

Byway Partner/ Destination Spotlight

SUMTER COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET. The Sumter County Farmers Market in Webster is among the most unique features of the Byway. It began in 1937 as a vegetable auction when Webster was a hub of vegetable farming and has grown into the oldest and largest "flea market" in Florida.

It began when local farmers organized a cooperative to auction their vegeta-

bles to wholesale buyers. While the vegetable auction has been gone for decades, the market still thrives as a 40-acre flea market with about 2,000 vendors. It's even got its own antique mall and visitors can still choose from a broad assortment of fresh fruits and vegetables from area growers and vendors.

To be continued on next page.



ANTIQUE Appraisal Fair

Byway Antique Appraisal Fair
Our next appraisal fair is scheduled for Saturday, January 21, 2017 at the Belvedere Library in The Villages of 466.

The Florida Scenic Highway Program (FSHP) has reached a tremendous goal in 2016. It is celebrating its 20th anniversary as a Florida Department of Transportation program. As one of FDOT's most unique programs, the FSHP celebrates special places throughout Florida and the unique roads that connect them.

Through this program, FDOT partners with local communities to encourage grassroots advocacy. The program brings together local advocates with a sincere passion for their community and the real places and real stories that they are so proud of.

While the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway was the 24th designated highway in the state, Pensacola Scenic Bluffs was the first byway to be designated back in the 1990s. Today there are over 1,500 miles of designated highway in Florida and every mile takes you to a place that is special and unique. Make sure to experience a scenic highway whenever you're on the road.



Kiosk Donor Brick Program

The Byway Organization has launched their donor brick fundraising program to help with costs for our first Kiosk to be located at the Rutland Park on SR 44 at the Withlacoochee River. These bricks can be etched with your family or company name or used as a memorial to someone special. The 4x8 brick is a donation of \$50.00 and the 8x8 brick is a donation of \$100.00. You can order your bricks on our website or request an order form to sumterbyway@gmail.com. Funds will be used to purchase supplies and graphics for future kiosks throughout the county. It's a wonderful way to preserve the memory of someone or to highlight groups or families.

Scenic Sumter Meeting
3rd Tuesday each Month 11 a.m.
Various Locations around the County

Upcoming Events 2016

June

21 CME Meeting-Dade Battlefield
Historic State Park 11:00 a.m.

July

19 CME Meeting-Bushnell City Hall
11:00 a.m.

August

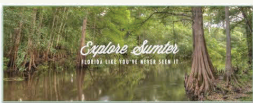
16 CME Meeting-UF/IFAS
Extension Office 11:00 a.m.

September

20 CME Meeting-Webster
Community Center 11:00 a.m.

SSHB Directors

Dan McCormic, Explore Sumter
Dawn Cary, Great Lakes Carpet
Jim Veal, Sr., Pana Vista Lodge
Jackey Jackson, Sumter Co. Public Works
Judie Mueller, USPS
Paul Remis, Dade Battlefield
Steve Rinck, Dade Battlefield
Connie Mahan, Connie Mahan Real Estate
Martin Steele, Private Citizen



Follow the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!



Adopt--A-Highway clean up is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 2016 at the Florida National Cemetery at 9:00 A.M. This is a great opportunity for community service hours for High School students and Citizens. Please wear appropriate clothing and go to our website in order to view the Safety Video if you wish to join us.

Farmer's Market continued...Over the decades, the market has seen a number of historic enterprises come and go – a meat curing plant, grist mill, rodeo and livestock shows. But, almost every Tuesday, the market is home to the third largest cattle auction in the state. An important element in regional agri-business, the auction sold 46,000 head of cattle last year.

The market grounds are spread along State Road 471, and it's size has attracted other privately owned businesses including a large flea market on the west side and many vendors bordering the north side.

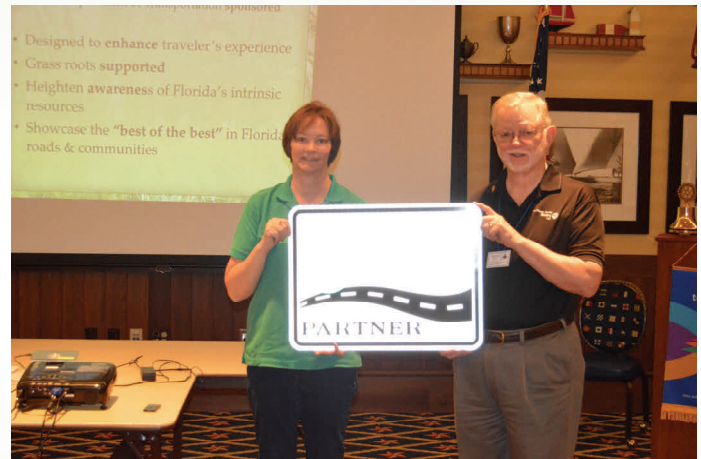
It's been listed among the top ten tourist attractions in the state and typically draws about 8-10 thousand visitors each week. On Monday holidays, expect to see about 12,000 visitors.

Much of the market's rich history is recorded in the book "Born of Necessity – a History of the Sumter County Farmers' Market, Inc." It can be found in local Sumter County Libraries. There's also information available online at www.sumtercountymarket.com/ or on Facebook.

The Villages - Evening
Rotary
Club



Welcome our newest Byway Partner!



Dawn Cary presenting Partner sign to Tom Reed

FLORIDA SCENIC HIGHWAYS
20th Anniversary Photo Contest



To commemorate their 20th anniversary, the Florida Scenic Highway Program (FSHP) is holding a photo contest. Three winners will be selected for each of the following categories: Wildlife, Natural Beauty, Recreation and Byway Events. To learn more, visit: <http://bit.ly/2016photo>
[#FLScenic](https://twitter.com/FLScenic) [#RealFL](https://twitter.com/RealFL) [#PhotoContest](https://twitter.com/PhotoContest)

Calling all Volunteers! Are you looking for something to do in your free time? We would love to have you become a part of this exciting adventure that the byway is on. Please contact Dawn Cary at 352-267-8801 if you are interested in serving on one of our many committees.