

# Press Release

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## **AIMH Celebrates Reopening with "Jailhouse Rocks" May**

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The community is invited to the Grand Reopening of the Amelia Island Museum of History on Saturday, May 10, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. "Jailhouse Rocks" will celebrate the completion of renovations in Phase I of the historic Nassau County Jail. A ribbon cutting with State and local officials, contributors, members, and volunteers will take place at 5:00 pm.

The Jailhouse will rock with a performance by "Elvis," music played by the Fernandina Beach High School jazz band, tours of the renovated building by docents dressed in prison garb, and a glimpse into the first stages of a jail-cell exhibit at the Museum.

Some of the renovations include a new entrance, installation of fifty eight windows resistant to 150 mph winds, an elevator, handicapped accessible bathrooms, a small catering kitchen, and a new jail-cell exhibit that will bring focus to the building as

a historic artifact. Throughout the construction, the Museum has continued to provide insight into the unique history of Nassau County through educational programs, permanent and temporary exhibits, and many tours offered to the community and visitors. In a single year, over 35,000 people are served by the Museum through its many activities.

A grant from the State of Florida, approved in 2006, provided the stimulus for Phase I of the renovations. In 2007, despite that the Museum ranked #3 in the State of Florida for Phase II of the construction, limited State resources indicated that this grant would not be funded. Many local citizens stepped forward with both physical labor and monetary contributions to help. Volunteers from the Civil Air Patrol demolished, tiled, and painted to help complete the gift shop, kitchen, and jail cell exhibit. Priscilla Stapleton, of Amelia Garden Center, recently donated all the plants and labor necessary to complete the new entrance landscaping. In all, over 2000 hours of service have been logged by volunteers from the community and the Museum's own volunteer corps.

The Amelia Island Museum of History is understandably proud of the new renovations. Pat Panella,

Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees, said "It is our hope that the public will enjoy and appreciate the many new conveniences in the Old Nassau County Jail building. The new jailhouse will really "rock" on May 10, and the public is encouraged to attend and see what we have been able to accomplish with the help of our community."