



Historical Society of Avon Park & Depot Museum

NEWSLETTER

January 2026 Edition

Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening

The Depot Museum baseball exhibits will be open to the public February 7 beginning at 11 am.

Exhibits of photos and artifacts tell 100 years of Avon Park baseball history. Interactive screens allow visitors to view interviews with players from the high school championship teams and so much more.

The Museum grounds will be busy with concessions, music and kids' activities. T-shirts honoring Head Field are again available and will be

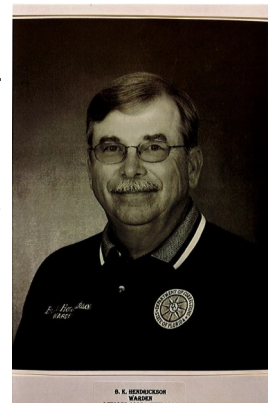


on sale along with other Avon Park and baseball themed items.

Join us for a fun day on Museum Ave. on February 7

Annual Meeting & Banquet Thursday, February 19th at the Hotel Jacaranda

The keynote speaker is Brian Hendrickson, who began his career in Corrections as a science teacher in the adult education



program at the Avon Park Correctional Facility. By his retirement some thirty years later, he had progressed through the ranks from Classification Officer to Warden. Doors open at 5:30 pm, with dinner at 6 followed by the installation of new board members and the key note address.

Join us for the famous Jacaranda buffet and an interesting program. Tickets are \$30. Reservations are required. Call 863-453-3525 or come by the Museum.

MUSEUM HOURS: Wednesday thru Saturday 10 - 3pm

NEW EXHIBITS AND GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

An addition to our military exhibits area is a collection of photos, documents and



artifacts from the World War II era. The donor's father trained with his B-17 crew at the Avon Park AAF, today known as the Bombing Range. An Eisenhower jacket, a model B-17 plane and an cocktail glass with a California Zephyr insignia are just a few of the interesting items that will be on display.



Learn more about the [Historical Society & the Depot Museum](http://www.avonparkhistoricalsociety.com) by visiting our website: www.avonparkhistoricalsociety.com



*Visit the Depot Museum & Make
a Vintage Valentine on February 13th*



In America in the 1930's, mechanical valentines, also known as sentimental movables, trick valentines, or novel valentines, became popular as people stopped buying the earlier Victorian valentines. Often these mechanicals would have moveable parts and stands.

The sailor boy at left is just one of the designs you can make at the Valentine work shops in February through out the day at the Museum. Come to the dining car and create a bit of nostalgia suitable for sharing with a special valentine.



Be sure to check out the [Museum Gift Shop](#) for a variety of gift ideas. In addition to the fabulous display of vintage jewelry, notecards, magnets, new T-shirt designs and magnets are just some of the items available.

❖ UP-COMING PROGRAMMING ❖

Our Historical Society is partnering with the Heartland Cultural Alliance, the Hotel Jacaranda and Florida Humanities to again present a series of entertaining history based talks. The talks will be held in the Avon Park Community Center at 3 pm and are being offered to the community at no charge.

January 25th by Dr. Andrea Oliver *Faith and Fraternity*



In the face of terror and oppression, Black Floridians exhibited resilience and resolve, finding inspiration and leadership opportunities in their churches; while in a complementary constellation of civic and Masonic orders, they pooled their resources to provide financial assistance to those in need. Dr. Andrea Oliver explores how Black Floridians found strength in the faith and fraternal institutions they established in their local communities.

February 22nd Kimberly Voss presents *Women Politicking Politely*

Relatively unknown stories of six important women who laid the foundation for improving women's equality in the U.S. While they largely worked behind the scenes, they made a significant impact to women's role in the workplace and the home and in the advancement of women's rights during the 1950s through the 1970s

Kimberly Voss is a professor of journalism at the University of Central Florida



March 29th Keri Watson returns with

Picturing Paradise The Florida landscape has provided aesthetic inspiration to many artists. Titian Ramsay Peale and John James Audubon came in search of native flora and fauna, followed by Harriet Beecher Stowe, Martin Johnson Heade, George Inness, Winslow Homer, and Henry Ossawa Tanner. Join us for a succinct and engaging history of Florida's landscape painters.



The Hotel Jacaranda is open from 11 to 2 before the Talks

Funding is being provided by Florida Humanities and sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, the Division of Arts and Culture, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

❖ MUSEUM HAPPENINGS ❖



Historic Walking Tours Coming Soon

Board Member David Flowers remembers when the site of the Community Center was a citrus packing house and then a bank. There have been many changes to the Avon Park Main Street over the years and the buildings that remain have an interesting history. Even the empty lots have a story. Hear all about it from a tour guide who is a life-long resident.

Tours will begin with an overview of Main Street at the Depot Museum. Details are still being formalized and the suggested cost for the 2-hour experience will be \$10 per person. There will be water and rest stops along the way. The tour will finish around lunchtime. Included with the tour ticket will be discount cards from participating Main Street eateries.

Tour dates will be announced based on interest. To sign up, stop by the Depot Museum during regular hours or call 863-453-3525.



If you are looking for a way to serve your community, consider spending time at the Depot Museum. There are many ways to assist us in our mission to preserve and share the history of Avon Park. Volunteers help mount exhibits, decorate for holidays, perform light housekeeping chores, plan and execute special events, greet guests, and give tours. Whatever your special talents or particular activities you enjoy, we have a place for you and more importantly, your help is needed. Visit the museum and meet some of your neighbors who are making a difference.



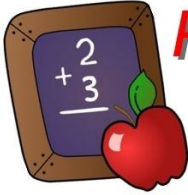
If you missed the Crate Mill Homecoming event and are interested in more local history, this is an opportunity to hear from folks “who were there”. Many have fond memories of attending the Hopewell School.



Heartland Cultural Alliance



THE DEPOT MUSEUM
A HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AVON PARK
"Your Ticket to the Past"



For The Love of Education ***An Oral History Event***

The Public is Invited

Saturday, February 14 at 11 AM

Join us at the Avon Park Community Center for a tribute to the teachers of the Hopewell School as they share their personal stories.

Enjoy a delicious luncheon prepared by some of the best cooks in the South Side.

Can you find the guest of honor, Ms. Clara Boone?



*Thank you to those members who have
already renewed their membership for 2026.*

Annual dues are due January 1st. Your annual dues is the main source of income for the Depot Museum. The Depot Museum belongs to the Avon Park community. Therefore, it is up to all of us to keep the doors open for visitors, and more importantly, to maintain exhibits and programming that share the history of Avon Park with the current generation. An appreciation of the significant events of the past fosters pride in community. Thank you!!

Thank you to our Corporate members

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**Please consider a gift to the Historical Society in lieu of flowers
to honor the passing of a loved one**

Names of those honored are recorded on a plaque in the Museum