

The mission of the Venice Museum and Archives is to collect and preserve historical and archaeological material relating to Venice and the communities of Laurel, Nokomis and Osprey, whose histories have all been interwoven from 1867 to the present time.

Winter 2014

Fall 2015

## Honoring John Nolen and his plan for Venice



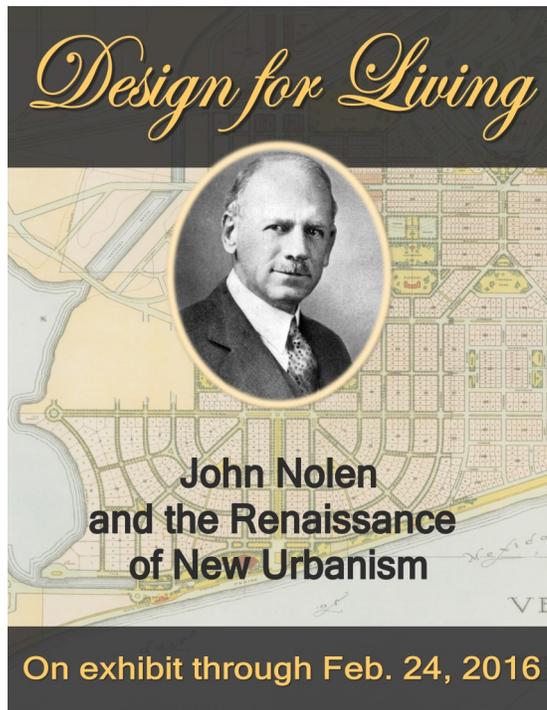
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## Current exhibit:

*Venice is the first city built to demonstrate what Florida can do to produce a community that is at once a fine resort of great charm and refreshment and a city serving all the everyday needs of a soundly constructed municipality. The result is an inspiration to those who would make this world a better place to live in.*

- John Nolen, 1927



A few visitor comments about *Design for Living* exhibit:

*"I just moved here and am excited about this history."*

- Mary Anne, 9/14/15

*"Wonderful exhibit. Very well done + interesting. My compliments to the staff."*

- Nancy, 9/16/15

*"Great exhibit! Another good example of Venice's charm and why we moved here!"*

- J + J, 9/26/15

## Thank you, GFFC

Thank you, **Gulf Coast Community Foundation**, for a \$5,000 Community Grant to help fund the VMA's John Nolen exhibit and upcoming speaker series.

**GULF COAST  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**

*Design for Living* is a collaborative exhibit between the Venice Museum & Archives and **Rollins College** in Winter Park, Florida. Students from **Dr. R. Bruce Stephenson's** Traditional Town Planning course visited Venice in February 2015 to experience John Nolen's plan firsthand. Photos taken during the students' walking tour and historical photos from the VMA Collection were incorporated into the display panels, as well as their class research.

The exhibit explores the inspirations for John Nolen's plan for Venice and how his planning principles connect with New Urbanism today. Artwork by Rollins College student **Jacqueline Thompson**, plats and plans from the VMA Collection, and current examples of New Urbanism projects in Venice and Sarasota County are also highlighted.

## Upcoming:



Eagle Point Club, circa 1917

The VMA is partnering with residents of the historic **Eagle Point Club** community to highlight the 100th anniversary of EPC, originally developed in 1916 as a winter resort. Its original clubhouse and several cottages are still in existence and on the National Register of Historic Places. EPC will be opening its gates in March of 2016 for special, ticketed tours of this unique community. More information will be posted soon on the VMA website and upcoming winter newsletter. The exhibit will open March 1.

The **Center for Architecture** in Sarasota is currently collaborating with the VMA to bring the John Nolen exhibit next year to its newly opened facility. CFA is part of the University of Florida's CityLab satellite program and offers a Master of Architecture professional degree program for UF's School of Architecture and College of Design Construction and Planning. CFA students will explore Nolen's 1924 plan for Sarasota. For more information about CFA programs and exhibits visit [cfasrq.org](http://cfasrq.org).



## New satellite exhibit:

Display panels from the VMA's previous exhibit, *Making Waves: Venice Area Beaches Then and Now*, have been installed at the recreational hall in the **Venice Municipal Mobile Home Park**, along with an exhibit on the Venice Army Air Base. The recreation hall is one of the original World War II era Venice Army Air Base buildings. Thank you to **Don Tobias**, board member of the VMMHP Homeowners' Association for working on the installation.

## VMA is now an official EdExploreSRQ provider

Young people with a desire to try their hand at designing communities of tomorrow now have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of legendary urban planner John Nolen. The Venice Museum & Archives has been chosen as a participant in EdExploreSRQ, a county-wide education outreach program sponsored by the Community Foundation of Sarasota.

Through the EdExploreSRQ website, EdExploreSRQ.com, teachers and schools in Sarasota County will have the opportunity to lead their students in participating in a hands-on exploration that coincides with a visit to the current VMA exhibit, *Design for Living: John Nolen and the Renaissance of New Urbanism*.

Students will be asked to apply information gained from the exhibit and learn to think like urban planners, as they work in teams, under the direction of Susan Ionescu and invited professionals. Their goal will be to create an urban design for a new city that reflects the issues of urban sprawl, pollution, walkability and transportation.



### Outreach Programs

To schedule a program for your club, organization, or school, contact Susan Ionescu at the VMA Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays at 941-486-2487, [sionescu@venicegov.com](mailto:sionescu@venicegov.com)

The program, called *Making It Green and Friendly*, encourages students to design landmarks, public spaces, districts, and other elements essential to a community's vitality. This activity will be of particular importance for the City of Venice as it continues to grow and expand.

## VENICE HERITAGE, INC.

Thanks to generous funding from **Charles A. Hodgin**, facilitated by **Venice Heritage, Inc.** and the KMI Legacy Fund (managed by **Gulf Coast Community Foundation**), a collection of **Kentucky Military Institute** films were restored and digitized this summer. Hodgin, a 1949 graduate of the KMI and later commandant of the school, has been a great supporter of the VMA's efforts to maintain its large KMI collection.

The 100+ films were donated earlier this year by **Betty Kay Utley**, the daughter of **Cromwell Hammack** who was a student and then teacher at the KMI. He documented the school's legacy on 16mm film during the 1940s and 1950s at both the Venice, Florida and Lyndon, Kentucky campuses. Some of Hammack's footage was used in the 2014 PBS documentary *Character Makes the Man* about the school's history from 1845 to 1971.

**Mike Swain**, a film and video specialist in Sarasota, cleaned and hand-wound each roll of film onto new archival quality cores. As he digitized the film onto DVDs, he created a detailed description of each scene. The second phase of the project will include adding the collection to the VMA's database and making the files accessible online to the public.



### A bolt out of the blue

On September 7th, lightning hit the **Lord-Higel House**. It damaged a window and the interior plaster but, thankfully, ended there.



### \$25,000 matching gift

Thanks to the generosity of the late **Elaine Vasel**, **Gulf Coast Community Foundation** will provide an opportunity to match, dollar for dollar, all donations up to \$25,000 to complete the restoration of the exterior of the Lord-Higel House.

For more news, visit [VeniceHeritage.org](http://VeniceHeritage.org)

## Collections Conundrum



Recent findings in a structural engineering report indicate that no more weight can be added to the current collections storage area on the second floor of the Triangle Inn building. Plans are in the works to move the collections to offsite storage, as a short-term solution.

In the meantime, for the remainder of the year, the VMA is unable to accept new donations into the collection. Potential donors can fill out a form with their contact information and a description of the proposed donation. The form is available at the museum and will be posted soon on the VMA's website. Donors will be contacted in January, when the storage issue is resolved.

**Thank you to the following donors, from April through September, for helping us add to our collection:**

- Jill Ball**- 1960s Venice area pamphlets
- Gail Boyer**- Hotel Venice postcard circa 1930
- Joseph Broz**- photos of surfing at Venice jetties, 2014
- Jim Brunt**- photos of Venice Train Depot circa 1991
- Robert Cushing**- assorted books on local and state history
- David Farley**- assorted Venice area ephemera and objects
- James Hawkins**- Tales from Horse and Chaise music cd
- Allison Heyden**- Portrait of Richard B. Brown (Ringling General Manager, Venice)
- Larry Humes**- assorted Kentucky Military Institute memorabilia, 1962-1965
- Sue Korosa**- assorted Kentucky Military Institute memorabilia, 1936
- Jim Lash**- Venice Vagabonds hot rod club vanity license plate
- Julia Cousins Laning**- book *RAF Wings Over Florida*
- David Levinson**- assorted Kentucky Military Institute memorabilia circa 1967
- Mark Mead**- video footage of 1989 Ringling circus train in Venice
- David Pattison**- Venice-Nokomis Bank ephemera, Venice Vagabonds jacket
- Pete Peterson**- Venice Vagabonds hot rod club scrapbook/photo album circa 1958
- Andre Spalvins**- photos of Venice Marine Center construction circa 1972
- Judy Strawderman**- photos of Venice circa 1993-1996
- Dennis Taylor**- railroad spikes from Venice Train Depot
- Venice Area Garden Club (Susan DiNapoli)**- organizational documents, programs from 2005-2015
- Venice Art Center**- assorted programs, course booklets, 2003-2015
- Venice High School (Faith Nellis)**- 2015 VHS *Warrior* yearbook
- Tommye Whittaker**- information and photos of 613 W. Venice Ave. house circa 1930s-70s

## Donation Spotlight



Letter signed by **Theodore Roosevelt** from the VMA's **Marjorie K. Sager Estate** Collection (at left).

VMA Curator, Michelle Harm shared a digital scan of the letter with Dickenson State University's Theodore Roosevelt Center.



Circa 1952 **Venice Vagabonds** hot rod club jacket donated by hot-rodder **David "Digger" Pattison**

## Search Collections Online

A portion of the VMA's collection is available for viewing online. New records are added each month.

1. Visit [www.VeniceMuseum.org](http://www.VeniceMuseum.org)
2. On the homepage, scroll to "To access the collection Online." Select "click here."
3. Go to the Keyword Search page and enter your keyword(s)

For assistance with your research, please contact Michelle Harm, Curator at 941-486-2487  
[mharm@venicemuseum.com](mailto:mharm@venicemuseum.com)

## Kudos to Jim and Tim!



Jim Nemec



Tim Leach

VMA Collections Volunteer **Jim Nemec** just finished a two-yearlong project cataloging 300+ photos, maps, plats, and other historic materials from the **Marjorie K. Sager** Estate collection donated to the museum in 2013. A time-consuming part of the project was scanning or photographing each item.

**Tim Leach**, Collections Volunteer, is closing in on cataloging the last two boxes of photographs from the **Woody Thayer Collection**. Tim describes each photo in detail including any known names of people, places, and events associated with the image. The collection has a total of 21 boxes and is estimated to include 3,000+ images. Stay tuned for the final inventory count.

**36,683**

Number of items inventoried during the summer as part of a large-scale project to assess the entire collection.

## Volunteer orientation and tour October 16th, 1 pm

For current, returning, and new VMA volunteers or those interested in possibly volunteering.



For pricing and more information visit [Eckotours.com](http://Eckotours.com)

### Urban Wildlife by Bike Ecotour

4 day, 4 night tour from November 15-19 with expert guides

Day 4 includes a bike tour of historic Venice with VMA Director, James Hagler



**December 12**  
**Holiday Open House**  
**and Tree Lighting**  
**5-7 pm**

Celebrate the holiday spirit at the VMA and at West Blalock Park



### HOLIDAY TEA

benefits Lord-Higel restoration

**\$55 per person**

**Sunday, December 27, 2015 at 3pm**

**For information call 941-237-0478**

## Free 2016 Speaker Series

presented by *Venice* MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Tuesday, Jan. 12th, 7 pm  
Venice Community Center



Bicycling  
Through Time

**Victor Dover**

Tuesday, Jan. 26th, 7 pm  
Venice Community Center



Economic Value  
of Historic  
Preservation

**Clay Henderson**

Tuesday, Feb. 9th, 7 pm  
Venice Community Center



Local  
Food

**Ed Chiles**

Tuesday, Feb. 23rd, 7 pm  
Venice Community Center



Book signing  
and talk on  
John Nolen

**Dr. Bruce Stephenson**

Speaker series sponsored by



Help us spread the word to your friends, family, and neighbors that the museum will be open the **first and third Saturdays** from 11a.m. until 3 p.m. for the months of October through April.



## St. Stephen's Episcopal School visits

Advanced history students from **St. Stephen's Episcopal School** in Bradenton visited the VMA this summer (at left). They seemed to particularly enjoy the Dr. Albee exhibit (at right).



**\$251,978**

Budget passed by the **City of Venice** for the **Historical Resources Department**, which includes operation of the Venice Museum & Archives

## Thank you, CED



Thank you to **Reid Pettit** of **Consolidated Electrical Distribution (CED)** of Venice for donating 12 state-of-the-art LED bulbs for the antique sconces in the VMA's main exhibit gallery.

## Floors refinished



A rare sight to see the main gallery empty

The VMA was closed to the public in August in order for staff to deal with repairs and maintenance of the Triangle Inn building. The 1927 structure is in constant need of care and upkeep. **James Long Floors, LLC** refinished the second floor offices, first floor gallery, library, and fossil room.

## Historical markers inventory and refinishing

This summer, an inventory of all City of Venice-owned historical markers was done, thanks to the efforts of the **Historic Preservation Board** working with VMA Director, **James Hagler**.

Progress has been made to refinish all of the markers to make them sparkle again. There are quite a few around town since Venice is steeped in history!



Before (left) and after (right)



## Design for Living exhibit reception



Left to right: Dan Ionescu, Mayor John Holic, Susan Ionescu (VMA Educator)

More than 100 people attended the opening reception for the new *Design for Living* exhibit. Thank you to **Venice Heritage, Inc.** for sponsoring the food and to **Judith Keeler** for sponsoring the wine. A good time was had by all!



Harold and Cecilia Caballeros

## National collaboration



The VMA's Saturday hours were kicked off this year on September 26th. The museum participated in the nationwide, **Smithsonian magazine Museum Day Live!** event, where visitors printed out a ticket to a participating museum for free admission.



## See us on TV and in local, national magazines

Photos from the VMA's collection and interviews with James Hagler were featured this summer in two **Linda Carson** segments on **ABC's Suncoast 7 News**. One was on the Lord-Higel House and a second was on John Nolen and the City of Venice's parks and green spaces.

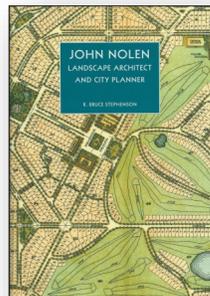


VMA collection photos and information were also featured in the following magazines:

- **Venice Magazine**, Spring/Summer and October issues
- **Venice: Gulf Coast Living**, May/June issue
- **View: The Magazine of the Library of American Landscape History**, Summer issue

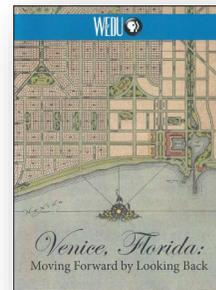
## Museum gift shop

The VMA gift shop features a variety of books and videos on local history and nature, as well as novels by local authors. Fossil-related books, gifts, and jewelry are also available.



**New publication**  
*John Nolen: Landscape Architect and City Planner*  
By R. Bruce Stephenson, 2015

New arrivals



**DVD on Venice, John Nolen, and New Urbanism**  
*Moving Forward by Looking Back*  
Produced by WEDU, 2010

As we head into the fall/winter season, we are looking forward to the return of our seasonal volunteers. An orientation will be held on October 16th at 1pm and a new volunteer handbook and training program are under development to improve the volunteers' experience at the VMA.

Thank you to **Chuck Ford** and **Deborah Thompson** for giving up their Saturday to volunteer for our Museum Day Live! event and to staff the VMA booth at Oscar Scherer State Park's National Public Lands Day event. A special thank you also to **Edy Browne, Chuck Ford, Tim Leach, Jann Leach, Toni Minnick, Jim Nemec,** and **Deborah Thompson** for helping set up and assisting with the *Design for Living* reception.

### Thank you, Mary Charles and Dorothy Korwek

While the museum was closed to the public in August, it was the perfect time for volunteers, **Mary Charles** and **Dorothy Korwek**, to work on a special project. They were able to use the empty gallery as a work space to go through two large boxes of "found in collection" materials.

They sorted and identified hundreds of photos and documents and reboxed them in archival-quality materials. The orphaned items will be incorporated into the collection database and placed into storage in the coming months.



Left to right: Mary Charles and Dorothy Korwek

### Student volunteer Caroline Kincaid



Before starting her sophomore year at Venice High School, **Caroline Kincaid** volunteered this summer at the VMA, as part of her community service hours.

Caroline worked on an inventory project by counting photographs, among other projects relating to collections and exhibits.

We hope to see you back next summer, Caroline!

### Welcome new volunteer

#### Trisha Resevic

Born in Massachusetts, Trisha spent the majority of her life on the lovely island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where she managed a family business.

A Rotarian since 1991, Trisha has been involved in many nonprofits on St. Croix—President of Island Center for the Performing Arts; VP of the St. Croix Chamber of Commerce; board member St. Croix Animal Welfare Center; Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls Club, St. George Botanical Garden, and the St Croix Landmark Society. She also worked on having Salt River—where Columbus landed in 1493—named a World Historic Site.

Trisha moved to Venice last year where she lives with her dog, a Lesser Antilles, named Dizzy.





*Venice*  
**MUSEUM**  
& ARCHIVES

Free to the public and open year-round  
Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
1st & 3rd Saturdays from Oct. through April,  
11a.m. - 3 p.m.

351 Nassau St. S., Venice, FL 34285  
(941) 486-2487 [venicemuseum@venicegov.com](mailto:venicemuseum@venicegov.com)

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The Venice Museum & Archives, a municipal museum governed by the City of Venice, is located in the historic 1927 Triangle Inn building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is within walking distance of downtown Venice and is situated within the Venice Cultural Campus that includes the Venice Library, Venice Art Center, and Venice Community Center.