

The City of Palm Coast Historical Society



Newsletter

Winter 2002

Palm Coast, Florida 32137

No. 2

City Council Awards Grant To Historical Society

The City Council of Palm Coast, acting during their regular public meeting on Jan. 22nd, awarded our historical society a grant of \$ 3,000. The grant will enable us to pay the monthly storage fee for the materials obtained from ITT. The grant application was initially submitted to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The Committee was unable to approve the funding because the grant guideline supported the performing cultural arts groups and our society did not have the required federal tax exempt number.

The historical society officers appealed the decision at the City Council meeting with success and a 5 to 0 grant vote. Every executive officer was present at the meeting and the following members spoke: Art Dycke, Bob Crocetta, Arnold Levine and Debby Geyer.

Our co-historian had written a detailed appeal for funds which was presented to the City Council. A copy of that appeal is reprinted in this issue of our newsletter.

Volunteers Needed

We need people to categorize material that was donated by ITT to the City of Palm Coast. We have boxes of photos, Palm Coaster newsletters, newspaper clippings, etc. We need people to clip newspaper articles and paste them in albums to preserve them for future use.

Alan Smolen to Speak on the Early Years of Palm Coast

Alan Smolen, former President of ITT-CDC Will speak before the Historical Society on Wed., Feb. 13th at 1:30 at the Palm Coast Community Center. The presentation is open to the public.

In 1975, ITT World Headquarters in New York Named Alan Smolen president of ICDC. An Engineer by training and a proven administrator, Smolen's first major objective was to close ICDC's New York office and initiate plans for the relocation of the Miami office to Palm Coast. This was completed in 1978 with the opening of the ICDC headquarters building on St. Joe Grade. (Now Palm Coast Parkway). The Flagler County Board of Commissioners created The East Flagler Service District. This first step was taken in anticipation of the ultimate need for a governmental entity representing the rapidly growing Palm Coast community. The district was activated in 1979 to provide services.

Art Dycke Presentation

On Nov. 14th at the Palm Coast Community Center, and again on Jan. 15 at the Flagler County Library, Art Dycke, our Historian, presented a "power point" program on the first phase of the history of Palm Coast which covered the earliest inhabitants to The year 1979. He is scheduled to repeat the program at the Civic Association meeting on Feb. 6" at 7:00 P.M. at the Community Center. This is the beginning of a work in Progress, and members are encouraged to contribute any historical information which they think would be of value to be included in future presentations. Our next Programs will feature the ITT years of development and finally, the incorporation of the City of Palm Coast to the present.

The Nominating Committee will present the following slate of officers for 2002

President.....Debby Geyer Vice President.....Mary Ann Canfield
Treasurer.....Bob Crocetta Recording Secretary..... Kay Stafford
Corresponding Secretary and Membership ChairpersonDebra Heywood

Board of Directors

Margaret Davie Art Dycke Jack Holt Connie Horvath

All dues paying members are encouraged to attend and vote at the February 6th Meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor.

Pages From The Past



Palm Coast Information Tower Completed

The observation tower of the Palm Coast Information Center, Located in the geographical and functional center core of the first Model Home area of Palm Coast, was completed the second week of September.

The observation tower, over 64 feet high, will be equipped with an elevator and provide visitors with an unobstructed view of the work now in progress; the nine model homes, each one linked by waterway with the Information Center, the golf course under construction, the nearby lakes, the inland waterway and the dredging operation currently in progress creating a new canal.

Construction is also continuing on the model homes. In one future model the plans call for three bedrooms and two

and one half baths with all the rooms built around a swimming pool area. The exterior is of stone with wood-grilled windows and a wood gate. The entrance will be from the front gate under a vine-covered loggia through the pool area to a beamed foyer. The master bedroom area has a plush bathroom and makeup' area somewhat secluded from the activity area.

rooms, is designed for outdoor dining with complete privacy. A raised foyer separates the living room from the dining room. The house has three bedrooms and two baths.

The dredging of the canal has proceeded for a distance of 3,000 feet and completion of the main canal is anticipated by the end of 1971.

Additional construction news and notes will be forthcoming in future issues of the Palm Coaster.



In another home a private interior garden terrace serves as entrance. The interior patio, serving all the living

the Palm Coaster

ITT LEVITT
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 458
BUNNELL, FLORIDA 32010

EDITOR:
ANNE WALTHALL

Historical Society Looks For A Home

BY ARNOLD LEVINE
Special to the Flagler Times'

The City of Palm Coast Historical Society is without a home and is desperately looking for a place to accumulate, categorize, store and exhibit the important events that led to the present-day city. The society lost its temporary residence at City Hall when the small conference room it had been using was converted into four small offices to help alleviate the city's pressing need for space. Accumulated materials as had to be moved to their present location in a rented storage facility.

Conceptualized in 1998, the Historical Society has become a written, visual and oral data bank of local knowledge. Volunteer City Historians Art Dycke and Margaret Davie accepted the responsibility of maintaining the voluminous records that fill a storeroom measuring ten by ten feet. Archives include original newspaper articles, written documents and photos of Palm Coast's early development. In addition, there are oral recordings of facts told by the first people to move into the community. "We needed to start this project as soon as we could," said Dycke, "while eye witnesses were still alive and the material was yet available." Inquires such as: who named this town Palm Coast, who was the first to move in, where is the oldest house, who was the first baby to be born, etc., are answers still being sought after. Dycke is presently working on a computer program slide show entitled, "The 'City' of Palm Coast: From beginning until 1979" that is being presented to the public for interaction as it continues toward completion. Dycke, a history teacher for 37 years and an instructor at Daytona Beach Community College, knows what it takes to be a true historian. The credibility of events is most important, he said. "if we suspect an event is myth or story telling, we say so. Sometimes," he said, "an event can not be substantiated even though it is accepted as factual by many."

However, sometimes a little research turns into a discovery of major proportion, such as the recording of; the song, *Palm Coast, You're the Most* by Bill Lane and his orchestra. It seems that way back in time when people were being brought down by IIT, Lane fell in love with the richness of the land, the sights of 'wildlife' and the glimmer of the shining atop the Intracoastal.

The story goes; he burst out in song, unable to contain his love for Palm Coast: When he came to his senses he wrote down the words and music that came directly from his heart.' His recording can be heard at society presentations, although it never made the top ten in *Billboard Magazine*.

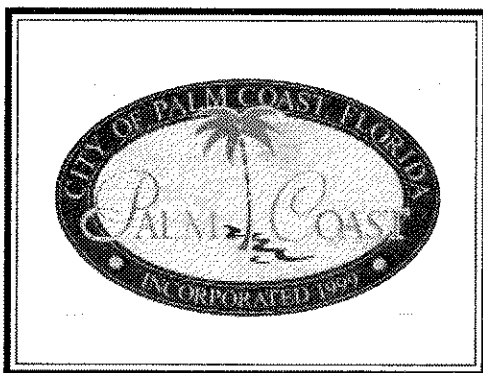
At the present time, the historical society boasts of 53 members. They are continuously looking for anyone with old photos, stories, news clippings or an oral history of events, and of course 'new members.' In 2001, the City Council provided a Cultural Arts funding grant for \$1,500; This amount barely covers limited access storage rent.

as museum space to catalog, display and make history available' to the public? Knowledge hidden away is no knowledge at all, said Dycke.

As the city's co-historian~ Dycke speculates that if the Historical Society does not find a home in 2002, it will have, to disband with all material being locked in storage. "We' have acquired such a rich history in such a short period of time," he said.

'The story of the City of Palm Coast goes back many thousands of years to when Indians and wild beasts roamed what is now Palm Coast Parkway.'

To get an exciting rendering of our history or to join the Palm Coast Historical Society, call Margaret Davie, president, 445-3184 Art Dycke vice president, 446-8636 or membership chair Debby' Geyer 446-9031.



New PalmCoasters in 1970

- Mrs. Eva Grace Acker
CHARLOTTE, NC.
- Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Baker
NEW HAVEN, CONN
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Bendickson
VIENNA, VA.
- Miss Dorothy Cahill
STONY BROOK, N.Y.
- Mr. & Mrs. Harold Catron
STONE MT., GA.
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Daupier
SMYRNA, GA.
- Mr. Roy Davis
ARLINGTON, VA.
- Miss Halina Ellis
GREENFIELD, MASS.
- Mr. & Mrs. One Ennis
JOLIET, ILL.
- Mr. Dobbie T. Farrar
GOODLETTSVILLE, TENN.
- Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Frye
CHARLOTTE, NC.
- Mr. & Mrs. Allan Gilbert
GARDEN CITY, N.Y.
- Mr. & Mrs. Francis Green
WHEATON, MO.
- Mr. & Mrs. John Heiss
BOWIE, Mo.
- Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Isaacson
KENNEWICK, WASH.
- Mr. & Mrs. Henry Joyner
ATLANTA, GA.
- Mr. & Mrs. Philip Larkin
HARTFORD, CONN.
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Longinott
COMMACK, N.Y.
- Mr. & Mrs. John Massey
BEL AIR, MO.
- Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Olsen
TUCKER, GA.
- Mr. & Mrs. P. Patel
SILVER SPRING, MD.
- Mr. & Mrs. Harold Pyle
WOODSIDE, N.Y.
- Mr. George H. Roshman
MCLEAN, VA.
- Mr. & Mrs. Austin Siak
HYDES, MD.
- Mr. & Mrs. R. Skelley
WASHINGTON, D.C.
- Miss Katherine Stroupe
DECATUR, ALABAMA
- Mr. & Mrs. H. Susmuth
TAPPAN, N.J.
- Mr. & Mrs. Van Sternbergh
WASHINGTON, D.C.
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wilson
EUCYRUS, OHIO
- Mr. Winifred Wilson
GAINESVILLE, FLA.

Presentation to the City Council

FROM Art Dycke, Co-Historian, City of Palm Coast and V.P., City Of Palm Coast Historical Society

RE: City of Palm Coast Historical Society Funding Request

In April of 2000, the City Council appointed Margaret Davie and myself to the volunteer posts of Co-City Historians. We were allowed partial use of the small conference room in the new City Hall. Two file cabinets and many boxes of materials given to us by the departing ITT Corporation were accessible in the room while many boxes were stored on shelves in the deep closet in the City Managers office. In the conference room we clipped and prepared newspaper files, conducted audio taped oral history interviews and accumulated historical materials from the public. The City gave us meeting room, limited phone and duplicating service and some clerical help. It reimbursed us for the poster board and materials we used in creating a "City of Palm Coast in the News" display that was part of the public celebration opening the new City Hall.

For 2001, the City Manager recommended that we create a historical society patterned upon a Deltona model that he provided for us. The City of Palm Coast Historical Society came into legal existence on the 10th of January, 2001. In conjunction with the City, the Society applied to the State Historical Records Board for a start up grant in the amount of \$10,000. Being a new city, the City grant writer and I were surprised and disappointed when we received the denial of our initial grant proposal in a letter dated March 1. The State had encouraged a second application in April, which was duly submitted with a request for \$5,000. to conduct a current needs assessment, provide workshops and training for our volunteer historians and to give us technical help in the planning of a future public research/museum facility. We were again disappointed in the Fall when the State informed us that other city/society projects preceded ours in the race for the limited grant funds.

The Historical Society continued its oral history and newspaper clipping and it provided access to a City Historian for three hours a week during the Spring and Fall of 2001. It participated in the Home Show and it launched an aggressive, "Who Was The First?" campaign to help in obtaining information regarding early Palm Coast. I attended meetings with other cultural arts groups in discussions about a future cultural arts center.

The City Council had budgeted Cultural Arts Grant funding in the amount of \$25,000. for the year 2001. From this total, the City of Palm Coast Historical Society received a grant in the amount of \$1,500.

In November, the Society was intormed that the City's need tor additional space required that it divide the small conference room into four work- stations. Our file cabinets and materials were to be removed immediately. We searched for a reasonable place to meet, work and accommodate the public to no avail. With the carpenters scheduled to commence construction on the next day, we had little choice but to move all the files, poster display and materials immediately from City Hall and put them into a 10' x 10' air conditioned storage facility. The rent for this preservation is \$139.monthly and there is no opportunity for any public access to the materials.

Approximately a year ago, I started accumulating an updated computer, scanner, software and a small amount of technical knowledge. I spent time gathering information about Palm Coast from Holden House, Volusia and Flagler Museums and Newspapers, St. Augustine Historical Society, and ITT, Margaret Davies and others pictures. I put text and graphics from these studies into a Powerpoint TM computer presentation pretentiously entitled, "A History of the City of Palm Coast: From the Beginning to 1979". The program is unabashedly amateurish. The partial sound track is not yet in the program, It is shown as an interactive learning experience and as a "work in progress" toward a more serious, professional presentation. I have personally borne the full expense of every aspect of the making of this program. Showing the program to larger audiences requires a complicated, expensive laptop and projection system. It was shown for the first time last November in the Community Center and again at the "Friends of the Library" meeting on January 15. it will be shown at the Feb. 6 evening meeting of the Civic Association and again during the Garage Sale of the City off Palm Coast Historical Society on March 16. For all of its faults, the program is a first step in getting Palm Coast historical information into the eyes and ears of the public.

In 2001, the Historical Society received an open ended grant from the newly budgeted Cultural Arts fund in the amount of \$1,500. with just a simple request for funding. This year the application process was more elaborate and

Presentation to the City Council (cont'd)

contained some new guidelines. At its January 16 meeting, the Leisure Time Committee recommended \$0 dollars in grant money for the Historical Society in 2002. It was explained that our grant application made the "mistake" of implying too strongly that money was needed for "rent" which was specifically disallowed by the new guidelines issued this year. Our Historians mission is to "accumulate, preserve, and make historical information available to the public". This requires a publicly accessible location, which usually implies the payment of rent. Our remaining limited funds will run out soon in just maintaining the inaccessible preservation of existing materials.

We are grateful to the City Recreation Director and the Leisure Time Committee members who expressed their regrets that limited funding and new guidelines worked to the detriment of the Historical Society. We are not trying to overturn the Committee's decision. I am sure the recipients of the grants need and deserve what they were given.

Whether by supplemental Cultural Arts funding, or, preferably, a separate Historians funding, I sincerely believe that the City has the responsibility of maintaining the Historians that it has created! We are grateful to DBCC, which continues to allow us the use of a room for our Historians to meet and work in for three hours a week. Our short time needs require funding to continue our present level of operation. We need to fund a State historical archives professional to conduct a needs assessment for Palm Coast history. We need funds to create history programs and to obtain mobile projection equipment that allows showings to clubs and organizations. For the long term, we need a permanent home. Flagler County has Holden House, a two-story museum building owned and partially maintained by the County. Flagler Beach has just dedicated its own large museum, now open to the public throughout the week. Palm Coast has a publicly inaccessible 10' x 10' storage area.

Please note here the attachments, "Historical Society Looks For A Home" by Arnold Levine, reprinted from the Jan. 16, 2002 issue of The Flagler Times, and "Suggestions for a permanent home for the City of Palm Coast Historical Society".

The City of Palm Coast Historical Society has just nominated a new slate of officers for 2002. They are bright and eager to maintain a full activity schedule including Home Show, Historical Garage Sale Day, Program Presentations, etc. The Society will continue to sell city license plates, encourage regular and contributing memberships and take historical and financial donations. We will continue to seek grants and a proper home and, if need be, pay storage rent until the money runs out. At that time the law and our Society constitution requires us to turn over all our accumulated historical materials to the City of Palm Coast.

Please guide us in the roles that the City Historians and the City of Palm Coast Historical Society are to play in our City's future and fund us accordingly.

CITY OF PALM COAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PRINT FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$10.00

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$15.00

Make check payable to: City of Palm Coast Historical Society

Mail to: Treasurer
PCHS
1 Banton Place • Palm Coast, Fl. 32137

Pages From The Past

1976

The state legislature in 1976 created the Palm Coast Fire District with taxing powers to provide for fire protection within the area which is commonly known as the original or "core area."

In other developments, the Palm Coast canals neared completion. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a permit July 19, granting authority to remove the earthen dams for the canal openings. The 125 foot wide Club House Waterway is the main canal from the Intracoastal Waterway leading past the Palm Coast Yacht Club and the Welcome Center.

There were times for festivities, particularly this year as Palm Coast joined with communities across the nation in celebrating the Bicentennial.

The celebration began at St. Mark by the Sea Lutheran Church with the first service in the community's first church building. Approximately 425 people filled the building for the inaugural service and immediately thereafter, attended the dedication of a bell permanently loaned to the church by the U.S. Navy.

An old time Fourth of July picnic and celebration, sponsored by the Palm Coast Civic Association, was held on the Yacht Club grounds. Young and old enjoyed games and contests. The food and drinks were

arranged by the Palm Coast Lions Club.

Housing continued to make significant gains. The 152 unit Palm Club Condominium apartment and townhouse complex was completed. The number of single family homes also increased.

Anticipating the community's growth, Security First Federal Savings and Loan Association opened its office adjacent to the Convenience Center.



The late Rev. Marcus Otterbein and families gathered for the first church service in the first permanent house of worship July 1976.

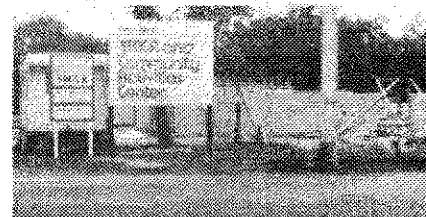
1977

ICDC was responsible for two significant building dedications in 1977. One was the Palm Coast Community YMCA, which is avail-

able to all Flagler County residents and continues to serve as one of the community's main meeting and activity centers. The "Y" offers educational and recreational programs and an assortment of all age and interest groups. This important adjunct to community life was funded (land, building, furnishings and a guaranteed three year subsidy) by ICDC as another gesture of corporate responsiveness.

Located across from the "Y" on Palm Coast Parkway is the Emergency Services Building. The building was also donated by ICDC and houses fire engines supplied by ICDC. A utility room provides space for meetings when not needed for Volunteer Fire Department training. The building and equipment are maintained by the Palm Coast Fire District by contractual agreement with the Palm Coast Volunteer Fire Department.

Another ITT firm relocated the



YMCA under construction

same year. ITT Decca Marine became the first participant in the Palm Coast Industrial Park when it moved its warehousing and administrative headquarters from suburban New York City to Palm Coast.

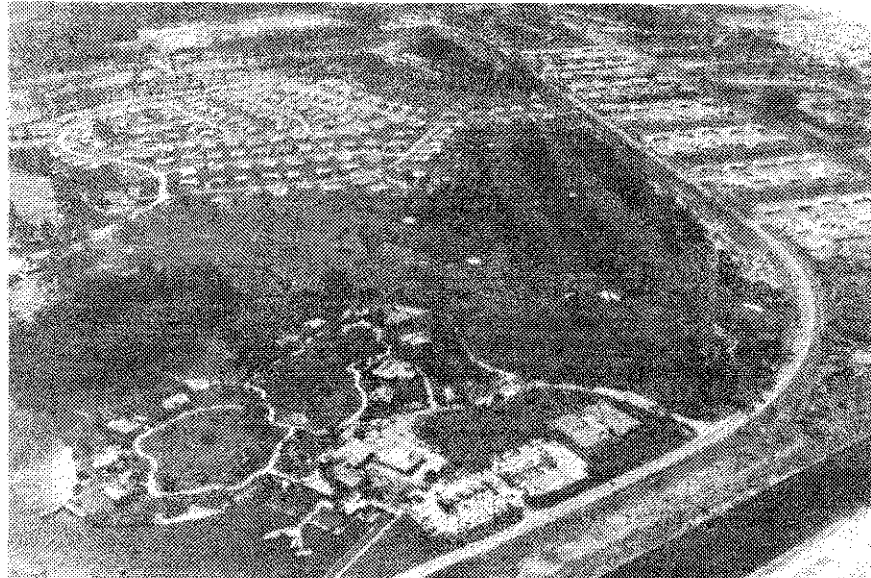
The 18 hole professional golf course was completed and in subsequent years the Florida Section PGA has played its Tournament of Champions here during the winter season.

1974

Construction received an even greater boost with the January 9 contracting of a private construction firm to build the community's first condominiums, Shangri-La, along Palm Coast Parkway and Florida Park Drive.

On January 17, more than 300 persons attended a gala wine tasting affair at the Yacht Club. Several representatives of New York and California vineyards were present to answer questions and demonstrate the classic wine tasting techniques. The event was held for the benefit of the American Heart Association.

The highlight of the year was the following month, when the Sheraton Palm Coast Resort Inn opened, of-

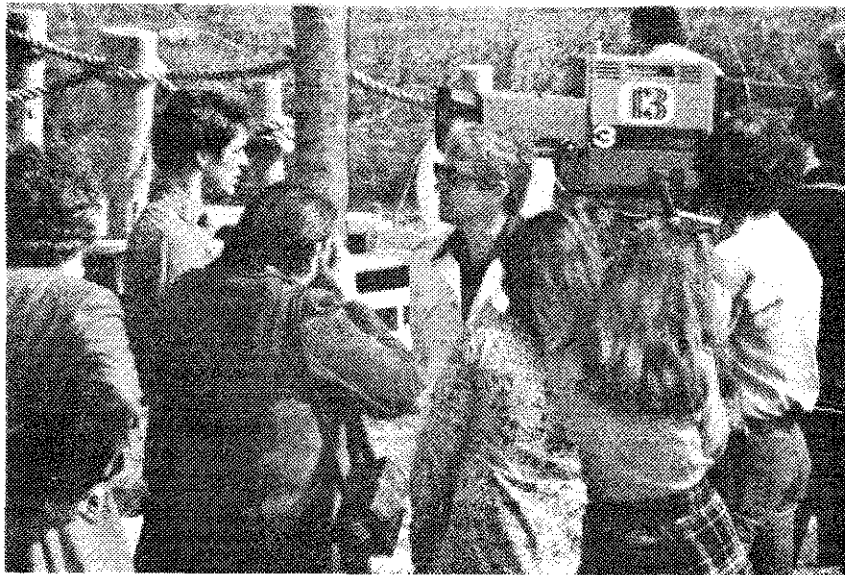


Palm Coast as it appeared in 1973

Palm Coast. The interdenominational congregation continued under the leadership of its founder, Rev. Marcus Otterbein, who was also known by his nickname, "Mark."

The same year, the Lutheran and Baptist churches purchased prop-

media coverage was the taping of two Merv Griffin TV shows including discussions with Truman Capote, Nobel Prize winners Gunnar Myrdal and James Watson, William Buckley, and Pulitzer Prize winner Arthur Schlesinger.



Merv Griffin visiting Palm Coast in 1974

fering gracious dining, living and recreational accommodations for residents, travelers and prospective homesite purchasers. The 130 room inn is located east of highway A1A, along the five mile beachfront owned by ICDC. Organizations continue to find the inn a favorite place for their conventions and parties.

"St. Mark by the Sea" was the name chosen by parishioners for the first Protestant congregation in

erty along Palm Coast Parkway for their churches. Another first for the community was the announcement by Security First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Daytona Beach to open a branch office here, making transactions more convenient as well as giving an indication that the community was well on its way to becoming a thriving one.

A symposium of noted authors and other celebrities was held November 15-16. The highlight of

1975

In 1975, ITT World Headquarters in New York named Alan Smolen president of ICDC. An engineer by training and a proven administrator, Smolen's first major objective was to close ICDC's New York office and initiate plans for the relocation of the Miami office to Palm Coast. (This was accomplished in several stages and was completed in August 1978 with the opening of the ICDC headquarters building on St. Joe Grade.)

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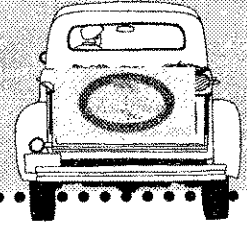
Along with the construction of single family homes came the construction of the Palm Club Condominium, located along the main waterway.

Homesite and home sales continued, with the population climbing to 1,000.

Display The City Logo

Make A Ten Dollar Contribution To The Historical Society And Receive
A Metal License Plate For The Front Of Your Car.

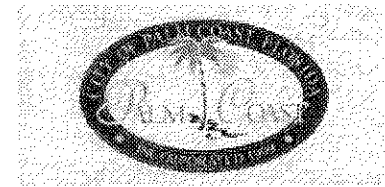
If interested, Call 446-1438 Or 446-9031.



2002 Fund Raiser

“Garage Sale, Bake Sale & License Plate Sale”

Where: Palm Coast Community Center
Date: Saturday, March ¹⁶ 9, 2002 — 8:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.
Purpose: Fund Raiser for the benefit of the Historical Society



The Historical Society needs volunteers to help set up Friday evening, to price donated items, and to “take down” at conclusion of the sale. We also need items donated; cakes, cookie to sell, tools, Etc. Any appliances should be clean and in working order. (No clothing). Please call Debby Geyer at 446-9031 if you have any donations.

The City of Palm Coast
Historical Society
1 Banton Place
Palm Coast, FL. 32137

President • Margaret Davie
Vice President • Art Dycke
Secretary • Kay Stafford
Treasurer • Bob Crocetta

Directors:

Mary Ann Canfield
Jack Holt
Connie Horvath
Leonard Stan

Meeting Schedule:

The 2nd Wednesday of
Every Month at 1:30
Feb. 13”” Mar. 13
Apr. 10”” May 8th
At DBCC (old campus)
Portable classroom #102

TO