

HISTORICAL VILLAGE PLANS PARTY FOR 30th ANNIVERSARY

February 15, 2014 – As the Historical Village celebrates its 30th Anniversary, its board members and staff are looking forward as well as back. Much has been accomplished since the Rutland House became the Island Historical Museum in 1984, and much work is under way to make the village better than ever.

In October 2012, the village acquired two buildings that share a long history together – Shore Haven, a rather large Sears kit home, and the Caretakers Cottage used by Hannah and Isaiah Gavin as they assisted Shore Haven’s owner Daisy Mayer in her declining years. Costs demanded that work on the two buildings be divided into two phases. The first phase is to completely restore the exterior of Shore Haven to its original form; the second phase targets the Caretaker Cottage restoration. To date the work on Shore Haven is about 70 percent complete. When it re-opens, Shore Haven will serve as the museum’s entrance and welcome center with displays of new or traveling exhibits. Other possibilities for its use are also being explored.



Shore Haven when it was on the bay

The campaign will culminate in a party March 20 beginning at 6 p.m. on the village grounds. In addition to cocktails, dinner, and a live auction, Island Jazz will provide the music. Victor Mayeron will serve as master of ceremonies. Reservations are required by March 17, and tickets are \$150 per person. To make a reservation, call museum manager Emilie Alfino at 472-4648. Seating is limited, so don’t delay.

A 30th Anniversary Campaign is in progress with a \$200,000 goal. To date, almost \$153,000 has been raised. A dollar-to-dollar Challenge Match has begun for all gifts made up to \$45,000. All are invited to participate.

“This is the museum’s first capital campaign, and the enthusiasm the people of Sanibel have shown has been very rewarding for all of us at the museum,” said Ellen O’Neill, museum board member in charge of development.



On its way from Bird Lane to the Historical Village

The Sanibel Historical Village is a joint partnership with the city of Sanibel. Since 1984, when the Rutland home stood alone as the island’s history museum, the museum has grown into a village of 11 buildings that attracts 10,000 visitors annually.



Shore Haven today, under renovation

The city provides a modest annual budget allocation that covers salaries for the museum’s small staff and some ongoing maintenance of the grounds. The museum received \$67,000 in 2013-2014, less than one-third of its annual budget. The acquisition of buildings and major improvements to the property have been funded by private donations to the 501(c)3 corporation, which operates the museum, working to preserve Sanibel’s heritage.

“We hope many people will consider joining us to make this 30th Anniversary year very special,” O’Neill said.

The historical village is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. The village is located at 950 Dunlop Road (next to BIG ARTS). Admission is \$10 for adults 18 and older; those under 18 and members are free. Docent-guided tours are available at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at no extra charge, based upon docent availability. There is handicap access to all buildings. Admission for entrance to the Gift Shop only is free. For information, call 472-4648 during business hours or visit www.sanibelmuseum.org.