



Colonial Beach Historical Society, Inc.
Colonial Beach, Virginia

Newsletter

Fall- 2019

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President's Letter

Kathleen Moran

Downtown Colonial Beach Seeks Historic District Designation

An informational meeting was held October 16 at the Colonial Beach Town Center on the topic of a National Historic District designation for "downtown" Colonial Beach. An important aspect of the designation being sought is that it does not place any restrictions on property owners in the affected areas. It is an incentive program only, which can provide tax credits to residents and businesses that may *choose* to carry out a restoration on their properties. Improving and maintaining the attractiveness and functionality of older buildings in any town's historic core can have numerous benefits to the entire community.

As suburban sprawl continues to make more and more places look precisely alike, it seems more important than ever for communities to keep their identities. Even just a handful of buildings in a limited area can help define a community and provide clues to its past.

Colonial Beach has a unique past, worth being preserved and enhanced - as a source of community pride, and for potential future benefits, both economic and social. Preserving what one has may form a foundation for other improvements.

Volunteers Don't Get Paid . . .

(Not because they're Worthless . . . Because They're PRICELESS) – Sherry Anderson
The Colonial Beach Historical Society is looking for a few of those PRICELESS individuals. Individuals that enjoy feeling that they are making a contribution to their community and can manage to squeeze just a

couple of more hours a month into their already busy schedules. We are looking for new board members and committee chairs. (A good portion of the board will be staying on, so the "learning curve" will be gentle). Committees needing leadership include but are not limited to: Newsletter, Building & Grounds, and Social Media.

The Board meets at the Museum (currently on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4 pm). We would like to know of your interest by November 5th, so that you may be nominated at the November 13th board meeting. Please do not be concerned about any conflict you might have with the present time of the meetings. As new people come on board, we adjust the day and time to accommodate all board members. For more information about what serving on the board of the Historical Society entails, please feel free to call Mrs. Jean Conaty at 804-214-9508 or to email Kathie Moran at morankath@msn.com

Anyone interested in being a docent at the Museum is very welcome to contact us, also.

Curator's Corner

Mitzi Saffos

Summer was a busy time for the curatorial staff with the installation of several new exhibits. As year ends and the museum's winter closing draw near, we are making preparations for the holidays and our annual house tour. Curatorial staff will be installing a Christmas exhibit and helping to 'deck the halls' for this event, our 20th! Our friends can help us make this even more festive by sharing pictures of past Christmas celebrations with us. Please contact Mitzi Saffos at 540-226-9255 to loan or donate items for this exhibit.

Many thanks for your ongoing support of the Museum at Colonial Beach!

Fundraising Events

Patti Hansley

The Museum at Colonial Beach will be present again this year at the Colonial Beach Harvest Festival on Town Hill, Saturday, October 26th, 11-5. The Museum welcomes one and all to build a scarecrow that will decorate the Museum during the Fall Season. We'd love to see you there with your family and friends to create your one of a kind scarecrow. This year the head of the scarecrow will be a pumpkin, I can't wait to see the finished projects. We need 20 pumpkins. So if you would like to donate a pumpkin we are looking for a medium size, any color and whole. If you would like to donate money for the purchase of the pumpkins we are accepting donations. Just call me or take your donation to the Museum on Saturday or Sunday afternoon between 1-4. If you want to volunteer your time to help others create these wonderful works of art, just show up and we'll show you what to do. If you've never helped out with the scarecrow build, well, it's a HOOT to help and watch. Call me with any questions you may have Patti 804-761-7836.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Sunday, November 24th, between 1-4pm, Riverboat Tiki Room. Have friends or relatives coming to town for pre-holiday festivities and looking for something fun to do, well we've got just the thing. A Museum Fundraiser with Wine and Design. We are still choosing the design. It will be to paint on either canvas or wood craft project. If you have a preference please let me know. I have done a few canvas projects so am leaning toward a wood craft this time, but would love to hear your thoughts (canvas or wood craft?). We'll have space for 30-35 people. Fliers will be put up around town announcing the fundraiser and the project selected, but Gary will send an email to the Museum Members distribution list so you'll have first chance at a seating. Look for more information on this upcoming fundraiser. Call

me with any questions - Patti 804-761-7836.

2019 Christmas House Tour

Betty Whitestone

Light Up and Donate!

Hello this is from Betty Whitestone talking and telling you about our upcoming 20th Christmas House Tour on **December 14, 2019**.

I would like to bring back the "Lights" that was part of the

trip around the town of Colonial Beach, that evening. I'm hoping to have homes full of outdoor lights.

It was taken out of the tour for three reasons: 1st: cost of transportation, 2nd: we added the fifth home, 3rd: number of tickets sold.

Support is needed. Would like to add to our tour program

a listing of "Supporters and Friends" that have donated any amount of \$15 or more (no amount shown) in support of the Museum. As our membership has dropped over the years, become members at a very reasonable amount of dues. We could also use more volunteers during our open time during April through December, and talking with our visitors on any Saturday or Sunday if you so desire.

Do hope you can make a donation to help keep the Colonial Beach Museum open and warm or cool in years to come.

Thank you for your help, Betty

Please send donations to: Colonial Beach Museum, P.O.Box 215, Colonial Beach, VA 22443, no later than Nov 22nd to have your name in the Tour Program. Also Tour Tickets will be on sale at the Museum November 1st at \$20 a ticket, which will include your ticket program and transportation for the Tour.

Call to make reservations: Betty Whitestone 804-224-8619 or Jean Conaty 804-214-9508.

Treasurer's Report

Jane Trail

Balance as of Aug 2019	\$ 5,083.01
Sept Disbursements	\$ 284.29
Sept Deposits	\$ 0
Balance as of Sept 30	\$ 4,798.72

Museum Web Site

Three pieces of historical information about our town that you can find newly added to our website: www.museumatcolonialbeach.com
Our Early Colonial Beach Area History: The Colonial Beach Historical Society received a request earlier this year from the Colonial Beach Planning Commission to provide some historical information to them. The current planning commission members are in the process of reviewing plans for the town and are writing the proposed town plan for the next five years. Included were questions about how our town was named, Indians who may have lived here, early 1600s residents, and more. Take a look at some of that information on our website.

The History of the Colonial Beach Museum Building: Also on our website you can find the history of our own museum building based on some records that we found in Montross at the courthouse as well as in our own files. The history of our building is a significant part of the history of our town. The documented museum history was written in conjunction with the Downtown Colonial Beach organization which is gathering historical information on local buildings.

History Timeline of the Bank of Westmoreland: Thanks to Jessie Hall and her great notebook of information as well as some additional records, we were able to write an interesting history of the local Bank of Westmoreland. This article was also written to assist Downtown Colonial Beach in their information gathering. You will appreciate the importance that the bank has had for our town when you read it – also our website.

History by Edna Edmondson

Recently I had the opportunity to add many more fabulous memories to my “personal history” as I celebrated my 90th birthday with family and Colonial Beach friends for my entire September birthday month. All this celebrating included a surprise birthday party at our community center and caused me to recall wonderful memories of my time living in our town.

I was born and raised in Washington D.C. My family first came to Colonial Beach when we either drove down Route 1 by way of Fredericksburg or drove to Friendly MD and took the ferry to Wilkerson’s pier in Potomac Beach. (At that time a showboat also docked there.)

We rented a cottage from Mrs. Denson. She was the Great Grandmother of Rocky Denson. In the 30’s my family purchased a lot that had been a cornfield and had a huge oak tree. We came when D.C. schools closed in June and returned in September.

We all had bicycles. It was safe to ride everywhere, and we did.

The “front” had bowling, miniature golf, bingo and several carnival type games.

Saturday night you went “downtown” to promenade from the big town pier to the current River’s Edge motel to see and be seen. Huge crowds were always there. There was dancing, music, pinball machines. (No slot machines or gambling)

When you swam in the Potomac River you could walk in the water up to your shoulders and still see your feet. We had a floating diving board and lifeguards!

My brother and I fished at Parker’s pier on Monroe Bay. We caught perch, cleaned them and took them home. My mom fried them and served a huge platter of fresh caught fish and homemade corn bread.

We would have a crab feast often and bought our soft shelled crabs from Mr. Crow.

(I can see Gary’s face and read his mind. He’s thinking - I never got anything before from Edna and now she wants to fill up the whole paper.)

I do have a lot more special memories – wood stoves, ice boxes, kerosene lamps and stove, hand cranked ice cream, etc. – I shall save them for another newsletter.

Our town became incorporated on February 27, 1892. Do you have a memory? Send it to me and I will try to include it in the next newsletter.

I may have been a “come here” but I have made a life time of memories. Let’s make more.

We invite you to become a member of the
Colonial Beach Historical Society
Just fill in the form and send it to us.

_____ New Membership

_____ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell or Office: _____

Email: _____

Type of Membership:

_____ Individual \$15.00
_____ Family \$25.00
_____ Business \$30.00
_____ Donor \$50.00

Membership entitles you to a 10% discount
on Museum activities including the Gift
Shop. Dues are per year from July 1
through June 30. Please detach this appli-
cation and mail it along with your check to:

The Colonial Beach Historical Society
P.O. Box 215
Colonial Beach VA 22443

Would you be willing to assist as a volun-
teer? _____

_____ Your Signature

Colonial Beach Historical Society, Inc.
PO. Box 215
Colonial Beach, VA 22443