



Officers:

Ed Siarkowicz, President  
Tonya Gordon, Vice President  
Theresa Owens, Secretary  
Susan Baird, Treasurer

## Flagler County Historical Society 2025 Plans and Projects

Revised January 01, 2025

Board of Directors:

Susan Baird  
Robert Creal  
James Fiske  
Ashley Gonzalez  
Tonya Gordon  
Claudia Malo  
Theresa Owen  
Ed Siarkowicz  
Preston Zepp

Entering into our 42nd year, the Flagler County Historical Society will continue to elevate their commitment to history preservation and education in 2025 with continued print, mail, and social media marketing for Flagler and surrounding counties. Time, energy, and funding will go into the following in 2025:

Executive Administration:

Fran Anderson, Dora Spada

Special Collections Curator

Tonya Gordon

Museum Curator

Ed Siarkowicz

Preservation Specialist:

Preston Zepp

Governance Committee

Historians Emeriti:

Fran Anderson  
Gloria Deen  
Prunie Wadsworth-Rogers  
Bill Ryan

Board Meetings:

Fourth Thursday of the month on Zoom. Email us for the link to join in!

1. Flagler History Academy 3: Now in its third session, History Academy continues to educate and entertain historians and history fans with classroom hours and bus tours. The brain child of Elaine Studnicki, the FCHS is pleased to again be collaborating on this well-received and popular project. The syllabus for this year includes classroom hours, a cemetery bus tour, and a boat tour of Palm Coast canals and the Intracoastal Waterway!
2. Bunnell History Day: Slated for June of 2025, Bunnell History Day will be a one day event that takes place on multiple properties at Flagler County's Seat. Guest lecturers, food trucks, vendors, a mechanical bull, and tours of historic properties will highlight the day. Planning sessions have been taking place with the City of Bunnell for the past several months. We are pleased to announce that the FCHS has received a \$5,000 grant from the Florida Humanities Council to help make this event thrive. Additional fundraising will be taking place as we move forward. To find out more and how you can help us plan and make this event a success give us a call!
3. Historic Properties Marker Project: The FCHS has designed a historic property marker sign for Flagler County buildings and properties that are historic but not eligible for National Register of Historic Places designation. The sign's design was approved in 2023 by the Board of Directors and we will be collaborating with property owners and the City of Bunnell to install the signs to create a Historic District and walking tour. This project is a part of a larger project that will cover the entire county with history markers and we are meeting with Flagler County's other historical societies on a master plan.
4. Little Red Schoolhouse Museum Tours: In 2023 members of the FCHS Board of

Directors conducted an inventory tour of the Little Red Schoolhouse Museum established in 1993 by Diane Marquis in the 1938 FFA building located at Bunnell Elementary School. An agreement was made between the FCHS and Bunnell Elementary for the FCHS to take over tours of the staged 1917 one room schoolhouse and to systematically remove historical records to digitize them for the Historical Society, School Board, and general public to research. Progress on this project was halted when the building's air conditioning was down for repairs. With repairs made, the FCHS will resume tours records digitization in 2025.

5. 1926 Historic Flagler County Courthouse: With the Flagler County School Board now leasing the courthouse across from the Holden House Museum, the FCHS was offered the use of "The Vault Room". Measuring 31x46 feet, the space is large enough to serve as a meeting room for community lectures, the Flagler History Academy, and to house the Florida Women's Voting Rights Museum. The Historical Society and School Board are working on establishing a usage agreement in the first part of 2025.
6. Florida Women's Voting Rights Museum: With the 1916 Bunnell Seventh Day Adventist Church, the home of Suffragist Alice Scott-Abbott, still in probate and suffering from mold and tornado damage, the FCHS is presently looking for alternate locations to establish this new museum. One of the possibilities is in the Vault Room of the 1926 Historic Flagler County Courthouse across the street from the Holden House Museum! Once assembled, the museum will tell the story of women earning and winning the right to vote for the first time in 1920.
7. Historic Survey Digitization: The FCHS is currently awaiting access to a stockpile of original archived surveys of Flagler County. Once this access is secured, we will be digitizing them and extrapolating data to add to our indexed files and to the History GIS map layer assembled by the FCHS with Flagler County in 2021.
8. Kings Road Historic District Tours: Tours of the Historic District and it's three constituent properties, 1767 Kings Road, 1770 Hewitt's Sawmill and Dam, and 1840 Fort Fulton, have been on hold due to recurring hurricane and storm damage that have damaged wooden bridges and blocked access trails. We need help taking down trees, restoring trails, and rebuilding bridge railings! While we are working towards achieving these goals, research on the properties continues and is uncovering some amazing information!
9. Hewitt's Sawmill Usage Agreement: For the last two years we have been having conversations with Florida Agricultural Museum management and Board of Directors about the possible lease of the 1770 Hewitt Sawmill property. We are currently awaiting a meeting with the Ag Museum to further discuss the arrangement. If secured, the lease will co-exist with a lease we have already established with St. Johns River Water Management for the 300 acres containing the 1767 Kings Road and 1840 Fort Fulton properties.
10. Crossroads Herald Newspaper: The groundwork for an electronic and print media newspaper that focuses on the Bunnell Crossroads and west-side agricultural portions of Flagler County was established in the Summer of 2024 by Ed Siarkowicz and Tonya Gordon. Marketing and advertising are currently in development and the proof of a premiere issue has already been produced. The launch is planned for the

second quarter of 2025.

11. FCHS Bunnell Colony Farmer's Market: In order to utilize the empty lot to the west of the Holden House Museum through an MOU with the Flagler County BOCC, the Historical Society is presently speaking with several groups that are interested in hosting a local farmer's market. The Bunnell Colony Market would be open weekly and would consist of several anchor vendors, produce, and locally sourced Flagler County products. The market will fit into the FCHS plans to elevate and re-establish Bunnell as the County Seat and will draw attention to the western communities and the rest of Flagler County.
12. History Bus Tours: In the fall of 2023, the Flagler County BOCC donated a 2008 Chevrolet Uplander ADA accessible mini-van to the FCHS. Commercial insurance was secured for history tours for the van and demo tours were conducted throughout 2024. In August of 2024 we received notification that our commercial insurance was going to nearly double—from \$4,000 a year to over \$7,000. We converted the insurance to a \$2500 non-commercial policy and are currently interviewing third party bus tour companies and are exploring vehicle and insurance grants to get our history tours back up and running again.
13. Grant Writing: Our grant writing committee has done an amazing job this past year in getting the FCHS organized for grant applications. Grant sourcing for 2025 will include: paid staff, property improvements, repairs to the Holden House Museum, property landscaping, and the acquisition of historic vehicles.
14. Internship Program: In 2023 the FCHS hosted it's first-ever history intern, UNF History Major Simon Krassner. The experience was excellent, so much so, that upon the completion of Mr. Krassner's internship with the FCHS on January 17, 2024, we approached the UNF History Chair about additional history internships. This program is being extended to Daytona State College and to County High Schools for students seeking to complete their community service hours.
15. Parades and Special Events: With the FCHS branded history mini-van operational, we are now taking it on the road to attend special events. Last year we participated in the 2024 Veteran's Day and City of Palm Coast's Starlight Christmas Parades. For 2025 we will again participate in these events with the addition of the Flagler Beach 4th of July and Christmas parades, and the City of Bunnell's Martin Luther King Parade.
16. Sponsorship Program: Between 2023 and 2024, over 150 Historical Society sponsorship packets were sent out to individuals and local businesses. This has generated thousands of dollars in sponsorships. This program will continue through 2025 and we look forward to partnering with groups that you recommend to us to that we can promote one another.
17. Bunnell Art Mural District: Meetings will resume in 2025 for the establishment of a history themed art mural district in Bunnell To date 22 buildings have been identified. The District will tie in with other history art murals and the Sea Turtle Trail already in existence. We're looking forward to collaborating on this project with members of the Flagler County BOCC and local arts agencies.
18. History Maker Interviews: This past year the FCHS conducted over 20 interview hours with Flagler County natives and long term residents. These interviews will be expanded in 2025 through a collaboration with the group Seeking Insights For Solutions. Persons of particular interest will be sought in the African

American community so that we can document their experiences in the County over the course of time. We are looking forward to building our database of photos and stories from this and all segments of the community.

19. Bunnell City Center, History Corridor, Historic District: Following initial discussions with Bunnell City Manager Dr. Alvin Jackson in 2024, the FCHS will continue to collaborate in 2025 with the City of Bunnell for the establishment of a legislated formal City Center that encompasses historic buildings around the Holden House Museum. Once the City Center is established, History Corridor designation will be obtained followed by the establishment of a formal Historic District that will include over 100 Bunnell Development Company homes and buildings existing in downtown Bunnell.
20. Membership Campaign: In 2025, there will again be an increased focus on Historical Society Membership. This will include enhanced and improved membership benefits, communications, social gatherings, signature events, and opportunities for community involvement.
21. History Advocacy: Our Historical Society has a tremendous amount of information and resources. Our goal for developing a History Advocacy Program is to get the information we have into the hands of development decision makers so that historic sites can be preserved as Flagler County grows, and so that the community can be enriched by the knowledge of what took place on the ground they're living and working on.

This document will be revised quarterly in 2025. For an updated list of projects and plans call or email us!