



The Museum at Colonial Beach

P. O. Box 215
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Newsletter

Spring 2009

Volume 11

Teri Lewis, Editor

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President's Report

Art Buswell

"It has been a long road, but the end is in sight!"

When elected as Society President in 2001, I established an aggressive program to improve the Museum facility as well as our collection and displays. Now many, many months after that ambitious statement, I believe that the numerous construction and financial hurdles that we faced along the way are behind us and we are nearing the goal.

That goal includes replacement of the bottom floor heating and air conditioning and installing, for the first time ever in this 112 year old building, a second floor heating and air conditioning system. Additionally, insulating the attic and replacing the entire front upper and lower porches were among our tasks.

However, the most significant and lasting accomplishment has been the addition of a new 240 square foot gallery on the east side of the building. This major project also included the removal of the 75 year old bathroom, moving water and sewer lines to create a handicap accessible restroom within the existing building. The project also

included creation of what I call a "serving pantry" in the former Hoffman Gas Company parts room area. While not a typical kitchen, the facility is equipped with a small refrigerator, microwave and sink to facilitate the many social events that are popular at the Museum.

Many members helped to make this expansion possible through donations of materials, time and financial assistance. Paul Brunkow, Gordon Hopkins, Bill Bowman and Harry Wehr, to name a few, provided time expertise and materials to the success of the project. The Town of Colonial Beach, Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Commonwealth of Virginia and several private donors also supported the project with valuable financial assistance.

We are scheduled to dedicate the entire project when the Museum reopens for the season on Saturday, April 18, 2009. Please come join us to celebrate this major milestone in our history.



Secretary *Anna Payne*

The Bi-Laws for the Historical Society were revised, updated and approved on November 5, 2008. If any member of the Society wishes to have a copy, please contact me at 224-7557.

The Historical Society meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Cooper Library starting at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be April 2nd. Feel free to join us anytime.

Volunteer/Docent *Coordinator* *Jane Trail*

The Museum is open for the Second Friday Art Walk, per announcement, and on Saturdays and Sundays, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. We are able to keep the doors open with the support of our volunteers.

We want to thank all our new 2008 volunteers as well as those who have been volunteering for us for years. Your support was paramount to the success of the Museum last year.

As most of you know, we need more volunteers and we ask that you solicit your family, friends and associates to donate some of their time during this 2009 season to greet visitors and answer any questions they have about the Museum and the Beach. Please contact me if you or someone you know, would like to be one of our volunteers.



In order to show our appreciation, we are going to have a Volunteers Appreciation

Brunch for all our volunteers and for all of those who would like to sign up for the 2009 season. Brunch will be at the Museum on April 4th at 11:00 a.m. Mark your calendar, we look forward to seeing you there!

RSVP: 804-224-0472

An abundance of nice people are interested in Colonial Beach and love to share their memories of this awesome place we call home.

Curator's Message *Alleyne Dickens*

The museum is currently closed until Saturday, April 18th. While both large display cases are empty, I'd like to find a volunteer to attach casters to the bottoms so that they can be moved up against the wall easily while full. Other "handy man" chores are available. Please contact me if you have the time to donate to the museum.

I am looking for photographs of people who had an impact on Colonial Beach. For example, we have no photographs of Mrs. McKinney, only newspaper prints which don't reproduce well. We highlighted historic figures over the last year and I would like to feature more recent prominent figures.

I'm looking for ideas for new exhibits. Please feel free to contact me with suggestions.

(804) 224-4027

www.alleynedickens1@mac.com

Treasurer's Report *Art Buswell (Acting Treasurer)*

- BB&T checking account balance as of January 31, 2009 is \$3,383.63
- State Corporate registration fee has been paid

Membership/Newsletter Committee Patti Hansley

The 2009-2010 Colonial Beach Historical Society Membership drive will commence the month of April and run through mid-June. We realize that times are difficult (financially) but won't you please renew your membership. Your Membership is vital to the success of The Museum. Your contributions go toward the up-keep and maintenance of The Museum. It also allows the Historical Society to participate in a High School Scholarship program, and other community activities. In 2009 we will again strive for 300 members. Please pass the word to your friends, family, neighbors and associates about CBHS and the need for their support. One visit to The Museum will enlighten you to the value the Historical Society is to the Town of Colonial Beach and preservation of it's past (and future), and remember your membership is tax deductible.

CBHS Annual Meeting


Mark your calendar and plan to attend the 2nd Annual Members Meeting on May 29th from 6:00-6:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the Colonial Beach Towne Center. We are pleased to have as guest speaker, G. William Thomas, Jr., President of the James Monroe Foundation. A reception will follow the meeting in The Museum.

CBHS Board of Directors Nominations

It is time once again to nominate candidates for the CBHS Board of Directors. Any CBHS Member is eligible for a position on the board. A member of the nominating

committee will be contacting you by phone to find out if you are interested in one of the nine Board positions available. If you have any questions about these positions contact Art or Patti.

Education Committee Edna Edmondson

The Education Committee partnered with the 4-H to do a Photo Workshop with Diane Swarthing on Saturday, January 31, 2009 at the Museum. 

Seven enthusiastic 5th graders met at the Museum and departed three hours later with two matted photos ready for framing.

Each student had the use of a camera for the workshop. They learned the parts of the camera and the function of each of those parts. They learned how to operate and take care of the camera, tips for taking a good photo, composition and lighting and the use of a tripod.



Various photo opportunities were set up ... colored erasers, paper clips, candies, crayons, rocks, shells, a dozen red roses and a single rose. Everyone was given the person's photos and selected two to be printed. These were matted and admired. Everyone went home with two matted photos, a booklet summarizing the things we had learned and a story of a great morning to share with family and friends. We hope to display our art at a Second Friday Art Walk in the Spring. All agreed we will do another photo workshop.

Be sure to access our websites at
www.MuseumColonialBeach.com
and/or
www.ColonialBeachHistoricalSociety.org

Holiday House Tour

Doris A. Gentry-Buswell



On 13 December the Society hosted the semi-annual tour of Colonial Beach homes decorated for the holiday season. The evening

began with a reception featuring punch and cookies in The Museum. At 6:30 the group of 65 attending boarded the Town Trolley and began the tour of five houses and St. Mary's Episcopal Church. The group was shuttled between the houses to the accompaniment of Christmas carols.

All five homes were well decorated for the season and the visitors had a difficult choice of which they liked the best.

As has been the custom in recent years the Plaza Bed and Breakfast hosted an informal reception at the completion of the tour. We all had a great evening thanks to the kindness of Ms. Cynthia Misicka, Bob Branch and Sherry Hall, John Drew and Rick Weber, Mr. and Mrs. David Verdin, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wilkins and St Mary's Parish.



Book Signing

April 18, 2009

1 - 3 p.m.

Jeri Lewis

Noted author to reopen the Museum

When the Museum at Colonial Beach reopens for its 10th Year in April, Mr. James Tignor, Jr., who has authored a number of very popular "Post Card" books memorializing towns around the Chesapeake area will be at the Museum. Mr. Tignor will autograph copies of his most recent Post Card book about the Town of Colonial Beach. This book contains pictures of Colonial Beach from the early nineteen hundreds through the forties.

All of Mr. Tignor's books will be available for sale in the Museum Gift Shop. The cost for each book is \$24.95. They make great gifts as well as fabulous conversation pieces for your coffee table!



An Editorial Review of his Colonial Beach book follows: *The steamboat St. Johns has just brought you down the Potomac from Washington. The boardwalk is only steps away. Fun awaits! Enjoy your stay! Colonial Beach, Virginia, was the premier summer resort on the Potomac River, attracting visitors from Virginia, Washington D.C., and*

Book Review continued from page 4 . . .
Maryland by the thousands. Discover how Colonial Beach got its start and learn its exciting and colorful history, from bathing belles to slot machines. Over 280 vintage postcard views, from 1905 to the 1960s, guide you back to an earlier time at the beach and around town. Included are arriving steamboats, the boardwalk, the dancing pavillon, bath houses, Eleanore Park, historic homes and hotels, and the Monte Carlo gambling pier. For the curious and collectors, values for the postcards are provided in the captions.

Please join us for the fun!



**You're invited ...
 8th Annual
 Big Band Dance
 May 9, 2009
 8 – 11 p.m.
 American Legion**

This year The Historical Society will share the Legion Hall with the Ladies Auxiliary. The Ladies will be hosting their Annual Ham Dinner serving from 5 till 7 p.m. The dance will follow dinner beginning at 8 till 11 p.m.

Dance tickets can be purchased from any Board Member or at the Museum once opened. Dance Admission: \$12/per person (CBHS members) and \$15/per person (non-members). The dinner will be handled separately by the Legion but will be sold for \$8.00/per person.



Come enjoy a delicious home cooked meal; then get ready to dance the night away with the swinging sounds of the Fredericksburg Big Band Dance Band! BYOB – set ups provided.

It is a great way to celebrate Mother's Day! Contact any Board member for additional information.

3rd Annual Beach Ball Fundraiser Patti Hanley



The 3rd Annual Beach Ball event sponsored by the Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce is planned for April 18th at the Riverboat on the Potomac in Colonial Beach, VA. The Colonial Beach Historical Society is one of four benefactors of this event. There is an opportunity for the Historical Society to receive \$4,000.00. The cost per couple is \$150.00 which includes a full course dinner, dancing and draw ball. Tickets are tax deductible. Please consider supporting this event and your museum. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket please contact Patti Hansley at 804-761-7836 or the Chamber of Commerce at 804-224-8145.

Board of Directors

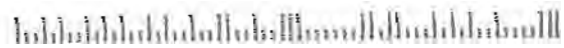
<i>President</i>	Art Buswell	224-2429
<i>Treasurer</i>	Vacant	
<i>Secretary</i>	Anna Payne	224-7557
<i>Education</i>	Edna Edmondson	224-9889
<i>Curator</i>	Alleyne Dickens	224-4027
<i>Membership</i>	Patti Hansley	761-7836
<i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>	Jane Trail	224-0472
<i>Director</i>	Jo Townsend	224-0927
<i>Director</i>	Vacant	

Colonial Beach Historical Society, Inc.
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Support your local Museum
through your membership in the
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Historical Society
Join us now!!!!!!