



# The Time Keeper

## Capital Campaign Update

Daily visits to the mailbox bring excitement as the remittance envelopes come in. Phase one of the campaign, the “mailer”, went out to over 300 members and friends of the museum and historical society. The average donation from that mailer is \$540. That tells us two things. Those giving are being very generous and many folks have yet to respond to the mailing campaign. If you have not sent your remittance envelope in because you have lost it, we have enclosed another one for you! If you have not found the “why” for giving, here are a few additional thoughts.

The Essex County Museum and Historical Society is the vehicle through which our children and grandchildren for generations to come will learn of their ancestral history and of this place, Essex County, in which they have chosen to live. Local history is not always taught in the school system. It is more often taught in the stories and artifacts that come from past generations. The role of the museum and historical society is to do everything we can to ensure that this not only happens today, but for hundreds of years to come. The Tidewater area of Virginia, the Middle Peninsula, is the seedbed of America’s history. Those who visit Essex County are eager to learn of these beginnings, and look to the museum for factual accounts of earlier generations of Essex County and Tappahannock settlers. The museum’s exhibits, programs and facility represent our effort to provide this educational opportunity. This year, the 400-year celebration of the landing at Jamestown, along with the 2008 400-year celebration for Tappahannock, will raise historical awareness for all Americans of the commitment, perseverance and determination of those early settlers. The John Smith Landing at Tappahannock will be a stop on the first Historical Water Trail.



Board Member Joan Moore (l) and Priscilla Vaughan (r), President of the ECMHS, update the Capital Campaign thermometer.

The Campaign is now entering phase two, the one-on-one appeal to business leaders and the business community. Later this year fund-raising events will be planned. Pledges spread over time are welcomed, as well as, donation of securities or other investment assets. Giving creativity is welcomed! If you are a person with a “special interest”, call us. Contacts for additional information are Kevin Dolan, 804-443-4343, Reeves Pogue, 804-443-9900, or Priscilla Vaughan, 804-443-2271. Donations can be mailed to the Museum at POB 404, Tappahannock, VA 22560. E-mail the museum and Historical Society at [staff@ecmhs.org](mailto:staff@ecmhs.org).

**Raised so far  
\$26,830**  
**Needed to  
reach Goal  
\$173,170**

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**Our Jamestown 2007 Exhibit opens Sunday, June 29, 5-7 pm! Local author Ed Haile will be reading from his poem “Where Non Hath Stood Before”, with a reception and book signing opportunity. Invite and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to join you at the museum for this exciting event!**

*For more details, see the Curator’s Corner on page 3.*

## Museum Expansion Update

**Construction has begun!** The Board of Directors voted at the last quarterly meeting to move forward with construction using volunteers who were willing to help with phase one and appropriate the spending of \$.50 on a dollar of Capital Campaign donations now available.

May 18, 19 and 21 were our first workdays. It is amazing how much was accomplished by the volunteers. Demolition is complete, and framing and electrical reworking is 50% complete. The next stage will include the wiring for track lighting and security cameras. The actual openings into existing museum space will be cut last to avoid as much disruption to museum operation as possible. You can now get a true visual of the new space allocation. If you

want to see the new layout and space utilization on paper, there is a copy in the museum. If you want to see the work in progress, come look in the windows! Final work will include a humidity control system, as well as, improved, more appropriate lighting in the existing gallery, handicapped access and restrooms.

A special thanks to our volunteers: David and Frances Vaughn, of Fredericksburg, Tom Schroeder, Chuck Squire, Kevin Dolan, I.C. Smith, Robert LaFollette, Frank Harris, and Elliott and Priscilla Vaughan. These board members, members and friends of the museum each were an important part of the team, helping with demolition, hauling, moving items to storage, and electrical work, with Elliott serving as the "tool man" and framer. The

work will continue as the Capital Campaign dollars become available.



Volunteers Dave and Frances Vaughn removing the old to make way for the new.



## Letter from the President

**M**y head is spinning! The year 2007 continues to be filled with excitement and forward movement for the Museum and Historical Society. The board members are working hard accepting the challenges of coordinating special events, helping with facility maintenance, doing construction work, organizing storage areas, implementing and running children's programs and educational opportunities, and serving on committees. The member's gala event and annual meeting was a super success thanks to the efforts of board member Dawn White. Please help us double attendance next year! Copies of the annual report are available at the museum. IC Smith took on the "memorial weekend yard sale" task and did a great job. Susan Butler Walters has done a great job of getting our children's workshops up and rolling. And have you been in the gift shop lately? Kelly LaFollette has great things there. The Jamestown 2007 student art contest winners are on display for the rest of the year. On September 17, 2007, Joan Moore will be working with many of the Northern Neck Museums to bring "Museums-On-The-Go" to Essex Elementary School. Howard Resinger is coordinating a museum historical presence at the new airport opening. The John Smith reenactment will be here August 12, at Parker's Marina, complete with exhibits, fun and a hospitality tent. Updates on other museum activities are featured throughout this newsletter, and *Page 4* notes special event calendar dates for the rest of the summer. Check [The Rappahannock Times](#) as well for featured events and announcements. Please look for and read them all!

The museum could not exist without the many helping hands of members and friends. Worth Haile serves as our resident photographer for brochures and magazine featured articles. Jennifer Vaughan matted our student artwork. With only overnight notice, Gordon Page arrived to paint a wall and change out the old lights. Carolyn Harris serves as editor for our publications. This wonderful helping attitude is seen daily at the museum. The docents, who keep the doors open, love the interaction they have with the visitors who always leave wishing they had more time. Currently, 60% of our visitors come from outside of Essex County. We want that to change! The many helping hands enjoy those visitors, but we want to also see the names our families, friends and neighbors on the visitors log.

Excitement is contagious! Please consider joining the museum effort. If you are interested in being a docent, a member of the staff or an "as-needed" volunteer, please call 443-4690 or 443-2271 or send an email to [staff@ecmhs.org](mailto:staff@ecmhs.org). We have an immediate need for recording secretarial help and other "staff-in-training" opportunities.

Warmest regards,  
*Priscilla Vaughan*

## Curator's Corner

In Essex County we are fortunate to have a strong local connection with Jamestown and the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration. Jamestown's most famous resident, Captain John Smith, traveled on the Rappahannock River on three separate occasions in 1607 and 1608. Each journey was more adventure-filled than the last. To deepen your understanding of these early events that took place in our backyard, come to the museum and experience "Clash of Cultures: Captain John Smith in the Land of the Rappahannocks." Our current exhibit features a large pictorial map of the river showing the locations of Indian tribes and towns along the river while text panels describe the interactions of Smith and his men with the Indians. The exhibit includes a three-dimensional scene with Chief Powhatan in his Longhouse, inspired by an illustration that appears on Smith's map of Virginia published in 1612. The opening reception will be on Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7 pm at the museum. Edward Wright Haile, author of Jamestown Narratives and "Where Non Hath Stood Before", a poem of Jamestown, will be at the museum to sign his books and at 6:00 will be reading from his poem.

A wonderful opportunity to experience just how Smith and his crew traveled the Rappahannock will be provided when a replica of the Jamestown exploration boat visits Tappahannock this summer. On Sunday August 12, from 10 am to 5 pm at the June Parker Marina, you can see a reconstruction of the 30-foot long open sailing vessel called a *shallop* built by Sultana Projects of Chestertown Maryland. This boat and crew have been following Smith's 1608 exploration route around the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers since last May. Crew members will be on hand to answer questions about the voyage and the large accompanying exhibit featuring Chesapeake Bay ecology as well as the early Native American and English experiences. Food and beverages will be available. Bring the whole family and join in the fun.

David Jett, Curator

## New Director of Docents

There is no way to properly thank Kathryn Carpenter for her many years of service to the Museum as Director of Docents, but we all hope she knows how much we appreciate the extra hours and energy she and her husband, Maurice, put into the job.

Following in her footsteps won't be easy, but fortunately we have an excellent roster of volunteers, each of whom we thank very much for their loyal commitment. We will

continue with the regular schedule that seems to work so well and hopefully add some new helpers. The new schedule will be mailed in June.

As Kathryn always said, be on the lookout for friends, neighbors, relatives or newcomers who might be interested in joining the docents. Call me at 443-9580 if you have a question.

H. Van Arsdale, Docents

## Stratford Hall Mill

Seventeen people attended the Stratford Hall Mill Lecture on May 12. Steve Bashore gave a wonderful lecture and slide presentation on the history of mills. He also showed marvelous pictures of the windmills he visited in Europe, which provided one of the earliest forms of power. He concluded his talk with information on the local area, and particularly the Essex Mill, now in need of rescue from ruin. He suggested this might be a future project for our consideration. Following the lecture, the group went to the Stratford Hall Mill where Steve operated the mill and discussed the restoration necessary to make it functional again. The morning ended with a fine lunch in the Plantation Dining room.

Joan Moore, Board Member

## Gift Shop News

*RivalFest* is almost here! On June 16 the museum will again have a booth at *RivalFest* with items from our gift shop available at *RivalFest* prices! This year we are planning some fun and educational games for the young ones, and a "Pet Stop" for those canines with hot paws and dry tongues.

The Museum adds new and interesting items to the Gift Shop inventory at every opportunity. Please browse our shelves, where you'll find games, toys, historical reproductions and a large selection of books, including Ed Haile's books to be featured at the Museum Jamestown 2007 Exhibit opening and reception.

This is my last month as the Gift Shop Director. I have had a splendid time working with our board members, docents, members, and visitors, and I leave the Gift Shop in very capable hands. Please welcome Blake Hite as she assumes this role, bringing her special personality, ideas, and talents for the continued success of the shop. Thanks for making my job an enjoyable one, and I look to forward to seeing everyone at *RivalFest*!



Kelly LaFollette, Gift Shop

## Outreach Programs

Currently the outreach program is in a transition mode. Susan Butler Walters is leaving the area and I will be the point of contact. We continue to meet to review lesson plans, time schedules etc. for the local schools. ECMHS is now a member of the Northern Neck Tourism Council, and I am the contact for the Outreach Programs that they provide throughout the Northern Neck, and now Essex County. We anticipate a formal schedule will be ready for the Fall/Spring school year for our participation, along with the other Museums in the Northern Neck area.

Joan Moore, Director

Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar

| JUNE 2007 |    |    |    |    |    |    | JULY 2007 |    |    |    |    |    |    | AUGUST 2007 |    |    |    |    |    |    | SEPTEMBER 2007 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 3         | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 8         | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 5           | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 2              | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 10        | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 15        | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 12          | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 9              | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 17        | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 22        | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 19          | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 16             | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 24        | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 29        | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    | 26          | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 23 | 24             | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |    |

 **16th-Riverfest**-Gift Shop Booth  
 **29th**-Jamestown 2007 Museum Exhibit Opening and Reception, 5-7 pm with Ed Haile Book Signing Event at 6 pm

 **19th**-Quarterly Board Meeting, SMS Library, 7 pm

 **12th**-John Smith Voyage Landing Reenactment, 10am-5 pm, Parker's Marina

 **30**  
 **17th**-Museums-On-The-Go, Essex Elementary  
 **22nd**-Stratford Hall Fall Festival, ECMHS Booth and Exhibit

**We're on the web!**  
[www.ecmhs.org](http://www.ecmhs.org)

Essex County Museum & Historical Society  
 Post Office Box 404  
 Tappahannock, Virginia 22560

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