

## Vero Beach History Abounds in April Recognizing the Centennial Year

The 100 year celebration for Vero Beach continues with a number of significant activities to enjoy. Under the direction of Centennial Co-Chairs City Clerk Tammy Bursick and Councilman Tony Young, the community is invited to take advantage of any or all of the Centennial activities which represent the city's history, landmarks, ancestors, organizations, agriculture, education, transportation and the arts through the decades of technical, beautification and architectural advancements. This is an opportunity to share our history, our accomplishments and our people in a very memorable fashion.

Florida Power & Light is the Centennial Presenting Sponsor. Your sneak peek for the month of April is sponsored by St., Helen Catholic Church and is listed below. WTTB New Radio 105.7 FM/1490 AM is the Official Centennial Flagship Radio Station.

Please visit the Centennial website [www.VeroBeach100.org](http://www.VeroBeach100.org) regularly for times, locations and details on all activities.

*Event times, dates, locations and descriptions are subject to change.*

### April 2019

**Monday, April 1, 2019 to Monday, July 31, 2019** –Archive Center & Genealogical Department of the Indian River County Main Library–Historic information and displays of photographs, scenery of Vero Beach and businesses in the community, as well as documents, from the time period of 1919–1920. Held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at the Main Library. Michelle Wagner: [mwagner@irclibrary.org](mailto:mwagner@irclibrary.org) (772) 770–5060 Ext. 4148

**Tuesday, April 2, Saturday, April 13, Tuesday, April 16 and Saturday, April 27 10am**  
**Centennial Community Historic Dodgertown Tours**

Since 1948, Historic Dodgertown has welcomed the world to Vero Beach as the Spring Training home of the Dodgers for 60 years. To honor the City's Centennial Celebration, free community tours will be offered during the month of April, and guests can learn about the ground-breaking history that has taken place here as well as the exciting business taking place today which includes an array of sporting events and fitness training, retreats and corporate events as well as hotel facilities. RSVPs can be made at [r Ruiz@historicdodgertown.com](mailto:r Ruiz@historicdodgertown.com) or call [Ruth Ruiz](tel:772-257-8532) (772) 257–8532. This is walking tour, so comfortable shoes are recommended. For all tours, guests will meet at the flag pole, which is in front of the Conference Center. Guests will need to enter at 3901 26<sup>th</sup> Street and drive on Jackie Robinson Avenue toward the back of the property (past the hotel rooms). The flagpole will be on the right side of the street and parking spots are available. Here is a link to the campus map. The Conference Center is the building marked 2, past Field #4 (Multi-Sport Field). <http://historicdodgertown.com/about/our-facilities/campus-map>

**Saturday, April 7, 2019 Noon**

**Steve Martin**

**Memorial Regatta**

The Regatta will host 40–50 Opti and 420 class sailboats from all over the state of Florida. A series of 7–8 races will be held on two different courses set south of 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. Boats will assemble and launch from YSF’s docks and ramps located on the grounds of the Vero Beach Waste Water Treatment Plant.



*Photo by Wyatt Hyora*

A cookout and awards ceremony will follow racing. The public is cordially invited.

[stu.keiller@ysfirc.org](mailto:stu.keiller@ysfirc.org)

**Monday, April 15, 2019**

**Jackie Robinson Birthday Baseball Game – 6:35pm**

The social impact of Jackie Robinson crossing the “color line” on April 15, 1947 and his presence in Major League Baseball still resonates as one of the most significant triumphs in civil rights history. Dodgertown became baseball’s first fully-integrated Spring Training site in the South. It was on March 31, 1948, when Robinson made history here in his first appearance at Dodgertown, Vero Beach, Florida. He hit a home run in the first inning for the Dodgers. The annual Jackie Robinson Celebration Game, played in Holman Stadium at Historic Dodgertown, is Minor League Baseball’s and our community’s tribute to the achievement of this great American icon. At the 2019 Celebration Game at Historic Dodgertown, a proclamation will be read by City Councilman Tony Young proclaiming it Jackie Robinson’s birthday before the game starts Michael Kint/United Way, 567–8900 ext 115, [Michael.kint@unitedwayirc.org](mailto:Michael.kint@unitedwayirc.org)



*Jackie Robinson, Ray Campanella early Days Dodgertown.*

**Thursday, April 11, 2019**

**Miss Hibiscus Pageant 7pm**

Main Street Vero Beach's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Hibiscus Festival includes the crowning of Miss Hibiscus at the Heritage Center in historic Downtown Vero Beach.

The committee is now accepting applications from 15–19 year old young women who are engaged in the Indian River County community.

The competition consists of a pre-pageant interview and the young women are awarded points for public speaking and their involvement in activities and community service.

The winner of the Miss Hibiscus Pageant receives \$750 and prizes donated by local businesses. During the year of her reign, she is a goodwill ambassador for Main Street Vero Beach and a role model for younger girls. Second place winner will be given \$300 plus prizes and third place wins \$200 and prizes.

The honors of "Miss Congeniality" and "Most Photogenic" are also awarded the night of

the pageant. The tiara for Miss Hibiscus is courtesy of John Michael Matthews Fine Jewelry. Profits from The Hibiscus Festival are invested in beautification and economic restructuring projects.

For information on entering or sponsoring the Miss Hibiscus Pageant visit [www.mainstreetverobeach.org](http://www.mainstreetverobeach.org) or contact Cindy Goetz at [cindygoetz@cgmakeupartist.com](mailto:cindygoetz@cgmakeupartist.com).

Applications and information are also available at the Main Street Vero Beach business office located at 2036 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Downtown Vero Beach. For more info contact Janie G Hoover – [janie@tightlineproductions.com](mailto:janie@tightlineproductions.com)

The Pageant admission is \$5.00.

**Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14, 2019 Hibiscus Festival ( Saturday 10am – 6pm and Sunday 10am – 4pm)**

In 1953, The Hibiscus Festival was born as a city-wide event. The identification for the City of Vero Beach as "The Hibiscus City" and the symbolic Hibiscus Flower are not a coincidence. It all began with the Festival which, at that time, was held over a 2–4 week period. Fashion Shows, Ladies Teas and Bridge Games, Shopping Events and Softball Games were held to help celebrate the Festival and it culminated with a dance and the Miss Hibiscus Pageant. It was always held in late spring. The committee developed post cards which were sent to local residents and far-away friends and family



*Miss Hibiscus 2007 Jessica Gable with the first Miss Hibiscus 1953 Elizabeth G. Bass*



to let them know the Festival was coming and to plan to attend any or all of the festivities. In 1963 the Chairman of the committee decided to retire, and there went the whole committee. However, the Miss Hibiscus Pageant remained as a standalone event for one more year. The original Miss Hibiscus in 1953 was Elizabeth Graves Bass. When this long dormant historic festival was revitalized in 2004, it continued to expand to use additional space within the downtown sector and to annually include new and exciting activities to please each member of every family in Indian River County. A weekend filled with music, booths, fine art show, children's activities, Miss Hibiscus Pageant, and a special Centennial recognition. For more information contact the Main Street office, 299-1383, [info@mainstreetverobeach.org](mailto:info@mainstreetverobeach.org)

**Saturday, April 27, 2019 10am – 3pm**

### **Vero Beach Museum of Art—Children's Art Festival**

Since 1981, the VBMA annual Children's Art Festival has charmed and wowed the children and families of our beloved community. This year is extra special since it falls on the Vero Beach Centennial Celebration year. This free event includes art projects, local youth performances, kid-friendly tours of the *Victorian Radicals* exhibition, and lots of food options. Catering by Wood n Spoon in Café, Sunside Fun Snowballs, play time in the Art Zone and no registration is required!



Drop by anytime from 10am until 3pm AND remember to check out the *VBMA Indian River County Juried Student Exhibition* on view in the Patten Community Gallery. For more info contact Sophie Bentham Wood, 231-0707 ext 121, [sbwood@verobeachmuseum.org](mailto:sbwood@verobeachmuseum.org)

**(Photo provided by Vero Beach Museum of Art)** The Children's Art Festival is a yearly tradition for the Vero Beach Museum of Art offering children and their families a wide range of the arts.