



Volume 1, Issue 1
September 2009

Museum Honored by Donation

Veteran journalist Joe Kollin honored the museum by donating his collection of *Sun-Sentinel* articles and notes. Kollin reported on Pembroke Pines life and times for the Ft. Lauderdale *Sun-Sentinel* for 28 years. Delighted to receive this donation, City Historian Gerry Witoshynsky said this adds greatly to her own collection dating from the museum's founding in 1980.

Museum Directions

From Pines Boulevard proceed south on SW 72nd Ave. and make a left on SW 13th St. Continue on SW 13th St. to its end; the building on the right is the Village Community Center, and the Museum is adjacent to the parking lot.

Pembroke Pines

Historical Museum News

Big Celebration for Pembroke Pines 50th Birthday

It is truly hard to believe but the City of Pembroke Pines will observe its 50th Birthday in 2010! For the few pioneer residents remaining, the early years were exciting, tumultuous and very rewarding. The first few dozen homes were built in the cow pastures of J. N. McArthur and F. H. Peterson, east of North Perry Airport.

Our city of over 150,000 now reaches to west of US 27, a 14 mile span! Our creation is a

remarkable story of citizen initiative that we are proud to celebrate. We want all Pines residents to join in the observances of our city's accomplishments by participating in commemorative events being planned.

We are asking our pioneers from Pines Village to Century Village, from Florida's Turnpike to US 27 to tell us about their early days in the city's history. Let us know if you have photos, newspaper articles, documents and reminiscences to add to

the history of the city. The Broward County Historical Commission is going to print an exclusively Pembroke Pines issue of its *Broward Legacy Journal*, recording the rich history of Broward County's second largest city.

Contact City Historian Gerry Witoshynsky at 954/986.5049, email pineshistoricalmuseum@gmail.com, or visit the museum at 6700 SW 13th St. (Village Community Center) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Native Pine Tree Chosen for Museum Logo

A symbol of our city and included in our new community's name, the rare *Pinus Elliottii* var *Densa* or historic Dade County pines existed only in parts of Dade and Broward Counties. A ten-foot high ridge rose out of the ocean,

providing the sandy soil necessary for the pine trees existence. A few of these historic trees still grow in the Pines Village area, near the museum.

City Historian Gerry Witoshynsky sketched the native pine tree for Bro-

ward County's 1985 Pioneer Days program. The sketch was chosen in 2008 as the Historical Museum's logo.



In Memoriam



James V. Loboizzo
1923–2009
WW II Veteran
Pearl Harbor Survivor
U.S. Army Air Corps
Sergeant



Robert W. Nelson
1926–2009
WW II Veteran
U.S. Navy
Radioman 3/C



Collection of Veterans Photos

World War II Exhibit Grows

The Historical Museum's World War II Commemorative Exhibit was officially dedicated September 13, 2008. The purpose of the Exhibit is to honor and thank the men and women whose service and sacrifices won World War II.

Two historic World War II newspapers donated to the Historical Museum by Lt. Col. Aaron and Mrs. Doris Schwartz, were the donations that sparked the World War II Exhibit. Another original donation was a collection of uniform shoulder patches given by the late pioneer Pines resident Mimi Spitz. The US Coast Guard uniform of Alex Witoshynsky was also an early donation.

Our most historically

valuable part of the exhibit is the collection of photographs of our veterans in their uniforms. From 19 year old Navy Gunners Mate Charlie Ober to 50 year old Commander Dr. Walter Seth Kipnis of the US Merchant Marines, Pembroke Pines first mayor, they are a handsome group! Not to be outdone, we have Army 1st Lt. Alberta Staraitis Armienti of the Nurses Corps, and Womens Army Service Pilot Helen Wyatt Snapp. As a WASP, Wyatt flew all types and sizes of trainers, fighters, and bombers, up to the B-17's.

A bound copy of the *Hartford Times*, July 1945, was given by City Commissioner Iris Siple

and her husband, BSO Deputy Mark Siple. Five model airplanes, five practice torpedoes dug up at Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station, and twelve practice bombs found in Weston were donated by veteran Ray Rivera. Vintage newspapers have been added. Many *Stars and Stripes*, maps, books, medals, caps and additional uniforms have been donated and the collection of biographies, combat photos, and World War II experiences of the veterans is ongoing.

Prominently displayed are 1943 photos of North Perry Field, a training field adjunct to Miami Naval Air Station. Dozens of artifacts retrieved from the airport in 1989 are also on display.

Volunteers Needed!

With our continuously increasing collections, we need interested, motivated volunteers. If you can spend a few hours a week in this rewarding but also painstaking work, please

contact us. Come regularly or at your convenience. Museum hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Call Gerry Witoshynsky,

Director, or Ellen McNamara, Assistant Director, at the museum, 954/986-5049, or email us at pineshistoricalmuseum@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you!



Volunteer
Laney Sheldon

Acknowledgement of Gifts

John & Amanda Witoshynsky Family

We are extremely pleased to acknowledge the important donation of a computer system to the Historical Museum by John and Amanda Witoshynsky and their

children Clark and Carina, in honor of their father and grandfather, Alex Witoshynsky, U.S. Coast Guard World War II veteran. The donation will provide the capability to record our veterans' papers and make them available to

other state and national archives.

The Witoshynsky family's mother and grandmother, City Historian and Museum Director Gerry Witoshynsky, is delighted and very thankful for this special gift!

Herbert & Phyllis Bradley

In recognition of their support and continuing interest in the Historical Museum, we are most grateful to Herbert and Phyllis Bradley for their generous contribution of an electric fireplace.

Join the Friends of the Historical Museum!

The Pines Historical Museum has grown from a quiet depository of all things regarding our city's development, from the tiny Village of Pembroke Pines to a vibrant progressive city of over 150,000, the second largest in Broward County. Please join us in support-

ing the museum to make it the truly outstanding city institution that it can become as we plan to celebrate the museum's 30th Birthday in 2010.

We are establishing a *Friends of the Historical Museum* group of interested residents to assist

in the growth and development of the museum. We invite all residents to join us for an annual membership fee of \$5.00 Individual or \$10.00 Family. A reception for our *Friends* will be held in the fall to organize further and to establish priorities as we move forward.

Please clip and send the coupon at the bottom of this page, indicating your membership preference.

Thank you for your interest and support!



Friends of The Historical Museum

I am interested in joining the *Friends of the Historical Museum*:

Name: _____

Address: _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Annual Membership (check one): Individual \$5.00 Family \$10.00

Method of Payment (Make payable to City of Pembroke Pines): Check Money Order

Clip and send with payment to:

Historical Museum, 6700 SW 13th Street, Pembroke Pines, FL 33023

World War II Veterans Get Together

The museum has established monthly “bull sessions” at the historical museum as a social event for our World War II Veterans. We especially want them to know that we have not forgotten the tremendous sacrifices they made during what should have been the best years of their lives.

Our large condominium communities and all residential areas in Pembroke Pines have hundreds of World War II veterans. Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines

and National Guard are all represented in our group, as they meet to relive the worst and best of their military careers. All Pines World War II veterans, men and women, are invited to attend, share their stories, photos and mementos, and have a cup of coffee.

Regularly scheduled bull sessions are on the last Thursday of the month September through June. The next session is scheduled for September 24, 2009, 1-3 p.m. Contact the museum for further details.



CITY COMMISSION

MAYOR FRANK C. ORTIS
VICE MAYOR ANGELO CASTILLO
COMMISSIONER JACK MC CLUSKEY
COMMISSIONER CARL SHECHTER
COMMISSIONER IRIS SIPLE
CITY MANAGER CHARLES F. DODGE



PINES HISTORICAL MUSEUM
6700 SW 13TH STREET
PEMBROKE PINES, FL 33023

GERRY WITOSHYSKY, DIRECTOR & CITY HISTORIAN
ELLEN MCNAMARA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

954/986-5049

PINESHISTORICALMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM

**HOURS: TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
12:00 TO 4:00 P.M.**

Address Label

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