



THE DEPOT MUSEUM

& HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AVON 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 Exhibits

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

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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

Thank you to our Corporate members

These businesses and organizations support your museum!!

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THANK YOU, WE APPRECIATE YOU

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 Drop off at the Avon Park Community Center

11:30 AM Judging Begins, please have items dropped off no later than
11:15

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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Wanda Kopta Sharon Seymour



Elaine Levey, Curator

Sharon Seymour, Volunteer Coordinator

Nancy Fisk, Newsletter Editor



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