees at the ceremony were treated to a musical performance by the Venice High School Band as members of Lemon Bay Post 276 of the American Legion hoisted the American flag.

---> In 1970 a car drove into this post office:



1970 Bob Scott Viewing the car Englewood Post Office Dearborn St.

A New Marker



Stanley Lampp on the porch of his Tamiami Lodge in Englewood c.1914

In 1899 Stanley Lampp, his three brothers, their mother Sarah Buchan and her second husband Henry Kelley all came to Englewood. All four brothers were instrumental in the development of Englewood. More on all the brothers in another article, but let's focus on Stanley.

In 1914, he and his new wife Winifred Watson renovated her house, added a second story and opened and operated a hotel they called The Tamiami Lodge, so named because it was said the Tamiami Trail was going to be built to go right through Englewood. (It never did.) They also built two smaller houses nearby and operated them in conjunction with the lodge with nine bedrooms total.

The lodge was extremely successful during the winter months, catering to sportsmen who came for the excellent hunting and fishing in Englewood. Stanley and his brother Wilber installed a Delco Light Plant at the lodge which brought electricity to Englewood for the first time. They soon followed with the installation of a pumping system, which produced hot and cold water for guests at the lodge. They operated it for eleven years (1914-1925), serving thirty people four to five months yearly on the edge of Lemon Bay.

The Tamiami Lodge will be remembered on a new historical marker to be unveiled soon at Cherokee Street Park in Englewood, near the site of the Lodge. The marker will also commemorate Englewood Park (established by Stanley Lampp) and William Goff, who first visited Lemon Bay in 1878 and settled on the land where Stanley later ran the Lodge. Friends' Board member Don Bayley researched the history of the area including the Lodge and, with former Friends' member Betty Nugent, prepared the marker application.



FRIENDS OF THE
SARASOTA COUNTY
HISTORY CENTER

SAVE THE DATE!

Friends Fest 2025!

Sunday, October 26, 2025

11am - 3pm

Sarasota Farm Bureau

7289 Palmer Blvd. Sarasota 34240 (near I-75 and Fruitville Rd)

Please Join Us for our 2nd annual “FUN”RAISER”

“OLD-TIME” PICNIC and FESTIVAL,

We are honoring the *Long Timers of Sarasota County*
(*Sarasota County residents who have lived here for over 30 years.*)

Featuring *Rockadelic 60s Live Music from the*
Paisley Craze Band

- ◆ storytellers of Sarasota County ◆ contests, ◆ lawn games
- ◆ *Sarasota County History Center & historical organizations'* exhibits
- ◆ “FUN”RAISER” AUCTION ◆ lots of entertainment surprises

Variety of **FOOD TRUCKS** on site.

Or **bring your own FOOD and DRINK**

You can even bring your own 10x10 tent.

Or just bring your chairs / blanket and sit under the shade trees.

A limited amount of tables & chairs will also be available.

Tents (10x10), tables and chairs are also available to rent in advance.

Admission: \$10 Friends (FOSCHC) Members | \$20 for non-Members | \$5 Children (5 yrs and under Free)

Not a FOSCHC Member?

JOIN the Friends of the Sarasota County History Center

NEW MEMBERS ATTEND Friends Fest 2025 FOR FREE!

Thanks to our SPONSORS

Don Bayley, Frank & Beth Cassell, Diane Esthus, David Harper, Andrew Littauer
All Event Rental, HPK Provident Advisors

All net proceeds go to benefit the Friends of the Sarasota County History Center

[CLICK HERE for MORE INFO & TICKETS](#) email: friendsfest@gmail.com