



SUMMER 2025

July 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.



Greetings from Museums Director: Amanda Townsend

Hello and welcome to summer 2025! In case you missed it (I almost did), summer 2024 was defined in mainstream media as “Brat Girl Summer.” Pop musician Charli XCX issued an album called “Brat,” and the internet was abuzz with declarations that bold, confident, slightly rebellious—messy but fun—was the “vibe” for the summer’s young women. I hope they enjoyed themselves; I must admit I’m a little out of the demographic.

However, the idea that any given summer can be assigned a vibe on a whim stuck with me, and so I hereby declare summer 2025 “Mostly Locals Summer” at the Collier County Museums! We have a whole lineup of exhibits and events geared specifically to the interests and habits of year-round and longtime residents, several of which the community can get personally involved in.

At Roberts Ranch, you can participate in one of three Exploring Art workshops, then submit your work for display in the *Community Art Fair* exhibit.

In Everglades City, we’re teaming up with the schoolchildren to again feature their creative responses to a theme. This time it’s *Folklore, Fish Tales, and Family Stories*.

From Piccadilly Pub to The Pewter Mug: A Local’s Dining Experience will fill your plate with delicious memories of area restaurants at Collier Museum at Government Center. We’ll be sure to give you an opportunity to leave your server a tip about your favorite dishes and haunts—watch our social media for that!

Within these pages you’ll find more Mostly Locals Summer favorites, like Mango Fest, Pirate Day, and programs and lectures for all ages and interests.

As a final highlight, each summer we bring you School’s Out, Museums Are In!, a summer activity for kids you can do on your own at one or all of our locations as you choose. This year, we’re creating Exhibit Explorer Backpacks families can check out at our greeter desks and bring with them as they explore the galleries. Inside they’ll find activities they can stop and do along the way to make the museum experience more hands-on and relatable. Visit any time between June 3 and August 9 to take advantage of this new and engaging opportunity.

If you happen to be wondering if Mostly Locals Summer is for you, I want you to know that here at the Museums we work hard at being inclusive. Maybe you’re a Local-Wannabe, or Soon-To-Be, or even defiantly proclaim, “I’m a Tourist. Take it or leave it!” That’s all fine with us. We are excited to share insider knowledge on local history, whether you yourself are an insider or not. All are welcome here, so I’ll . . . see you at the Museum!

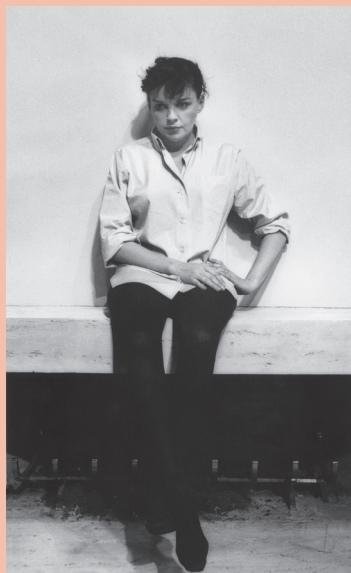


Folklore, Fish Tales, & Family Stories: Legends of the Everglades **Museum of the Everglades | May 6 – September 6**

Every year Museum of the Everglades collaborates with our local school – one of the last two K-12 public schools on a single campus in the state of Florida – to create an exhibit that celebrates a specific aspect of this unique community. Students submit artwork, photos, videos, stories, interviews and more to help us share a part of the character and history of the area with visitors from around the world. A contest with cash prizes is held with a variety of categories open to currently enrolled students of all ages.

This year we have challenged them to share stories of the Everglades area they might have heard growing up that might stretch the truth or push the boundaries of belief. This includes myths, legends, tall tales and ghost stories, but also legendary acts or accomplishments by colorful characters from the region's past – including ancestors and family members. Our goal is to broaden the understanding of our community and its unique culture by sharing its distinctive folklore through creative, artistic, and literary expressions composed by our local students.

The exhibit will be augmented with historic information and established traditional stories that provide context for the creative responses the students have submitted.



Backstage Hollywood: The Photographs of Bob Willoughby **Marco Island Historical Museum | June 17 - October 18**

Venture backstage into the golden age of Hollywood in this exhibition that explores the photography of Bob Willoughby. Widely recognized as a pioneer of photography in the 20th century, Willoughby was the first outside photographer invited by studios to take photos on film sets. Take a nostalgic look at some of the most renowned actors and actresses on the sets that made them famous, like Judy Garland, Elizabeth Taylor, Katherine Hepburn, Audrey Hepburn, and more.

A Program of ExhibitsUSA, a national division of Mid-America Arts Alliance, and The National Endowment for the Arts.

A Community Art Fair: Exploring the Art of Perspective **Immokalee Pioneer Museum | July 1 – October 18**

Join us for our second annual art fair! An extraordinary celebration of artistic vision and self-expression, this exhibit is dedicated to showcasing works that capture the duality of internal and external perspectives—pieces that mirror the artists themselves and the world around them.

Opening Reception | July 19 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



From Piccadilly Pub to The Pewter Mug: A Local's Dining Experience
Collier Museum at Government Center | July 8 – August 30

What do Neapolitans make for dinner? Reservations! Dining out has been a local tradition since 1888, when construction crews building the Naples Hotel ate outdoors in what The Naples Company called “the largest dining room in Florida.” Over the decades the Naples food scene has been made complete by dive bars, family-friendly eateries, and purveyors of haute cuisine—which one was your favorite? This local’s only summer treat will fill your plate with delicious memories of beloved area restaurants.

Opening Reception | July 17 | 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM



Pine Needle Basketry

Immokalee Pioneer Museum | July 12 | 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!

RSVP at CollierMuseums.com/events

Candle Making Workshop

Immokalee Pioneer Museum | August 16 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Step back in time and learn about the art and functionality of candle making! In this fun, hands-on workshop, we'll show you how candles were made before electricity—using wax, wicks, and matches. Discover how candles were once essential for light and warmth and are now a way to add cozy charm to any space or enhance scents in your home.

In collaboration with UF/IFAS 4-H Outreach Coordinator, Janine Heiney.



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 mission's to provide stewardship of our region's history.



*Friends of the
Museum of the Everglades*
www.evergladesmuseum.org

Friends of the
**COLLIER COUNTY
 MUSEUMS**

www.foccm.org



MIHS
 Marco Island Historical Society
www.themihs.org

Visit Collier Museum at Government Center every second Tuesday for a local history lecture.

All Lectures: Collier Museum at Government Center | 2:00 – 3:00 PM



Key Ingredients of Collier County | July 8

In tandem with our summer exhibit *From Piccadilly Pub to The Pewter Mug: A Local's Dining Experience*, Curator of Education Elaina Gyure highlights the food that made us Collier County. From the seafood and game that brought the most devoted of anglers and hunters to this sportsmen's paradise, to the agricultural industries of our eastern corridor, Collier County has a rich history of delicious edible resources.

Restaurant Lowdown: Behind the Scenes of the Local Dining Experience | August 12

In tandem with our summer exhibit *From Piccadilly Pub to The Pewter Mug: A Local's Dining Experience*, Museum Director Amanda Townsend will moderate a panel of movers and shakers in the Collier County restaurant industry. Come hear first-hand accounts of the Michelin-star moments as well as the Kitchen Confidential catastrophes that have happened in local eateries.



Visit Museum of the Everglades every third Thursday for a local history lecture. **All Lectures: Museum of the Everglades | 2:00 – 3:00 PM**



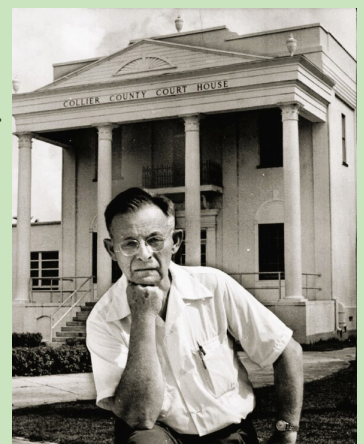
You're in Skunk Ape Country | July 17

In early July of the year 2000, local resident David Shealy captured video of a tall, hairy, bipedal humanoid creature running through the shoulder-high sawgrass of the Big Cypress Swamp behind his home. In his mid-30s at the time, Shealy had first spotted the elusive Everglades cryptid, commonly known as the "Skunk Ape," while hunting with his older brother at the age of 11. Today he is known as the foremost authority on the region's legendary hide-and-seek champion.

Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear will explore the facts & fiction surrounding this iconic South Florida cousin of the better-known "Bigfoot," including its roots in indigenous culture and historic sightings dating back centuries.

Remembering Mayor McLeod | August 21

Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear will share the story of Daniel W. McLeod, who still holds for the record for longest continuous service as an elected official of Collier County—37 years in total with 35 as the Mayor of Everglades City. A native Floridian and master of many trades, McLeod served as the County's first Tax Assessor, Vice-President of the Bank of Everglades, President of the Board of Everglades Community Church, and the first publisher of the *Collier County News*, among other endeavors. As namesake of the town's central McLeod Park—home of the annual Everglades Seafood Festival—his numerous contributions to the community spanning nearly four decades have been recognized in perpetuity.





2nd Annual Ice Cream Social Family Day

Collier Museum at Government Center | July 12 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Why should you bring your umbrella to the ice cream shop? In case it SPRINKLES! Our 2nd Annual Ice Cream Social Family Day is here! We scooped up so much fun last year, we decided to bring it back. Enjoy your ice cream creation, with toppings galore from the sundae bar, while listening to 1950s classic tunes and playing a game of cards or checkers. Maybe even meet a new friend!

Jr. Maître D' Family Day

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

In conjunction with our current restaurant exhibit, we're bringing the joy of going out to eat back and maybe showing you something new! From fast-food to fine-dining, we'll show you all the restaurant etiquette needed to make your dining out experience delightful! Which fork do I use?? What's that little bowl for?? Kids can use their imagination to plan a "tablescape", have fun learning napkin folding tricks, and learn who's who in a busy restaurant. Bon Appetit!



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 or 239-252-8242 to ensure there are enough supplies for all participants.



Ice Age Exploration

Collier Museum at Government Center | July 16 | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Take a break from the summer heat while we explore a pretty cool part of Florida's past! Learn about the mega-awesome mega-fauna that used to roam Florida (think mammoths and sabertooth cats!) and enjoy some sensory ice play.

In the Kitchen

Collier Museum at Government Center | August 20 | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

We're going to get cooking in this preschool program inspired by the Collier Museum at Government Center's special exhibit *From Piccadilly Pub to The Pewter Mug: A Local's Dining Experience!* Between learning cooking skills using Montessori-style, safe tools and engaging in kitchen-inspired sensory play, your preschooler will be ready to help you at home.



SUMMER HOMESCHOOL DAY: COOKIN' UP COLLIER



Summer Homeschool Day: Cookin' Up Collier

Collier Museum at Government Center | August 27 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Join us for a delicious homeschool day inspired by the Collier Museum at Government Center's special exhibit, *From Piccadilly Pub to The Pewter Mug: A Local's Dining Experience!* We'll be exploring different traditional cooking techniques and foods that people in Collier County have been eating for thousands of years. The Calusa lived on the natural resources of our region's bays and estuaries, while the early pioneers applied traditional cooking and food preservation methods to the foods of their new found home. All areas that will be represented in this culinary journey to the past. We are partnering with our friends from Collier County 4-H to bring a variety of cooking demonstrations. Students will also be able to get hands-on with a variety of different cooking skills, from homemade butter making to pickling.

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!

SCHOOL'S OUT, MUSEUMS ARE IN: EXHIBIT EXPLORER BACKPACKS



School's Out, Museums are IN: Exhibit Explorer Backpacks
Available at all Collier County Museums! | June 3 - August 9

This summer you and your kids can dive deeper into the displays at the Collier County Museums with our Exhibit Explorer Backpacks! Each Collier County Museum will have special backpacks filled with activities, props, and more that will help your children investigate our museums by exploring our history in a hands-on way, all while having fun together. Backpacks are designed for K-5th audiences and are free to borrow during your time at a Collier County Museum. Ask a greeter at any museum front desk between **June 3rd** and **August 9th** about backpack availability!

Visit www.colliermuseums.com for more information!