



Clearwater Historical Society NEWS

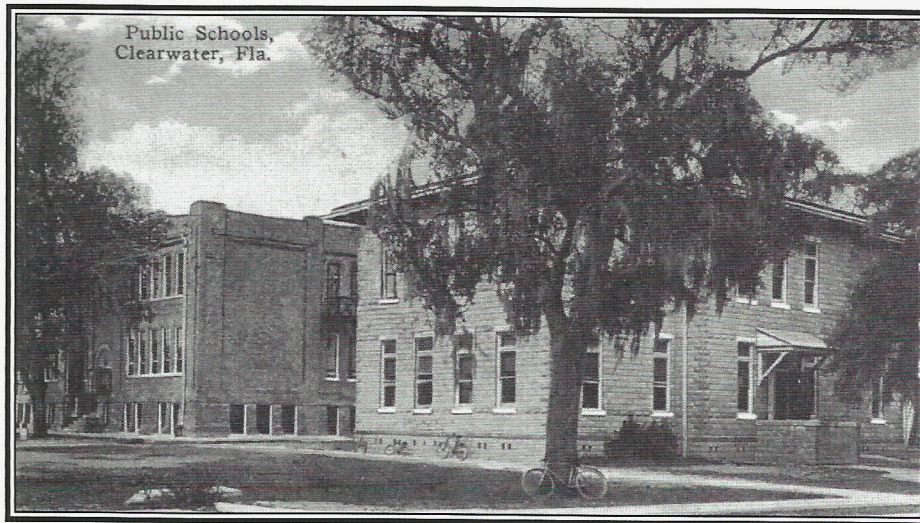
Plumb House Location:
1350 South Martin Luther King Jr. (Greenwood Avenue)

November, 2015

Visit our website at: <http://www.clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org>

Dear Society Members:

After a hot and wet summer, November promises to bring cooler, and maybe drier weather for our Fall Fish Fry and Annual Meeting scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Ross Norton Park facility on South ML King Avenue.



Clearwater School

SOUTH WARD SCHOOL MUSEUM PROJECT UPDATE

The 2015 summer got off to a great start with the appropriation of over \$200,000 by the Florida Legislature towards this project. Our local legislators were very supportive, especially Senator Jack Latvala. Endorsements from Clearwater City Council and many individuals were very helpful in achieving the legislative appropriation. The veto by Governor Scott of this and many other line items in the budget ended the state funding for this year.

With indications of help from many sources, Clearwater Historical Society has been encouraged to try again this next legislative session for funding. The handouts containing the goals, benefits, and purpose, as well as the needs of this project are now being revised for more contacts with legislators, the Governor, local governments, and individual supporters. Suggestions and help with this campaign are most welcome.

Because of the many possible uses and ADA accessibility, a high priority has been given to restoring Building 3, the former cafeteria, kindergarten/preschool, and media center. A contractor/builder and his roofer was engaged last year. An architect, with input from a structural engineer has prepared several sets of drawings for this project that have yet to be fully accepted by permitting officials at Pinellas County Schools. After September meetings with all of these parties at school offices and at the project site, it appears that issues are in the process of being resolved and permitting is forthcoming as early as October. Suggestions from the architect for solutions to ADA access to Buildings 1 and 2 were also examined at the on site meeting. Elevator/lift representatives have also given input on this issue.

With help from Pinellas County Schools and a significant donation by the Palm Pavilion and Hamilton family, the unexpected high cost of utilities, especially storm water fees, at the site that was the subject of a recent newspaper article have been resolved.

CITY OF CLEARWATER TO HELP WITH FUNDING TO CHS

The City of Clearwater will take a larger part in Clearwater history by providing some funding for the activities of its official partner, the Clearwater Historical Society. At a recent meeting with city staff, CHS was informed of the intent of City Council to provide some financial support to CHS as soon as an agreement can be developed that is satisfactory to all parties. This support would begin in the new city budget year beginning October 1, 2015. CHS is looking forward to more closely working with the City of Clearwater to identify, preserve and disseminate Clearwater's history.

Now we need your help to restore these buildings to their former selves, before it is too late. With the loss of so many historic structures in Clearwater over the years, this project is a chance to save a significant part of our heritage and return a facility to public use. With your support, the buildings will be brought up to code, refurbished and turned into a museum and community center where locals and visitors alike can engage in Pinellas County's past and continue the legacy of learning once more. Visitors will also be able to witness the history of the Clearwater Bombers, the 10 time world champion men's fast pitch softball team that put Clearwater on the map. Your help is critical to our preservation effort and giving the South Ward School new and lasting life so that future generations can connect with their past. Please consider assisting our task with any donation that you find it in your power to make. History and the future will thank you!

Please mail checks to the Clearwater Historical Society at P.O. Box 175 Clearwater, Florida 33757

DONATIONS

- **Palm Pavilion** with a second financial donation and challenge to other long-time businesses to support CHS.
- **Clearwater City Players** with a recent financial donation.
- **Francis Wilson Playhouse** with continued financial support.
- **Pinellas County Schools** have donated surplus school equipment.
- **Senior Citizens Services** donated office equipment and supplies.
- **Chris Morris (Suburban Propane)** donated the propane gas for the Fish Fry.
- **Cracker Barrel (Ulmerton Road)** donated Hush Puppies and baking of Marvin's cookies for the Fish Fry.
- **Sally (Mrs. Don) Phillips** donated newspaper articles and 1936 Clearwater Junior High graduation paper.
- **Dawn Patton (Wizard Safe & Lock)** donated continued locksmith work and keys at South Ward School.
- **Steve Fowler** donated architectural work and advice.
- **Jack Joyner** donated air conditioning inspections.
- **John Holcombe (THG Rentals)** donated use of power lift to trim trees and clean building walls.
- **Dean and Robert Wallace** donated tractor and mowing services.
- **Bob Nepote** donated Clearwater Bombers material.
- **Liz Jones Childress (Milton Jones Family)** donated Large c 1925 local landscape painting by local artist Ted Beddo and many boxes of other material.

CHS MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Clearwater Historical Society membership dues are due at the November Annual Meeting and Fall Fish Fry. Please consider enhancing your dues by moving to a higher level membership. CHS membership makes a good gift to family and friends.

Level of Membership

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>\$1 student</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>\$10 individual</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>\$20 family</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>\$35 contributing</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>\$150 corporate</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>\$250 life</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>\$500 patron</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>\$1000 benefactor</i> |

All contributions are tax deductible.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

Visit our new and updated website at: <http://www.clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org>

CHS WORK DAYS

“Work Days” are being held at both the Plumb House and Historic School Museums on Thursdays and Saturdays. Cleaning and repair of the buildings and grounds maintenance are some of the activities that are ongoing. Painting at both locations is imminent. Get on your work clothes and join the fun. Filing cabinets and other out of place items are being moved from the Plumb House to the school.

ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

Pinellas Genealogy Society meets at the Largo Library 11:00 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. The public is welcome. Many free genealogy classes are offered throughout the year. Upcoming events include a free Family History Assistance Day on October 31 and a Genealogy Seminar February 13, 2016. For more info call 727-586-7410 or 727-587-6715 ext 2528 or check website <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flpgs>

Largo Area Historical Society meets at the Old Feed Store in Largo Central Park 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month with a program preceded by a covered dish dinner. The museum is open the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info contact Don Forehand, president at 727-709-7382 or website <http://www.largohistory.org>



Clearwater's First Fire Truck

Purchased sometime after the fire in 1910. The man in the white coat is Joe Aunspaugh - Fire Chief. Sitting in the back is fireman Ora Hart-he later became Chief. Standing far right is Cornelius “Jeff” Jeffords. This photo was taken on Osceola Ave. along side of the old Clearwater Sun building, recently demolished for expansion of the new Capitol Theatre.

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS 2015 - 2016

Nominations for Officers and Board 2015-2016

At the October 5th meeting of the Clearwater Historical Society Board, the following slate was presented for election at the annual meeting November 7, 2015. Additional nominations from the members can also be made at that meeting.

OFFICERS

Bill Wallace, President
Bob Valentine, Vice President
David Allbritton, Past President
Janet Randall, Secretary
Dr. Buddy Gross, Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ryan Ballogg	Rita Garvey	Don Prokes
Terri Carlisle	Tom Gates	Jay S. Rhodes III
Jim Coachman	Lila Grant	Dean Robinson
Bob DeLack	Lorelei Keif	Mike Sanders
Shirley Galatas	Chuck McPherson	John Tsacrios
		Mark Turner

Mailing Address:

Clearwater Historical Society

Post Office Box 175

Clearwater, Florida 33757



On June 24, the Big Fire of 1910 destroyed the entire business block on the north side of Cleveland Street, between Fort Harrison and Osceola Avenues. The burned buildings were replaced as brick 2 story buildings, most of which also burned in the 1960's or 70's. They were again rebuilt as 1 story buildings that remain today.

Both photo's were taken by Louis Ducros, local photographer that marked his photos with his logo of a combined L and D.



See you in November!