



Looking Forward to an Exciting New Year in Havana

January 2024 NEWS AND EVENTS

2023

WAS FULL OF EXCITEMENT AND SUCCESS, BUT LOOK OUT FOR

2024

Once again the fall festival schedule brought record breaking numbers, happy faces and merchants. From September all the way to New Years Eve Havana was full of activity.

September 3rd, WoodFest, a juried art festival, brought wood workers from across the area. Re-known chain saw carver John Birch did not disappoint carving a beautiful Heron, that was won by a nine year old who believed she could win!

October 8th, PumpkinFest. Over 100 vendors filled the streets with everything from fine crafts to bubble guns. More than 4,000 visitors, is always a town favorite.

In November the stockings were hung on street posts with care, hay bales were painted as holiday fare, the tree was a light with ornaments bright knowing that Saint Nicholas soon would arrive that night.....

The Seventh Annual Quilt Show on November 5, Thanks to **Wendy Adams** and her Quilting Crew, proceeds from the day long event went provide funds for Havana Main Street events, look for big changes this year!. **November 10th** brought the community together **Havana's Annual Christmas Tree lighting** and **Santa Claus** arrived by fire truck kicked off the holiday season **Havana's magical trees and Christmas Card Lane** were also lit for the first night of the season. **November 11th & 12th** saw the **Annual Havana Holiday Open House Celebration**, which ended with a **Shopping**

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The Perfect Valentines Day Gift



February 9

Get ready to join us for an unforgettable night at our upcoming **Casino Royale Event!**

This event promises to transport you to the glamorous world of high stakes gambling, where you can try your

luck at the roulette table or try to beat the dealer at blackjack. But it's not just about the games; we've also lined up some fantastic entertainment, including live music from Anna Wescoat and Next Phase. The night wouldn't be complete without some delicious hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. So mark your calendars for **Friday, February 9th from 6pm - 11pm** and get ready to 'roll the dice'! Tickets are limited and can be purchased online at www.havanamainstreet.com. Don't wait! Hosted by the Havana Springs Resort and the Membership Committee of Havana Main Street.



The Havana Hills Spring Classic returns for its eighth year. Providing cyclists the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of north Florida and south Georgia.



Soon to be Main Street Office and Havana Welcome Center getting a final coat of paint. Thank you to all who have contributed to this project and our volunteers.

This year there are three Hard Road distances, plus a Metric option, and three Off Road distances.

We want to remember those who have fallen; we have altered the logo and will provide Memorial Boards for friends and families to write the names of those who have lost their lives or suffered injuries while pursuing their passion. Join us on Feb. 25, downtown Havana to cheer on the cyclists. Registration is on-line at www.eventbrite.com or you can go to www.havanainmainstreet.com/springclassic. Be sure to check out the wonderful video.

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Spree Give Away in Havana, the stores were dressed and the town looked incredible with lights and Christmas Card Lane.

December 9th was Annual Havana **WinterFest and Lawn Mower Parade**. Vendors filled the streets, talent filled the stage and live music at the Off The Rails Stage ruled the day. **Nancy Saunders, festival chair** worked her magic to have **SNOW** in Havana for everyone to experience the chilling pleasure of playing in the snow. In addition to the lawn mowers, floats, and antique cars, the parade featured, a step dancing crew from the Magnet School, a marching band and Santa in a horse drawn carriage, even a "Santa in Training" (Santa's Grandson). **These events could not take place without our financial sponsors and dedicated volunteers, who donate hundreds of hours of their time putting these events together and working them to ensure the events run smoothly.** We want to thank the City of Havana's Utility and Street Crews, the Havana Police and Volunteer Fire Department.

Thank you all, now on to 2024!

The Highwaymen and their Florida Landscape art to be presented at Havana's Shade Tobacco Museum

Michelle Hearn, Senior Curator at the Museum of Florida History, will present this amazing history at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 13, 2024

Painted left, Curator Michelle Hearn; right, Orange Sky, Breaking Surf, 3 Birds by Alfred Hair (1941 - 1970), ca. 1965, oil paint on fiberboard

Please join the Havana History and Heritage Society on January 13, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., at the Havana History and Shade Tobacco Museum for a presentation on the Highwaymen. Michelle Hearn, Senior Curator from the Museum of Florida History, will present the amazing history of the Highwaymen and the Florida Landscape they portrayed through their art.

About The Highwaymen ...

The Highwaymen were a Group of 26 African-American artists who emerged in the 1950s, in the then agricultural communities of Fort Pierce and Gifford, Florida. During the racial segregation of the latter days of the Jim Crow South, these young artists became entrepreneurs and took to the road to sell paintings, earning their title "the Highwaymen". In the process of making a living, they made a significant contribution to the genre of Florida landscape painting, helping to form an idealized vision of the state, and crossed racial divides. The Museum of Florida History's Highwaymen Art Collection is on permanent display in Tallahassee at the Museum of Florida History.

ADMISSION IS FREE

THE SHADE TOBACCO MUSEUM IS LOCATED IN THE PLANTERS EXCHANGE COMPLEX, 204 NW 1st. Street, Havana, Florida

Visit www.havanainmainstreet.com for more information on all Main Street Events

Havana - A Very Different Florida