



The Time Keeper

Capital Campaign Update

The Capital Campaign has raised \$36,810 as of November 26th. The board had hoped that the effort would have been at the half way mark by the end of the year. However, 2007 experienced many worthwhile fund raising efforts in the county and we will not reach that milestone. 2008 will offer more opportunities. The next steps in the campaign include one-on-one visits, grant writing and local organization appeals.

The breakdown for those dollars is \$26,702 in cash contributions by individuals, \$6,828 in unpaid pledges and \$3,826 in business contributions. The average gift is \$462. To date, \$10,000 has been paid on the mortgage principle leaving a balance of \$ 141,000 and \$11,731 has been spent on museum expansion phase one.

**Raised so far
\$36,810
Needed to
reach Goal
\$163,190**

The Museum and Historical Society plays a vital role in the community. Our job is to educate, inspire and display the history of Essex County. That History will only be available to the citizens of Essex County if we succeed. To date this year over 700 children have participated in hands-on workshops. If you haven't done so, please strongly consider a capital campaign gift.



**Season's
Greetings**
to all of our members
and community friends
from the staff and
volunteers of the
ECMHS!

Museum Expansion Update

Three years ago the board voted to add an expansion project to the museum's strategic plan. Once a conception plan layout showing how the new space would be used was approved, the project was put on the shelf waiting for funding. When the 2007 Capital Campaign strategy was laid out, 50% of every cash donation was approved for allocation to expansion cost. Phase I is complete! The "Carl D. Silver Gallery" (below) opened along with a

Phase II of expansion will include upgrades in the old gallery, "The Essex Gallery", which displays the permanent story of Essex County's history with new lighting, new paint, UV protection to the exterior windows and a humidity control system. Phase III will include improvements to the rear entrance which is allocated for handicapped access and fixtures in the visitor's welcome/information area, and additional signage at the three highway entrances to Tappahannock. The Board is taking a "pay as you go" funding strategy for expansion. The work of the many construction volunteers made this approach for Phase I very successful. Much of the work in Phases II and III will require cash outlay for materials and contract help.

Since the goal of the Capital Campaign is to expand and pay off the mortgage, the Executive Committee will attempt to pay for Phase III and portions of Phase II with grant funding dollars. If this is successful, then the majority of campaign dollars raised in 2008 will be applied directly to the mortgage principle.

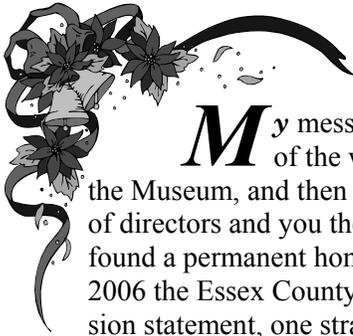


smaller gallery, the expanded gift shop, reference room, document storage room, and handicapped restrooms.

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Museum Hours:
M, T, Th, Fr, Sat 10 am—3 pm
Sunday 2—3 pm



Letter from the President

My message for the fall issue of the “Timekeeper” is one that fits really well within the context of the word “timekeeper”. For the past four years, I have served as the timekeeper initially for the Museum, and then for the Museum and Historical Society. During these years I, along with all of the board of directors and you the members, have found ourselves in the middle of a huge growth spurt. The museum found a permanent home when it purchased the facility known previously as the Maddox/Dillard Building. In 2006 the Essex County Museum and the Essex County Historical Society merged, and are now under one mission statement, one strategic plan and budget. These two exciting events have allowed us to expand the combined presence of the Museum and the Historical Society within both our physical location and the community at large. The museum celebrated its 10-year anniversary with a Founders Celebration and reception. The volunteer docents, advisory board members and community volunteers have provided valuable ongoing support as new exhibits were displayed; the “Shallop” and Seniors tour buses arrived; Tuesday became the 6th open day at the museum; “Woodfarm”, an endangered historical home, was rescued; and the dust, noise and general confusion of expansion phase I came and went.

Realizing the importance of paid staff for long term viability, the board added a part time curator and, in 2007, a part time administrative assistant was hired. The museum collection continued to grow with the acquisition of document collections and items that help tell the Essex County story. The Board has and will continue to move forward to complete the implementation of the action items outlined in the strategic plan. The year 2008 will see the placement of new officers, the continuation of museum programs, and phase II of expansion.

In May of 2008, the annual report will be mailed to all members. Please take time to read it. It will contain 2007 financial performance and major 2007 strategic plan actions completed, along with a listing of the priorities for 2008. Quarterly publications are one of the benefits of membership. If you did not receive the 2007 annual report, the winter or summer Historical Bulletins or the Spring issue of the “Timekeeper” newsletter, they are available at the museum.

My four years as president have afforded me the opportunity to work closely with a very dedicated and capable group of volunteers. I have found the experience to be one of personal growth and fulfillment. I look forward to 2008 as I now take on the new supportive role as past president.

Warmest regards,
Priscilla Vaughan

Exhibit Update

Whether your interest is baseball or the Civil War, art or airplanes, you will find something to inform and inspire among the four new exhibits in our expanded gallery spaces. In the Silver Gallery, “Jamestown and Beyond: The World in 1607,” on loan from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, will be on view through December 31. Look through the lens of paintings and art objects to see how the new English colony of Virginia changed the world. “From Sandlot to Semipro: Baseball in Essex County” follows the story of America’s pastime from just after the Civil War up to today.

In “Papers Reveal the Past” we highlight three of our recently acquired collections of family papers, the Rouzie-Baird, Robert Beverley, Jr. and Gresham House—Tappahannock Collections. And, in celebration of the recent opening of the new Tappahannock-Essex County Airport, we provide a glimpse of “The History of Aviation in Essex County.” We hope you will come and enjoy the diversity of our rich, shared history.



From Sandlot to Semipro: Baseball in Essex County, the history of baseball in Essex County.

David Jett, Curator

Docents

To our faithful Docents, thanks once again for your continuing commitment to the museum and its mission. A small token of appreciation awaits you under the front sign-in desk...please pick yours up during your next duty. Have a safe *Merry Christmas* and *Happy New Year*.

On the long list of dedicated docents over the past ten years, one of our most beloved and respected has tendered her resignation. Joan Paris has served not only as a well-informed, enthusiastic, dependable desk docent, but has also researched many topics of local history for display, the Monument, the courthouse cannon, the history of the Woman's Club, to name only a few. She and her husband, Ken, have repaired awnings, hung display panels, refinished benches, helped at yard sales,

constructed furniture...the list is endless as are the thanks the museum owes them both. Never ones to seek recognition, Joan and Ken's service was immeasurable, and we hope you'll thank them, too, when you see them around town.

Some good news: Peg Holter is feeling well enough to resume her full two days per month duty. Welcome back to another incredibly talented docent.

Finally, some special thanks to some of the docents who helped out with the expansion by painting, laying floors, installing security, trimming, etc: Mickey Slusser, Reeves Pogue, Priscilla Vaughan, Gene Morris, Johnny Travis, Diane Kean, Anita Harrower, and Colin Smith, skilled workmen, all.

H. Van Arsdale, Docents

Gift Shop News

HO! HO! HO! Christmas has arrived at the gift shop! The trees are decorated with ornaments galore, all on sale of course!

Our newly expanded gift shop is chock full of great gift ideas. Browse our shelves for just the right gift for family and friends. Find historic books, research books, maps, historical fiction, and beautiful "coffee table" books like "Treasures of Virginia" (of which we are one!). Historical toys are perfect stocking stuffers, both fun and interesting.



Something unique? How about the "Museums of the Northern Neck" DVD, or check out the Salisbury pewter birthday month flower wrap bracelets and other Salisbury pewter items. There are so many items at terrific sale prices; you can do all of your Christmas shopping in one stop!

10% off on all purchases for members and 20% off for docents.

Blake Hite, Gift Shop

Outreach Programs

We have been very busy with our outreach programs. Since the last newsletter there are six lesson plans in place for presentation, and we have presented several different programs to 892 children and teachers. We participated in the Shallop landing in August and the Harvest Day event at Stratford Hall in September. The children's activity presented at each event included grinding corn by hand and learning about the various products derived from corn. We participated in "Museums on the Go" presenting the corn lesson to the Essex Elementary School. Three schools have visited the museum. The programs presented were The Chesapeake Bay, Captain John Smith, Jamestown and 18th Century classroom experience. Each program includes hands-on activities and take home educational information. We need volunteers to assist with these programs, either at the museum, or when we visit other schools in the Northern Neck area. Training and copies of the lesson plans along with their background information will be provided. Anyone interested can email me at jmmtappa@msn.com.

Jean Moore, Director



INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup white sugar
- 3/4 cup butter
- 2 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon extract
- 1/2 teaspoon cardamom flavored extract

Icelandic Christmas Cake

Gudny Bjorg Kjaerbo

(copied from <http://allrecipes.com>)

Bake ahead of time for Christmas morning!

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease one 11-inch loaf pan.
2. Cream the butter or margarine and the sugar until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each one. Stir in the milk, lemon and cardamom flavorings. Stir in the flour and the baking powder.
3. Sift a little flour over the raisins then stir them into the batter. Pour the batter into the prepared pan.
4. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 55 to 60 minutes.

Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar



REMEMBER
The Virginia
Museum of Fine
Arts Exhibit
closes Dec. 31st.

JANUARY 2008							MARCH 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5							1
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26	27	28	29

17th-Quarterly Board Meeting
6 pm, Lowery's Restaurant

- Election of 2008 Officers
- Approval of 2008 Strategic Plan
- Approval of 2008 Operating and Capital Budgets

15th-Applebee's Breakfast
7:30-9 am

How we communicate with you:

- 1st and 3rd Quarter Historical Bulletins*
- 2nd and 4th Quarter The Timekeeper newsletter*
- May Annual Report*
- The ECMHS website

* Extra copies are always available at the Museum.

2008 Membership Drive Begins in December

The membership renewal envelope will arrive in a separate mailing this year. The only change you will see is the rate for the individual which has been increased to \$25.00. **Please return yours ASAP.**

We're on the web!
www.ecmhs.org



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