

# Colonial Beach Historical Society, Inc.

P. O. Box 215 Colonial Beach, VA 22443-0215  
804-224-3379



## Newsletter

Spring 2007 Volume 6 Patti Hansley, Acting Editor Issue No. 2 April 2007

### President's Report

*Arthur T. Russell*

#### THREE DOWN AND ONE TO GO

Several years ago the Board started a program to improve The Museum building and facilities. Expansion on the building and the creation of an American with Disabilities Act compliant restroom were in the first phase of the program. Those projects were completed, and the students of the Colonial Beach schools dedicated the new 240 square foot gallery last spring with an exhibit of art. These two projects were completed solely with funds provided by the membership and other Society fund raising activities like the Big Band Dance and the Golf Tournament.

The third project on our list was to install heat and air conditioning in the second floor of the building. This was a much-needed improvement as The Museum collection of Colonial Beach artifacts not on display on the first floor is stored in this area along with the records of the Society. The addition of HVAC will help us preserve what is fast

becoming a priceless collection of our past. We were very fortunate to receive a \$5,500 grant from the Virginia Department of

Historic Resources to assist with this project. The grant required a 100% fund match from the Society. The Town Council came to the assistance of the Society with a donation of \$2,500. Along with the Town, the Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce contributed \$1,000 and the Colonial Yacht Club \$100 to prepay for the project. I am pleased to report that the HVAC system is operational and the contractor has been fully paid. The total cost of the project was \$7,350.

That brings us to the final phase on the improvement project. That is the completion of a serving pantry adjacent to the new gallery at the back of the building. The location is the original Hoffman Gas Company Parts Room, which will be somewhat preserved. This facility would be used when we host special events such as the Christmas Reception and the Friday Evening Art Walks. This final phase consists mainly of electrical work, clean up and painting. We have already purchased a small refrigerator and a microwave, which will be installed as soon as we can complete the initial effort.

We have made tremendous progress in the less than 10 years since our dedication in July of 1999. However we still need help from all our members to continue our growth

and improvements. Come help us preserve our history call me: 804-224-2278

## **2007 Board Member Elections**

*Anna Payne - Secretary*

Nine members will be elected to the Colonial Beach Historical Society Board of Directors. After the elections are complete, the Board will elect the President. The following individuals are nominated as board members: Jo Townsend, Susie Lucks Gardner, Jane Trail, \*Bill Hendrix, \*Edna Edmondson, \*Patti Hansley, \*Anna Payne, \*Alleyne Dickens, and \*Art Buswell. The asterisk denotes incumbent board members. Anyone interested in becoming a board member should contact Jean Conaty at 214-9508.

**Who is eligible to vote?** Any individual, family or business in good standing (membership is current) is eligible. Individuals have one vote; families in good standing have two votes; businesses in good standing have two votes. **How to vote?** A member must be present at the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 Historical Society meeting at the CB Library at 7:00pm.

## **Curator's message**

*Alleyne Dickens Curator*

It is with great pleasure that I report significant donations of artifacts to The Museum. A large quantity of items, most pertaining to the Colonial Beach School System, came into The Museum's possession at the perfect time. We are planning to launch another bigger and better exhibit of school memorabilia this summer in conjunction with the 100th year reunion of all

the school classes. This donation also contains old photographs of the Town previously not represented in our collection.

Also added to the collection is a beautiful white, lawn dress. This dress is very different than the one we have already had on display and has a definite history of being worn to picnics on the Beach!

We are still looking for more items, especially pertaining to early to mid-20th century items, photographs, etc. I am particularly looking for items that pertain to the numerous hotels in town as well as additional school items. And I'm still looking for anything to do with the waterskiing club or shows.

Our Colonial Past exhibit will continue for the immediate future.

Volunteers from AmeriCorps came into the Museum in March and did a fantastic job of cleaning up. We need to get busy organizing the storage area upstairs and re-cataloging all The Museum's possessions and assets.

Kudos to Edna Edmondson on her wonderful volunteer coffee. Not only was it a nice tribute to 2006 volunteers, but it jump started our volunteer sign-up for 2007. Well done!

## **Education message**

*Edna Edmondson Director of Education*

The Museum officially opened its doors for the season on Friday April 13. Seasonal hours are Second Friday Art Walk, and Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00. We are in desperate need of volunteers to man the Museum. Please consider donating just a bit of your time to help keep The Museum open so others can enjoy the history of our Town. Please call me at 804-

224-9889 or stop by The Museum and leave your name and number. I will contact you with available dates.

## Membership Committee

*Patti Hansley*

The membership drive officially started on April 1<sup>st</sup>. As of this writing, four new members were signed. The membership tracking boat is displayed on the upper deck of the Museum porch. Look for the crabs crawling up the mast of the ship to track our progress.

**CBHS Committee Vacancies** – Website Master (development and management), Video Projects, Town Walking Trail, Grant Management and most important – Volunteer Coordinator. Anyone interested in one or more of these positions are encouraged to contact us. Please call the Museum at 224-3379 and leave a message, or contact Art Buswell at 224-2278.

### Upcoming Events.... Mark your calendars!

May 3	CBHS Meeting and Board of Director's Elections 7:00pm
May 12	Big Band Dance/Mother's Day
May 18	Antique Boat Roundup Participant's Reception 6:00pm at the Museum
May 19	Antique Boat Roundup
June 7	CBHS Meeting @ Cooper Library 7:00pm
June 9	Potomac River Festival
June 15	Captain John Smith Shallop Arrival
June 16	Jamestown 400 <sup>th</sup> Celebration
July 5	CBHS Meeting @ Cooper Library 7:00pm

May 12<sup>th</sup> is our annual *Big Band Dance* at the Riverboat. This is one of two main fundraisers during the year that support your

Museum. The band contributes their time; much of the proceeds will go directly to The Museum.



Please come support your Museum. Tickets are \$18.00 for members and \$20.00 for nonmembers.

A special dinner menu will be available in the Potomac Room at the Riverboat. A cash bar will be available during the dance. Look for more information about this event in April.

Mark your calendar for the annual *Antique Boat Roundup*. Many local and out-of-towners bring their antique boats to rally at the beach. It is an awesome showing! The Museum will be hosting a welcoming reception at 6PM on Friday, May 18. All CBHS members are welcome to attend the reception.

We are looking for volunteers to participate in the *Potomac River Festival* parade. Some ideas for the float are to decorate a golf cart; another idea is to decorate a convertible or other vehicle. If you are interested in participating call The Museum at 804-224-3379 and leave a message. We will contact you.

Virginia is celebrating the *400th Anniversary of Jamestown*.

Colonial Beach has been selected as one of 22 sites in the State of Virginia to participate in the John Smith Shallop event. Please plan to attend the many events the Town is planning for this celebration. The Shallop arrives at Town



Pier on Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> in the evening. Town events will be conducted all day on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Our local radio station will broadcast from the beachfront on that morning from 9:00 to 11:00. Watch for more information about this event on the Chamber website, [www.colonialbeach.org](http://www.colonialbeach.org).

Other events being planned this year include a Members Meeting, completion of the Town walking trail, and developing a Museum web page. Look for more information about these activities in upcoming newsletters. If you are interested in helping formulate these activities please contact The Museum at 804-224-3379 and leave a message; someone will contact you.

In an attempt to cut down on the costs of mailing the newsletter we will soon begin emailing them. Please provide your email address on the membership form or drop by the Museum. Target date for emailing to begin is July 2007. Please note, if you so chose, a snail-mail copy will be sent you.

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## *New Membership/Renewal Application*

Please accept my application for membership or renewal in **The Colonial Beach Historical Society, Inc.** and **The Museum**.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
CELL OR WORK \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### **TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP DESIRED:**

INDIVIDUAL \$15.00 ( )	FAMILY \$25.00 ( )
BUSINESS \$30.00 ( )	STUDENT \$3.00 ( )

Dues are per year beginning on 1 July through 30 June. Please detach this application and mail along with your check to **The Colonial Beach Historical Society, Inc.**, P.O. Box 215, Colonial Beach, VA. 22443.

### **VOLUNTEER AREA OF INTEREST**

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**SIGNATURE**

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**DATE**

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*The Society meets the first (1<sup>st</sup>) Thursday of every month at 7PM in the Cooper Library, Washington Ave., Colonial Beach. Your attendance, although not mandatory, is greatly appreciated.*

*MOTHER'S DAY BIG BAND DANCE  
FEATURING THE*



**MAY 12  
8-11 PM  
AT THE  
RIVERBOAT ON  
THE POTOMAC  
Colonial Beach**

*The Fredericksburg Big Band*

The Fredericksburg Big Band was founded in 1968 and consists of 17 instrumentalists and a fantastic vocalist.

The Band will play from 8-11 and dance tickets cost \$20 per person (\$18 for Colonial Beach Historical Society members). Cash bar available. An optional special dinner menu will be available in The Potomac Room at the Riverboat (reservations required 224-7055).

The traditional *SILENT AUCTION* will be repeated with lots of new items available.



*Mary Jo Prouty,  
Vocalist*

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*The Big Band Dance is sponsored by the Colonial Beach Historical Society. Tickets are available at The Museum, from CBHS Board Members and from Metro Golf Carts at 116 Washington Avenue. Call Art Buswell for more information 804-224-CART (2278).*

**We need your support and  
your membership  
now!!!!!!**

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