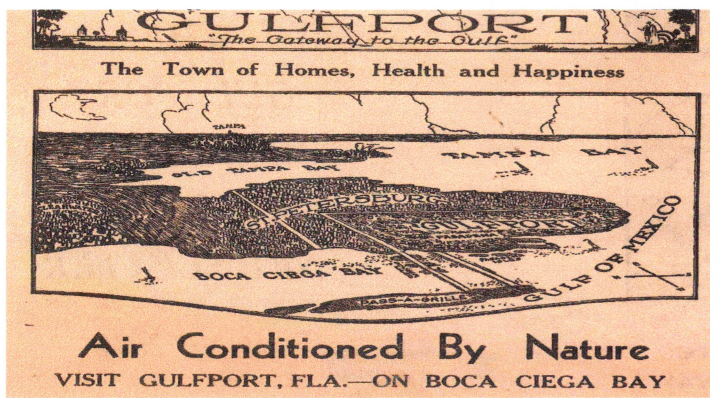




THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2012

THE FOURTH OF JULY

For many years, members of the Historical Society have climbed aboard the town trolley to celebrate July 4th in our famous parade, and this year will be no different. We do have some spaces available and invite any who care to join us to show up at the Museum by 6 p.m. (earlier if you'd like to help decorate). Members of the Methodist Church, which is celebrating its Centennial this year, are especially welcome.



SUMMER CLOSING

As usual, the Museum will be closed during July and August, which is our time to do some thorough cleaning and rearranging of exhibits. But we will always be available for special visits or research appointments. Just give us plenty of notice through email.

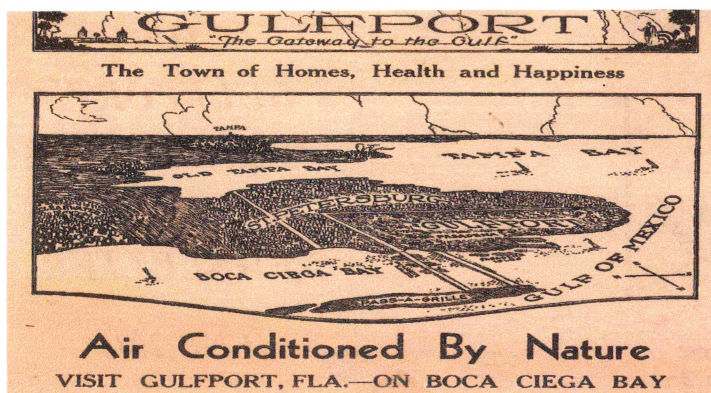
admin@gulfporthistoricalsociety.org

CHRISTMAS IN JUNE

Very few days pass when we don't receive some wonderful new items to add to our collections. Among the most recent is a history of the Gulfport Methodist congregation and church building researched and written by Frank Kautsky. Mr. Kautsky has devoted his retirement years to searching out the stories of everything connected with the church, from its pastors to its stained glass windows. Our deepest thanks to him for this great addition to our archives.

Another gift, this one arriving anonymously, was an extensive collection of old Florida guidebooks and maps, which we will show as part of a new exhibit next fall. And our friend Peter Amabile continues to send us a steady stream of wonderful photos and documents.

Most excitingly, we now have the actual badges worn by Gulfport's Chief of Police (1931-1944) Lloyd Holland, beautifully mounted in a shadow box and donated by his grandson Mann Holland.



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OUR DOCENTS As we close another year of serving our community by being available six days a week for any who wish to use our resources to learn more about their families, their houses and businesses and their town – or just to enjoy the collection of artifacts that has been so lovingly assembled – much recognition is owed to those docents who volunteer their time. Weekday afternoons from 2 to 4 you will find these people on duty: Mondays, Diann Franks; Tuesdays, Lynne Brown; Wednesdays, Deborah Frethem; Thursdays, Fran Worthington; Fridays, Miki Vaughan; and Saturday mornings, Priscilla Hoon. And in charge of all of them is Docent Coordinator Marie Gsell.

The Museum phone number is (727) 327-0505, and from September through June, you can always call to speak to one of us or to arrange for a special visit.

GULFPORT FIRST! The delightful map above, with Gulfport as the premier place in Pinellas County, appeared in The New York World's Fair edition of the *Gulfport Tribune* in 1939.

2012-13 HISTORICAL CALENDAR

Time to think about next year already? It is if you have to prepare a 15-month calendar for sale by Birthday Bash in October. The theme for the coming year will be Gulfport businesses, especially some of those unique and interesting places that many folks today do not remember. Did you know, for instance, that once Gulfport was home to the only four-leaf clover farm in the country? Or that we had a small art press printing beautiful books on 29th Avenue?

Once again, Gail Biron will be doing the calendar layout and gathering information regarding every civic and social event, a huge job, and one for which we owe her many, many thanks.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I want to thank everyone who helped spread the word of the many needs of the Society and Museum. You are greatly appreciated. The lack of response from the community seems to define our situation. When our small group of dedicated people can no longer do the work, the Museum will close. How sad for our city!! Miki