



FALL 2025

November Update

**Collier Museum
at Government Center**
3331 Tamiami Trail East
Naples, FL 34112
(239) 252-8476

**Naples Depot Museum
(TEMPORARILY CLOSED)**
1051 Fifth Avenue South
Naples, FL 34102
(239) 252-8419

**Marco Island
Historical Museum**
180 South Heathwood Drive
Marco Island, FL 34145
(239) 252-1440

**Immokalee Pioneer Museum
at Roberts Ranch**
1215 Roberts Avenue West
Immokalee, FL 34142
(239) 252-2611

Museum of the Everglades
105 West Broadway
Everglades City, FL 34139
(239) 252-5026

All museums are open
Tuesday – Saturday
9 am – 4 pm

**All Collier County Museums
offer FREE admission.**

For more information,
visit CollierMuseums.com.

Exhibits and events subject to
change.



Hello and welcome to the fall newsletter!

As historians our stock-in-trade is change. If things were the same now as they were in the past, we'd be out of jobs. But fortunately, this is not the case. The world keeps changing, and we keep hard at work researching what it used to be like, so we can share those stories, celebrating the good and learning from the not-so-good of times gone by.

Change is afoot at Collier County Museums, and it's the good kind. Here are some projects that are very active this fall:

I'm delighted to announce the repair work is finally underway at Naples Depot Museum. Panzica Construction is on site every day, restoring the former railway station to its pre-Hurricane Ian beauty. We'll be able to share a few exhibit improvements and some rare artifacts recently added to our collection when the Depot reopens in late 2025 or early 2026.

Work has also started on the Black History Baggage Car at the Depot! High-End Solution Services is executing on the adaptive reuse of the 1920s green Pullman Baggage Car, generously funded by the Friends of the Collier County Museums and the Florida Division of Historic Resources and designed by David Corban Architects. Look for a ribbon-cutting on that facility in the same timeframe.

Out at Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch another project long in the making is taking shape. Our Garden and Grove project, designed by LJA Engineering, is now being constructed by Miniopolis. Once complete, the site will feature a re-creation of Mrs. Roberts's pioneer garden, production gardens for community benefit, and 140 citrus trees on the site of the Ranch's original grove. This project is fully funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan. Again, we expect completion toward the end of this year.

Finally, we welcome Veterans History Museum (formerly the Naples Museum of Military History) to its new home at Collier Museum at Government Center. They will be relocating from Naples Airport and opening in the former Lecture Hall and Travelling Gallery space in the fall.

And while all this activity swirls around us, we've developed a schedule full of tried-and-true programming to keep us grounded. Please join us for traditional favorites like Pioneer Pumpkin Palooza and Cowboy Christmas at the Ranch, and newer but equally popular offerings like Día de los Muertos on Marco and Christmas Karaoke at Government Center.

As the saying goes, change is the only constant, but variety is also the spice of life. So, if you're looking to keep it spicy this fall (pumpkin spicy, perhaps?), stop by and see how things have changed. We're the pros in that department! As always, I hope to ... see you at the Museum!



Amanda Townsend
Collier County Museums Director

Sharing the Path: Understanding Our Environment Through the Learned Wisdom and Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous People

Museum of the Everglades

October 13, 2025 – February 14, 2026

As wildfires rage across national forests turned to tinderboxes — their historic stewards driven from the land or forbidden to tend it — while our waterways waver between historic droughts and catastrophic floods, it just may be time to stop fighting to control the earth and work to heal it. It stands to reason that if we wish to understand what the world we live in is telling us, we should seek the counsel of those who already speak its language.

This new exhibit, created in part with guidance from the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, seeks to re-enforce the relevance and underscore the importance of recent initiatives by organizations, institutions, and even governments — from the Federal level on down — to integrate the knowledge and experience of indigenous cultures into policies and decision-making.

When pioneer settlers began to colonize South Florida in the late 1800s, the most successful of their lot were those who not only befriended but also listened to and learned from the people who had called the Everglades their home for centuries.

Sharing the Path explores both the past influence and the future possibilities of implementing traditional indigenous knowledge in everything from land management and global diplomacy to the decisions we make in our most intimate personal relationships: with each other, ourselves, and the earth itself.



Aztec Dancers: A Living Tradition by Lisette Morales

Immokalee Pioneer Museum

October 28, 2025 – January 31, 2026

Aztec Dancers is a photo exhibition by local photographer Lisette Morales, celebrating Danza Azteca Guadalupeña as practiced in Southwest Florida. Documenting a year and a half of devotion, the series centers the Navarro family's twenty four year commitment to this sacred, syncretic tradition, presented each year from Día de los Muertos through Three Kings Day. Morales's images honor the spiritual power, cultural resilience, and collective joy of Indigenous

and migrant communities sustaining this vibrant ceremonial practice across generations and geographies.

Opening Reception / November 8 / 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Marco on the Move | Marco Island Historical Museum

November 8, 2025 – March 21, 2026

As human beings, we have repeatedly found Marco Island a paradise. This exhibit explores how we get here, how we move about, and how transportation defines us as Marco Islanders. Hop on your boat, plane, train, car, or bicycle and cruise on into this exhibit.

Modern Marco 60th Anniversary Celebration

November 13 / 4:00 – 5:30 PM

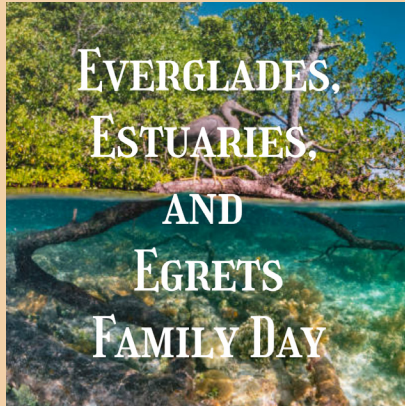


A Cottage Christmas

Collier Museum at Government Center

November 29, 2025 – January 3, 2026

Visit the Naples Cottage at the Collier Museum at Government Center for our 5th Annual holiday display, A Cottage Christmas. Explore the Twentieth Century Christmas traditions that introduced new technologies and materials to Christmas celebrations, transforming the holiday from a home-based Victorian celebration of a few days to a modernistic, multi-week season of shopping, events, and celebrations. The cottage is decorated in mid-century holiday style, and vintage decorations are on display throughout the house.



Everglades, Estuaries and Egrets Family Day

Collier Museum at Government Center | November 15 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Explore the Pa-Hay-Okee, or River of Grass, as the Everglades is called and its mysterious, unique ecosystem that covers over one million acres and includes three counties! Are you brave enough to stick your hand into a sensory bin to see what creatures lurk beneath the swampy waters? Have fun with a marsh experiment and making marsh creatures to take home!

The Art of Beading in Jewelry Making

Immokalee Pioneer Museum | November 15 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join us for a fun and creative beading and jewelry-making workshop led by Ms. Andrea Hallman! Participants will learn basic techniques to design their own unique accessories using colorful beads and materials. This hands-on event is perfect for all skill levels and a great way to express your personal style.



Tinkers & Toy-Makers Family Day

Collier Museum at Government Center | December 13 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Get your elf aprons on and join in the fun making your own toys! We'll be making some nostalgic fun that you can take home! From hammering tin sheets into ornaments to tinkering with household items, we'll have fun constructing foam dart blasters, spinning tops, and more!

Pine Needle Basketry

Immokalee Pioneer Museum | December 13 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Join us for a hands-on workshop where you will learn the timeless art of pine needle basketry. In this relaxing and creative session, you'll explore the tradition of weaving with natural pine needles to create beautiful, functional baskets. Our expert instructor, Janine Heiney from UF/IFAS, will guide you through the process, from gathering the materials to mastering various weaving techniques.

No experience needed, limited spots available. Be sure to RSVP!



Modern Marco 60th Anniversary Celebration
Marco Island Historical Museum
November 13 | 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Join us as we celebrate 60 years of Modern Marco Island—a milestone that honors the vision, community, and transformation that shaped the island we know today. Enjoy live performances by Alan Sandlin and Frankie Ray, refreshments, and the chance to take part in our 60th Anniversary 50/50 Raffle — with a twist!

As part of the celebration, we're unveiling exciting new updates to our Modern Marco exhibit, including: the iconic Gulls sculpture, now restored and on display, and a new interactive, the Florida House app, where you can design your very own Mackle-built home. Whether you're a longtime resident, history lover, or simply curious about the island's evolution, this is a celebration for all.

Free and open to the public. Let's celebrate the past, present, and future of Modern Marco—together!



Join Curator of Education Elaina Gyure from 10 – 11 am for our preschool program! With a focus on combining history and STEM (we like to call it SHTeM!) we aim to engage your preschooler in crafts, activities, and story time. Enjoy fun themes and history tailored for the preschool age-group.

This program is ideal for ages 3–5.

RSVP at [CollierMuseums.com/Events](https://www.colliermuseums.com/Events) or 239-252-8242
to ensure there are enough supplies for all participants.

The First Thanksgiving

Marco Island Historical Museum | November 25 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM
Collier Museum at Government Center | November 26 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Did you know the first Thanksgiving was celebrated in St. Augustine, Florida in 1565 by the Spanish and Timucuan natives? Join us for a kid-friendly exploration into the history of Thanksgiving! We'll be learning about what they would have eaten at Florida's first Thanksgiving and have hands-on activities related to colonial Florida history. In addition to the preschool program, we will also have activities for the big siblings joining in on the fun!



A Very Vintage Christmas
Collier Museum at Government Center
December 17 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM

In honor of our Mid-Century Christmas Cottage, join us at the Collier Museum at Government Center for a morning of 1950s and 60s-inspired Christmas crafts and activities. Your little one will be able to design their own mid-century style ornaments, play with some of the most popular toys from that era, and enjoy some mid-century Christmas songs and stories. We will also have elementary age appropriate activities for any big siblings who are on winter break!

Visit Museum of the Everglades every third Thursday for a local history lecture.

All Lectures: Museum of the Everglades | 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Third Thursday Lectures



***Defending the Sacred* | November 20**

In observance of Native American Heritage Month, we celebrate the rich cultures of the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes and their continuing stewardship of the biologically diverse and environmentally sensitive region known as the Everglades. In this talk given by renowned environmental educator and member of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, Betty Osceola, guests will learn firsthand about the indigenous population's spiritual connection to the land — the home of their ancestors — and their determination to honor, protect, and defend it as sacred ground. Betty Osceola was the recipient of the Marjory

Stoneman Douglas Defender of the Everglades award in 2024. She is also a tribal judge, has appeared in numerous documentary films and television shows (including the Disney feature "Path of the Panther" and Jeff Corwin's "Wildlife Nation") and continues to work tirelessly to advocate for the Everglades.

***Dignitaries on the Dais* | December 18**

On December 6th, 1947, President Harry Truman arrived at the Everglades City airport and addressed an audience assembled on bleachers borrowed from the Ringling Brothers Circus in Sarasota. The occasion was the dedication of Everglades National Park.

While the enabling legislation to create the Park had been enacted in 1924 under Franklin Roosevelt, it had taken more than a decade for the seemingly endless list of tasks from land acquisition to the writing of policies to be completed for what would be just the sixth National Park. It was an auspicious event — but not one without controversy, both internal and external.

The dignitaries who joined the President on the dais — adorned with palm fronds and decorated with open crates of oranges — came from all walks of life: politics, journalism, military, horticulture, conservation, religion, and more. Leaders of the Seminole Tribe rubbed elbows with author Marjory Stoneman Douglas and orchid collector turned "Daddy of the Park" Ernest F. Coe.



Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear will share the stories of the VIPs in attendance, some of whom addressed the audience, others who we singled out for their contributions to the project and still more who might have gone unnoticed but were nonetheless crucial components in the thirteen-year effort to preserve the country's largest wetland — the only Everglades in the world.

Florida Talks Webinars

presented by the Marco Island Historical Society

Virtually | RSVP at www.themihs.org | 2:00 – 3:00 PM

This lecture series is in conjunction with
the Florida Humanities Speakers Bureau.



***Outpost to Statehood: The Florida Territory* by Rodney Kite-Powell | November 6**

Many of the events and themes that appeared on a large scale throughout the United States in the years leading up to the Civil War were also evident in Florida during its time as a U.S. Territory, from 1821 to 1845. Told through the use of historic maps, this presentation showcases how Florida was home to many important events and trends that preceded those in the American West after the Civil War.

Cowboy Christmas

Immokalee Pioneer Museum | December 6 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Why did the cowboy decorate his Christmas tree with spurs? Because he wanted it to have a real “kick!” Embracing the sweet charm of pioneer life on the ranch, join us to make festive ornaments you can take home to adorn your tree. As the air is filled of the smell of magnolia and pine, remember to join the line to take photos with Santa! Celebrate the festive season with us at our annual Cowboy Christmas event to lift the holiday spirit in Immokalee!



2nd Annual Christmas Karaoke & Holiday Marketplace

Collier Museum at Government Center | December 19

Holiday Marketplace | 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Karaoke | 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Grab some friends and warm up your vocal chords, it's time for Christmas karaoke! Enjoy the Naples Cottage decorated for the holiday and partake of some festive food and beverage. We know you know the words, so there's no excuse not to join in the fun. Belt out a few carols and you may even win a prize. If you can't carry a tune, we'll give you a bucket! Benefiting the Friends of the Collier County Museums.

A Pioneer Christmas: Holiday Crafts

Marco Island Historical Museum | December 27 & 30 – 31 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Come celebrate Christmas the way the pioneers did! Most pioneer families created their decorations from fabric, food, and materials found on hand. They usually decorated the day before Christmas. Many families kept Christmas items up until either New Years Day or the Epiphany. Come create ornaments and holiday cards. This event is free and open to all ages.



Holiday Closures

Thanksgiving: Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28

Christmas: Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26

New Years Day: Thursday, January 1



Fall Homeschool Day A Pioneer's Life for Me!

Fall Homeschool Day: A Pioneer's Life for Me

Immokalee Pioneer Museum | November 19 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Join us at Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch to experience a pioneer's life on the Florida frontier! We invite participants of all ages to explore the skills, stories, and daily life of Florida's pioneers through engaging hands-on activities and demonstrations. From pioneer gardening tips and daily chores to pioneer games, we will be discussing all aspects of what a pioneer's life was like. We are teaming up with Collier County 4-H to bring these activities inspired by our region's history to life! While RSVP is not required, it is encouraged to ensure enough supplies for students. Call our Curator of Education at 239-252-8242 or go to CollierMuseums.com/Events to RSVP online.

Important note: This is a drop-in style event! It is not required to arrive at 10AM, nor stay for the full 3 hours.

About Collier County Museums Homeschool Days:

Three times a year, Collier County Museums hosts a day where homeschoolers of all ages can come for free educational programming geared toward their specific age groups. We will have preschool, elementary, and middle/early high school appropriate activities based on that Homeschool Day's theme. With a focus on combining history and STEM (we like to call it SHTeM!), Collier County Museums aims to provide your homeschooler with a holistic approach to learning about our region's history. Homeschool Days cycle through our five museums, so your family has an opportunity to get to know all of them!



Volunteer with us!

We are looking for friendly faces to join our volunteer team!
We have the following opportunities: greeter, tour guide, help with special events, gardener, grounds maintenance, and education assistant.

Contact Volunteer Coordinator
Karen Connetta for more information.

239-252-8722

or

Karen.Connetta@colliercountyfl.gov

Thank you to our partner organizations for their support of our Collier County Museums! Visit their websites to learn more about ways you can support them and their missions to provide stewardship of our region's history.



MIHS

Marco Island Historical Society

www.themihs.org

Friends of the
COLLIER COUNTY
MUSEUMS

www.foccm.org



Friends of the
Museum of the Everglades

www.evergladesmuseum.org