

AHE DEDOL WISENW

d distorical society of dvoi park

"Your Ticket to the Past"

June 2024 Edition

CELEBRATING THE 75th ANNIVERSARY of the DISCOVERY OF BROWN N SERVE ROLLS



OCTOBER 12

10 - 4

Museum Avenue

JOIN in the FUN

Demonstrations

Fxhibits

Kidz Zone Food Trucks

Craft Vendors Brain Bus

Farmers Market Vendors

Amateur Baking Contest

Enter to find out who bakes the best quick bread and muffins in Highlands County. (Rules on page 7)

Bread Festival Sponsors

Anonymous

Bagwell Lumber

Barben Fruit Co.

Bug Runner

Elton Crews

Emily Jones, Remax

Heartland National Bank

Hicks Oil

Long's Air Conditioning, Inc.

Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Serv

Terri Mendel

Thank you

Born in Pennsylvania, Elaine lived on the island of Guam where her job involved ordering parts for B52 bombers. Before coming to Florida, she moved with her husband and daughter Cesily to Washington, D.C., and then settled on a 300-acre parcel of land in Lorida. Elaine become involved in community service in the small, thriving town. She worked with the ladies of the fireman's auxiliary fixing the old schoolhouse for the bicentennial in 1976. The folks in Lorida were so proud of their accomplishments, they wanted to be recognized in the newspaper. They asked Elaine to help, and she went to the Highlands News Sun and was hired. She took journalism and photography courses at South Florida Community College and for over four years wrote a weekly column "What's Happening in Lorida".

In 1990, as a single woman she moved to Sebring, and worked for South Florida Community College as a library assistant where she met Larry Levey who was a News Sun correspondent. They found they had much in common and two years later they were married. Elaine's column 'Yesterday' led to a collaboration with her husband on a pictorial history of Highlands County called "Yesterday, a Family Album of Highlands County". While working on the book, Elaine visited the Avon Park Depot Museum and realized the museum could use a little help and thus began a very productive career with the museum. She has served here for over 25 years working as volunteer curator, archivist, researcher, part time treasurer, and docent

Community minded, she is active in several cultural organizations including the Sebring Historical Society, Heartland Cultural Alliance (Board Member), the Highlands County Historic Preservation Commission (representing the Historical Society of Avon Park) and the Highlands County Heritage Association (Board Member). She has received community awards including the Greater Lorida Community Club for volunteer Service in 1991, the Avon Park Chamber of Commerce of Commerce Service Award in 2008, the Highlands News-Sun (Unsung Heroes) award for service as Museum Director in 2019 and was nominated Highlands News Sun Volunteer of the Year.

Our wonderful museum is what it is today because of Elaine's helpful hand and expertise. With great curiosity she continues to learn and adds much to our museum.

In Elaine's own words – 'Volunteering at the museum has been very rewarding for me. I feel like I have gotten a free education. I love history especially writing about it. I have met people from all over the world and I am always learning something new. Our mission is documenting, preserving and archiving Avon Park's history. Much of our fundraising is through luncheons in the California Zephyr



dining car and luncheon guests get a special tour of the museum before going into the dining car. Learning where folks are from and hearing their stories is interesting'



Sharon Seymour, Volunteer Coordinator

Stop by the museum, meet Sharon and ask about the many volunteer opportunities available.

* MUSEUM HAPPENINGS *

There are many, many photographs in our archival collection, most have some identifying information. For those unidentified photos, we are asking for help so that they can be filed

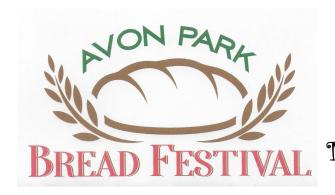
properly. This photo is an example.



If any of our readers can identify any of the folks in the photo, we are asking for your help. Please call the museum during our regular hours or stop by. This looks like a special occasion from the forties or fifties, judging from the foot wear and length of the dresses.

A member volunteer has taken on the project of identifying, classifying and filing the photographs in the museum collection. We are frequently asked for photographs by people who are doing research. Soon it will be much easier to locate the requested items. As the project progresses, unidentifiable pictures will be put aside with the hope that someone will have knowledge of the setting, occasion and the people depicted. A visit to the museum could include a 'stroll down Memory Lane' and the chance to use detective skills to put a name to these faces.

COMING TO THE MUSEUM NEAR YOU ON OCTOBER 12TH

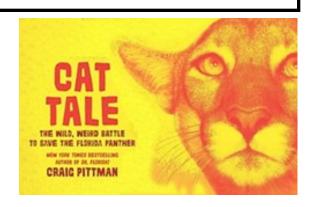


Demonstrations Exhibits
Baking Contest Kidz Zone
Food Trucks Craft Vendors
Musical Entertainment & more.

Presented by the Historical Society in partnership with the Heartland Cultural Alliance and the Avon Park Chamber of Commerce

* UP-COMING PROGRAMMING .

Florida Humanities Florida Talks October 27- CRAIG PITTMAN
CAT TALE: The Wild, Weird Battle
to Save the Florida Panther





November 24 — KERI WATSON

The Barefoot Mailman

& Florida Post Office Murals

This *Florida Talks series* is presented in partnership with the Heartland Cultural Alliance & THE HOTEL JACARANDA

Funding is being provided by Florida Humanities and sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, the Division of Arts & Culture, and the Florida Council on Arts & Culture.



Board the Avon Park Express leaving the Depot at 6 on November 16 and guess Who Dun It. The mystery is based on actual events from the 1930's. The clues are presented by the Shawn Holiday Players. Between acts passengers are served a three-course meal consisting of a fruit cup, chicken supreme over mashed potato, glazed carrots with pumpkin mousse for dessert. Beverages are included. Tickets are \$40 per person, and are available at the Depot Museum. Seating is limited. Reserved seating is available for tables of four.

Dress in your favorite '30's outfit and enjoy dinner and a show on the rails.



SHAWN HOLIDAY PLAYERS - Chris Downie, Reese Holiday, Angel Garibaldi, Shelley Mercure and the man himself - Shawn Holiday

Fundraising Continues for the Baseball Addition

Doc Sevigny and committee members will go before the Highlands County Board of Commissioners to request financial support for our project on October 15 at 9 am. We are encouraging all interested persons to attend and show your support for this project. We need to convince the powers-that-be that a world class museum featuring "America's Pass Time" will be a valuable addition to the tourist attractions in Highlands County and worthy of their financial support. Visitors from across the state interested in local history already visit our museum. Our two local baseball celebrities - Hal McRae and Tom Gordon - are recognized nationally and will be prominently featured attracting baseball fans from all over.

The contract with the Avon Park CRA has been negotiated and will be signed at a future City Council meeting. The permitting process is on-going with no major snags anticipated. Ground-breaking could be as early as the end of this year.

The interior design for the addition is being discussed. Murals depicting the 100 year history will adorn the walls above the display cases of memorabilia and artifacts. The museum will feature state-of-the-art exhibits and interactive opportunities for young people and adults. The additional space will allow the Historical Society to present special activities and events for the public.

The vintage baseball game held at Head Field earlier this year was a fun event. There is interest to follow up with a sequel. The 2025 spring training season just might feature another such game. Whether your place is in the dug-out or the stands, you will want to be on hand when the umpire calls "Batter Up!"

******************************* We are still seeking Avon Park baseball memorabilia for museum exhibits - particularly, photos of the high school championship teams and the Negro league teams. Items can be loaned or donated. Call us (863-453-3525) if you have photos to add to the history.

The Depot Museum is open on Saturday from 10 to 3.

If you do not know how the Teddy Bear got his name, come by the museum and the bear in the top hat will tell you his story.

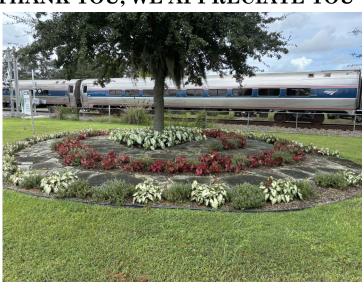


Thank you to our Corporate members These businesses and organizations support your museum!!

Alan Jay Automotive Avon Park Bingo Avon Park Champions Club Bagwell Lumber Avon Park Rotary Barben Fruit Co. Bill Owens Auto Sales Bug-Runner Pest Service C. Elton Crews, Inc. Classic Caladiums Cool & Cobb Engineering Daniel Sauls Real Estate Forrest Hilton, CPA Emily Jones, Remax GeoDev Financial Services Gordon Gastor Hartline Insurance Heartland Cultural Alliance Heartland National Bank Heston & Sedlock Construction Hicks Oil Jahna Concrete, Inc Laye's Tire Service Long's Air Conditioning, Inc. Maxwell Grove Service Palmer Ace Hardware & Electric Services Pro Weld River Greens Golf Course Dr. Ron Sevigny Sherco, Inc. 64 West Collision Repair Souther Signs The Hotel Jacaranda Stephen/Nelson Funeral Services Turner Furniture Worden Realty THANK YOU, WE APPRECIATE YOU Drs.Richard & Betsy Wood

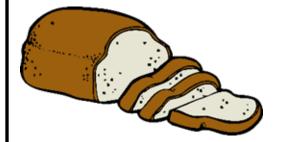
A donation of caladium bulbs from Classic Caladiums is now in full bloom. Thank you so much!!

And, thank you to the volunteers who got the bulbs into the ground and continue to help us fight the weeds.



Please consider a gift to the Historical Society in lieu of flowers to honor the passing of a loved one.

We gratefully acknowledge The First Christian Church in Avon Park for generously allowing us to print our newsletters in their office.



BREAD FESTIVAL October 12

Amateur Baking Contest Rules

These requirements apply to all applicants

- 1. Contestants must be amateurs. Professional chefs, cooks or businesses may **not** enter the contest. Contestants must specify their division.
- 2. Each entry must be homemade from "scratch" ingredients. no mixes. (Age 5-7 Division is exempt from this rule)
- 3. All entries must be accompanied by the completed recipe form.
- 4. Entries will be judged on taste/appeal, presentation, originality/creativity
- 5. Contestants are allowed only one entry to be judged.
- 6. All entries must qualify as a bread type item muffin, biscuit or quick bread (no yeast or sourdough).
- 7. Entry quantity: Breads One (1) regular sized or mini loaf
 Muffins or Biscuits Four (4) individual servings

REGISTRATION FORM

Name				
Email		Phone		
Division:	_ Age 5- 7	Age 8-18	Adult	
10 to 11:15 AM 11:30 AM _{11:15}	Drop off at the Avon Park Community Center Judging Begins, please have items dropped off no later than			
1 PM	Winners will be announced from the sound stage			
Email registration info to: avonparkdepotmuseum@gmail.com				
		or		
	kamla.long@apccfl.org			
Registration forms may also be brought to the Depot Museum or the				

Chamber of Commerce. Registration is requested prior to the event.

Historical Society of Avon Park, Inc

Email: avonparkdepotmuseum@gmail.com Website: www.avonparkhistoricalsociety.com



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Phone: 863-453-3525

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Wanda Kopta Sharon Seymour

MUSEUM HOURS

Wed., Thur, Friday & Sat 10 am to 3 pm

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Oct 5, Nov 2 & Dec 7
Gardening on the Grounds
October 12
BREAD FESTIVAL

October 27 Florida Talks - *Cat Tale*

Murder Mystery
NOVEMBER 16