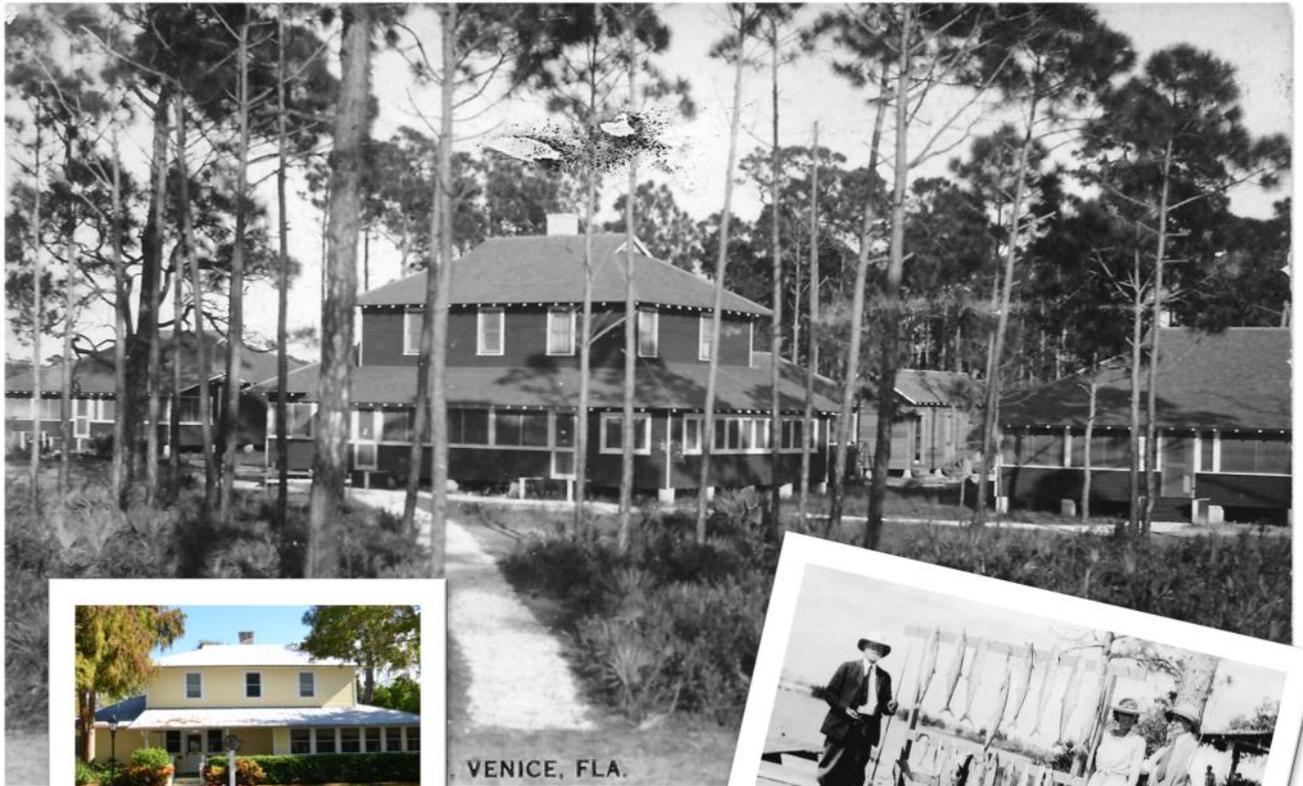


The mission of the Venice Museum and Archives is to collect and preserve historical and archaeological material relating to Venice and the communities of Laurel, Nokomis and Osprey, whose histories have all been interwoven from 1867 to the present time.

Spring 2016

## Happy 100th Anniversary, Eagle Point!



### In This Issue

- |                                  |   |                         |     |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----|
| • Current Exhibit                | 1 | • Events                | 5-6 |
| • Upcoming Exhibits and Outreach | 2 | • Volunteer Corner      | 7-8 |
| • Collections                    | 3 | • Venice Heritage, Inc. | 9   |
| • News                           | 4 | • Contact Us            | 10  |

*Eagle Point*  
**Historic Eagle Point:**

**A Legacy of "Old Florida" in Venice**  
 1916-2016



Visitors enjoying the Eagle Point exhibit at VMA



Eagle Point guests and cottages, circa 1917

**EPC tours raise \$7,000 for VMA**

A total of 292 tickets were sold during the two weekends the tours were conducted. The VMA is grateful to the EPC residents and members of the Centennial Committee, not only for their assistance in sharing this amazing chapter of Venice's history, but also for their dedication in continuing to care for this community treasure. By donating the ticket proceeds to the museum, they are enabling the VMA to continue sharing Venice's heritage.

**Thank you, EPC Centennial Committee!**

Robert Bethke  
 Max Brown  
 James Middleton  
 Laurie Stottlemeyer  
 Judy Wilcox  
 Kay Wright  
 Mary Wright  
 also

Cici Cook and Roger Hart  
 Skip Thomas, EPC Homeowners Assoc.  
 Michelle Brown, tour booklet and tickets design and production

**A few visitor comments about Eagle Point exhibit:**

*"Love your ever-changing exhibits!"*  
 - Eileen and Mark S.

*"Nice. A lot of history in a small place!"*  
 - Bert N., Illinois

*"Lovely exhibition that helps me more firmly to understand what I learned on the recent tour of Eagle Point you helped make happen."*  
 - anonymous

*"Well done and enjoyed the visit. Very interesting."*  
 - Henry and Christine S., Canada

*"A gem"* - Crispin and Barbara B., Vermont

*"Nicely presented and preserved-1st rate!"*  
 - Allen H., Illinois



Tours at Eagle Point Club were a smashing success thanks to the EPC residents, who led the tours.



Members of the EPC Centennial Committee on the front porch of the Eagle Point Clubhouse.

## John Nolen exhibit will travel



Photo courtesy of FOHSC

The VMA is partnering with the **Friends of the Sarasota County History Center** to bring our John Nolen exhibit, *Design for Living*, to Sarasota. You will be able to catch the exhibit at the Historical Exhibits and Educational Center, located in the historic Chidsey Library building. The exhibit is then headed to Winter Park, Florida in 2017. For more information about the FOSCHC visit [FOSCHC.org](http://FOSCHC.org). Check VMA's Facebook page for future updates about the exhibit.

### What's next at the VMA?

If you are a car nut and avid racing fan, you will enjoy our upcoming exhibit this September on the **Venice Vagabonds** and hot rod racing at the Venice Airport during the 1950s and 1960s. Roll up your denim, strap on your saddle shoes and start your engines for a fun ride!



## PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH

### 700+ people attend VMA's New Urbanism speaker series



Thank you to the series speakers **Victor Dover**, **Clay Henderson**, **Ed Chiles** and **Dr. Bruce Stephenson** for helping draw great crowds for their interesting talks on New Urbanism related topics and historic preservation. We are also grateful to **Betty Intagliata**, **Barbara Smith**, **Carol Bailey** and the **Venice Area Historical Society** volunteers for their support of this series. Sponsors included **Gulf Coast Community Foundation**, **Venice Area Historical Society**, **Venice Heritage Inc.**, and **Florida Journeys**.



A packed house for Dr. Bruce Stephenson, February 23, 2016

## Collections on the move



The team at **Kearney Moving** packed two trucks with our city's treasures and headed to an offsite storage facility in December. This was part of an effort to remove some of the weight from the second floor of the Triangle Inn building.

Mover, **Kevin Krejnik**, who is finishing his degree in history at SCF, not only helped with the move but also eventually became a VMA intern!

It was no easy task to plan for and coordinate. Curator **Michelle Harm** was relieved when all was safe and sound in its new home.

Some of the moving crew grew up in Venice and enjoyed taking a break to look at photos of themselves in Venice High School yearbooks in the VMA's collection.

**We moved:**  
350+ boxes  
130 bound volumes of the *Venice Gondolier*  
Plus a collection of tax digests, atlases, plat books and large aerial photos



Thank you to the following donors, from December 2015 through April 2016, for donating items to VMA's historical collection:

Kate Bell  
Peter Bradish  
Bob Byler  
John Clarke  
Frank Codella  
Nancy Eaton  
Phil Ellis (Venice Area Beautification, Inc.)  
Larry Evans  
Peter Griggs  
June Gurley  
Bruce Hamill  
Ken Harper (KMI Alumni Association)

Herald-Tribune  
Larry Humes  
Carol Johnston  
Karen Kissane  
Caroline Knott  
Jim Middleton  
George Schumacher  
Sunny Seabrook  
Carolyn Stephens  
Glenn Stephens  
Venice Municipal Airport  
Greg Vine

### 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. Click on the Collections tab
3. Scroll down to "Researching the collection" and click on link to search the collections online

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



## Book and paper conservator Sonja Jordan-Mowery helps VMA

For the first time in Venice's history, there is now a full scale, state-of-the-art conservation facility dedicated to the conservation of books, manuscripts, works-of-art on paper, ephemera, archival materials, and parchment/leather collections. **Sonja K. Jordan-Mowery**, (formerly) Director of Conservation and Heritage Science for Conservation at **Johns Hopkins University**, and her husband, **John Franklin Mowery**, (formerly) Head of Conservation at the **Folger Shakespeare Library**, have combined experience of over 60 years in book and paper conservation and fine binding. They have chosen Venice as their new home and the site of their conservation studio located at 233 Tamiami Trail S.

Recently, the VMA completed a Conservation Assessment Program Grant and has begun to address its preservation and conservation needs. In April, we began working with Sonja to identify items from our collection of 1920s to 1950s plats and maps most in need of conservation. Items were selected for conservation treatment either because of their uniqueness or because their deteriorated state is so critical, if nothing is done to preserve them today, we will not be able to secure their future.

**If you are interested in adopting a piece in the collection and funding its conservation treatment, please contact Michelle Harm, Curator. Treatments range between \$25 and \$350.**

Left: Sonja Jordan-Mowery assesses the condition of 1926 plats of Venice created by John Nolen

**830**

# of people who visited the VMA in March (all-time record!)

**1,006**

# of people who like the VMA on Facebook



Image courtesy of Lorraine Anderson

In March and May, **Sarasota County** held four workshops on the future of library services in Venice. The workshops were intended to continue the conversation with fellow community members and County staff about their priorities for the **Venice Public Library**.

The idea of a shared-use facility for the VMA and Venice Library was brought up in the discussions. *What do you think?*



Library

+



Museum

=

?



The VMA was the first stop for the annual **Newcomers of Venice Alumni** tour. They were a festive sea of green on St. Patrick's Day.



Above: Eagle Point Club real estate developers **Danny Overstreet** (left) and **Glenn Goodman** (right) reminisced about their project in the 1990s, while visiting the VMA's Eagle Point exhibit. They are featured in the photograph behind them.



Above and at left: On May 4th the **Florida Association of Public Art Professionals** held its annual conference this year in Venice. Participants were given a tour of the VMA before heading across the street to Blalock Park to view the public art sculptures.

# Eagle Point exhibit reception

More than 100 people attended the opening reception for the new Eagle Point exhibit. Thank you to **Judith Keeler** for sponsoring the delicious food for the event.



Eagle Point Historian, **Bob Bethke** with **Lois Steketee** at reception, March 10



**Cici Cook** poses next to a photo of her mother, Cornelia McLanahan Curtis





**Chuck and Dennis,  
have fun, we'll miss you!**

**Welcome, new volunteers**



Thank you, **Dennis Taylor** (above left) for dedicating five years to the VMA. Your docent tours were always a hit with visitors!

Thank you, **Chuck Ford** (above right) for your excellent work with collections and assisting with photo orders. How did ten years go by so quickly?

**Alice Haber**

I am a retired Head Start teacher and Instructional Specialist from the School District of Philadelphia. Prior to that I was an Accountant. I also volunteer as an AARP Tax Aide. I have been a snowbird for six years spending my summers at the New Jersey seashore. I love the VMA and the wonderful people there.



**Student volunteer Kevin Krejnik**

**Gerri Halgren**

I am a "snowbird" from Old Saybrook, Connecticut. I love learning about Venice history and sharing it with visitors to the VMA. In my former life (mostly spent in the Schenectady, New York area) I was an English teacher, a stay-at-home mom and a Teaching Assistant in a high school library. Watercolor painting is my passion. I belong to the Venice Art Center and take classes there. During the summer in Connecticut, I participate in two painting groups, serve on the Friends of the Library, and volunteer at the Florence Griswold Museum of American Impressionism in Old Lyme.



I am a senior history major at the University of South Florida and have been volunteering to gain experience during my final semester. I was born and raised in Venice, and returned with my wife and son after serving in the Marines for five years. After I graduate, I hope to work in a department of the federal government related to history, museums, or archives.





Left to right: VMA volunteers **Toni Minnick, Edy Browne, Mary Charles, Sallie Rice, Dennis Taylor, Deborah Thompson, Jim Nemece, Carol Bailey, and Clarke Pressly**

### Volunteer appreciation luncheon, April 28

Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers, who donated 2,323 combined hours of time in 2015. We missed those who were unable to attend the picnic: **Tina Bird, Chuck Ford, Alice Haber, Gerri Halgren, Peter Hurley, Peg Kapustiak, Kevin Krejnik, Jann Leach, Tim Leach, Sonja Mowery, Randy Pearson, and Trisha Resevic.**



A beautiful day for a picnic in Blalock Park



Toni Minnick preps goodie bags



Left: **Mary Charles** receives a goodie bag in appreciation for 296 volunteer hours in 2015.

Right: Volunteers play a game guessing who's high school photo is who. **Edy Browne** was the winner of the challenge.



### 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 arrivals!**

Coffee table books, cookbooks, fiction and non-fiction—something for everyone

## “20 for 10” campaign to finish Lord-Higel House

“We estimate about \$200,000 will be needed to finish the job. And so, we have begun what we’re calling the “20 for10” campaign, to encourage 20 Venetians to donate \$10,000 each to help us achieve our goal. My wife, Carol, and I have chosen to donate the first \$10,000. **Janis Fawn** and **Winston Wilmore** also have agreed to give \$10K to the cause. And the **Bill Jervey Jr. Charitable Foundation** has generously agreed to provide us with a \$50,000 “capping” grant to put us over the top!”



Lord-Higel House, April 15, 2016



“This dream of completing the Lord-Higel House has not been without its challenges. I suspect we will hit a few more ‘bumps in the road’ before we open that early settler museum and welcome center to the public for the very first time. But I also believe there is a

lot of power behind this dream and together we will see it through. Will you join us?”

- Larry Humes

To contribute, please visit the fund’s link at Gulf Coast Community Foundation <http://www.gulfcoastcf.org/lhh.php>



## New VHI officers elected at annual meeting

New officers were installed at the annual meeting of VHI on March 13. **Judith Anne Keeler**, who has served as vice president during the past year, was elected president, and **Don Hay** became vice president. **Sue Vedder** was re-elected as the organization’s secretary, and **Susan Hanks** continues as VHI’s treasurer.

A graduate of Emory University’s School of Law, **Judith Keeler** served as a senior manager with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development before moving to Venice in 2008. She serves as a volunteer with numerous local organizations, including as vice chair of Venice’s Code Enforcement Board, as well as with Venice Area Beautification, Inc. and the American Association of University Women.



2016 VHI President Judith Keeler

**Don Hay**, a financial planner who moved to Venice in 1981, also is an active volunteer in the community. In addition to serving on VHI’s board, he is involved with organizations such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Sertoma, and is past president of the Venice Chamber of Commerce.

Four board members, whose terms were completed this year, were recognized for their exemplary service: **Mickey Higel**, **Joyce Norton**, **Lois Steketee**, and **Claire Suter**.

Following the meeting, **Jon Barrick**, who is serving as architect on the Lord-Higel House restoration project, gave a

brief talk on the architectural style of houses built during the late 19th century, and Venice **Mayor John Holc** thanked the volunteers for their service to the community and talked about the importance of public-private partnerships.



2016 VHI annual meeting

Retired engineer and VHI board member, **Mickey Higel**, was presented with the VHI’s **Community Service Award**, not only for his service to historic preservation in the community, but also for the thousands of hours he has volunteered in helping restore the Lord-Higel House. Mickey is the grand-nephew of George Higel, for whom the house is partially named.

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



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.

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**Michelle Harm**  
 Curator/Collections Manager  
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Department of Historical Resources staff is available by appointment only, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Review us on  
[TripAdvisor.com](http://TripAdvisor.com)



*"Great historical museum – don't miss it!"*

*We are always pleasantly surprised by this type of museum. So much information in a great location and free. The people/docents are always well informed and more than happy to share Floridian history. We can't say enough about how important these types of institutions are. Go!"*

- FilRon, New York

**Have you checked out our updated website?**

[VeniceMuseum.org](http://VeniceMuseum.org)



Like us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/veniceflarchives](http://www.facebook.com/veniceflarchives)



The Venice Museum & Archives is a municipal museum operated by the City of Venice Department of Historical Resources. It 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.