



Brentsville Journal

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April/May 2002

FALL SEEDS FLOWER FUNDS

The Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Inc. are proud to report that thanks to the hard work and dedication of a number of people, we have the largest flow of cash into our non-profit organization this spring than at any other time during the history of the Friends.

Last fall, we set to work in a number of areas to "plant seeds" that would hopefully yield benefit to us later in the year. Here's the accounting:

2002 TEA-21 FUNDS

By far the largest influx of funds over the past five years has come from the TEA-21 program. This federally funded source of money is administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Historic preservation funds are awarded to projects that can demonstrate a connection to our nation's transportation history. As a county courthouse, Brentsville meets this qualification because it served as a central point of business to many citizens in the 19th century Prince William community.

Similarly, many transportation related decisions were handed down by elected officials from within the confines of the Brentsville Courthouse during the 74 year tenure Brentsville served as the County Seat. Local commissioners determined what roads would be built and how they would be laid out, maintained and funded. Officials also authorized bridge construction and repairs and helped to oversee land acquisition and construction of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, prior to the Civil War.

The Friends are fortunate to have a professional grant writer, Wilkie Leith, serving as an active member of our Board. For the past 4 SUCCESSFUL grants, Wilkie has generously donated her time and expertise to compile the necessary supporting documentation and write the annual grant application.

We recently learned that the Virginia Commonwealth Trans-

portation Board has authorized a grant award of \$125,000, *subject to final approval* at the CTB June meeting.

The Friends are deeply indebted to City of Manassas Councilman, Ulysess S. "Xerk" White, who is the Northern Virginia "At-Large" representative on the CTB. Each year, Councilman White has advocated on behalf of the Friends of Brentsville in the midst of some tough local and state competition. We are grateful to Mr. White for his faithful support of our restoration project over the past four years.

The TEA-21 grant program is currently under Congressional review, pending re-authorization of funds. If this program is not extended by Congress, Brentsville will lose our major source of funding. If you have the time, please take a moment to contact your local Congressman/woman to encourage support to reauthorize funding to support this program.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Will match the \$125,000 TEA-21 grant with \$31,250 for a total of \$156,250. A BIG thank you goes to: Chairman Sean Connaughton, Vice Chairman Ruth Griggs and Supervisors John Jenkins, Mary Hill, Ed Wilbourn, Hilda Barg, Maureen Caddigan and Ben Thompson for continued support by guaranteeing to match TEA-21 funds received with county funds.

VA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Despite two very tight budget cutting years in Richmond, our Prince William County delegation to the General Assembly has successfully supported and obtained state funding for the Brentsville Historic Centre. Delegate Harry Parrish and Senator Charles J. Colgan both have sponsored legislation over the past six years to ensure that Brentsville receives money for preservation projects. The "against all odds" result: just over \$28,000 for 2002.

These funds in the past have afforded us the opportunity to contract with Mary Washington Center for Historic Preservation to

**NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A POTLUCK DESSERT
THURSDAY, JUNE 13th, 7:00 PM**

Please bring a dish to share!

FUNDS BLOSSOM— FRUITS DUE TO LABOR OF MANY

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begin important archaeological research at our site and state money has also been used to finance ongoing restoration work at the Courthouse.

The Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Inc. are very grateful to our state legislators for supporting Brentsville "down to the wire." We appreciate that the past few years have really involved some "scrapping" and we are honored that our project survived "the cut."

We want to give credit where the credit is due — to our effective state representatives who have consistently supported the Brentsville Historic Centre project in the past six years: Delegate Robert G. Marshall, Delegate Michele McQuigg, Delegate Jack Rollison, in addition to Delegate Harry Parrish and Senator Charles Colgan, (mentioned previously.) We also acknowledge Prince William County's newest legislator for supporting Brentsville, Delegate Scott Lingamfelter. Please thank your local state legislators for so generously supporting backing preservation in Prince William County.

The local business community has also "stepped up to the plate" this spring to bat a "homerun" for Brentsville.

DON BEYER VOLVO

One of the newest members of the community swept into town with a generous show of support to preserve Prince William County's past. Don Beyer Volvo plans to contribute \$7500 to the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Inc.

We plan to arrange an "official" donation ceremony in the near future and we will ask our local press to help us more widely publicize this kind donation. Thank you Mr. Beyer and welcome to Prince William.

RAYCO ROOF SERVICE

A Brentsville District business helped us with a very important *emergency preservation* project. On a recent inspection of our log cabin, still set up on rafters, pending funds to move to a permanent site and rebuild the roof, severe water damage was noted.

Apparently the tarp was very weatherworn on top of the cabin. A local conservator/contractor recently volunteered his time and expertise to look at the log cabin and smokehouse to try and help us date the buildings and estimate what needs to be done to preserve the structures. During this examination, pools of rainwater were noted on the

original first floor of the log cabin. Clearly a stronger tarp was required to keep the wood dry.

By 2:00 PM that day, thanks to Rayco Roof Service, a Brentsville based industry, we had just the cover we needed — a strong tarp to prevent further damage, donated to protect our historic structures. Our new "found" friend picked the tarp up himself and delivered it to the log cabin site. How's that for problem solving within a community? We are grateful to both Rayco and to our volunteer consultant for caring so much about a log cabin he termed "a real treasure."

HORNBAKER PROPERTIES

Thanks to three members of the Friends: Jackie and Barry Braden and Mike Garcia, we have received a \$500.00 donation. Barry, Mike and Dave Robertson are co-partners in Hornbaker Properties, the business that generously cut us a check. Jackie and Barry also loan us their generator for the chili cook-off each year. We are grateful for this corporate investment in our work and equally proud to claim a locally owned business as a "friendly" contributor to the Brentsville Historic Centre. See it does "pay" to have "Friends" in high places!

PWC HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Inc. also owe a friendly thank you to our own Prince William County Historical Commission. Our new Brentsville Representative, Rebecca "Becky" Cummins teamed up with one of our own members, Jane MacDonald, (Dumfries Representative and member of the Brentsville Historic Trust) to make a pitch on behalf of Brentsville to the Historical Commission. The mission: to obtain funds to establish *on-site* archives and displays for the collection of artifacts we are rapidly assembling for the Brentsville Historic Centre.

We hoped to receive \$500 to match the \$500 we received last year from the Commission. Luckily for us, Jane and Becky were able to obtain \$1000 on behalf of the Friends. The Friends thank the Historical Commission for this great first step to help us to properly archive and exhibit pieces of Brentsville history for future visitors to enjoy.

WILLIAMS PROPERTY SETTLEMENT

As many members noted recently in the local press, the Prince William County government recently received a \$3.2 million settlement in a lawsuit over an issue that involved construction of a mall next to the Manassas National Battlefield. The Federal Government purchased a parcel of land to incorporate into the battlefield, but the purchase price was a

SILENCE IS GOLDEN

As many of you so kindly noticed and remarked, we've had no newsletter for at least two months now. The only "excuse" is that we have been so successful at what we are doing that we haven't had time to sit down and write everything down.

Remember, the Friends are all still volunteers. Everyday life does have a way of making demands on our "free time" even as focused as we are about restoring the Brentsville Historic Centre.

Thank you to all who have missed these pages and said so. That makes the hours put into this part of our project very special.

As you can see in our "lead article," the Friends have had a prosperous 2002 and we look forward to putting these funds to good use. However, like most "home improvement" tasks, historic restoration projects are dreamt of long before the funds actually exist to turn the dreams into reality. So when the funds DO become available, they are *already spent*.

Two "investments" have really become treasures to the Brentsville Historic Centre and merit "extra special" recognition. The Hylton High School Archaeology students' research will be delightful summer reading for the Friends. Congratulations to the students in Mrs. Meyering's class for a job well done.

Also, we are grateful to our anonymous consultant who noticed that the original flooring to our log cabin was endangered, due to standing water on the structure.

Vigilance and dedication to preserving our past takes many forms and we are grateful to the community at large for such displays of creativity and caring.

Please show how much YOU CARE about this project and attend our next members meeting at 7:00 PM on June 13th. Please bring a "COOL" dessert for our potluck table.

WIDE-SPREAD SUPPORT YIELDS \$1/2 MILLION

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point of contention that required remediation by the court system.

One of the suggested uses for these funds is to support local historic preservation projects, including the Brentsville Historic Centre. Although the Board of County Supervisors will have to weigh other proposed uses for the funds, we are hopeful that the Board will see the value and potential economic returns such an investment in our historic buildings would be.

CHILI COOK-OFF

Our Treasurer, Fran Hibbs reported that the Friends made just over \$2000 at our 5th Annual Chili Cook-off and 2nd Annual Yard Sale. With the "bottom line" now revealed, we can count this cook-off as the best yet. Thanks go out to the community for your support. We also would like to extend a congratulatory hand to the Prince William Art Society who also reported proceeds in the thousand dollar range.

Volunteers from the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse were out in full force at the Chili Cook-off and for the first time in five years, we had "second string" capability, volunteers who could actually "take over" for each other so we all were able to enjoy the event. This team "depth" is a valuable position in which to operate a winning game. Many volunteers also recruited family members (of all ages) to help with the event, which really made the event a "family affair."

The Friends Board of Directors would love to individually thank each and every volunteer personally, by name, in this space, but it just isn't possible in the space available. If you volunteered your time on that day — please consider this public acknowledgement of your contribution as a personal handshake from your Board. Thank you for a job well done! Rest up this summer, because we will need your help again in September.

WIDE-SPREAD SUPPORT

2002 has already been a "bumper crop," financially for the Brentsville Historic Centre project. But raising funds is still a challeng-

ing and time-consuming part of historic preservation projects. The amount of dollars required for a project of this size is still staggering, despite the \$1/2 million we have raised to date.

The true story of success will not be the dollars raised, but that this effort was mounted by a *dedicated team* of people: elected officials, volunteers of all ages, corporate sponsors, historic preservation experts, local businesses, researchers, architects and other local organizations who share an interest and a stake in the success of the Brentsville Historic Centre.

While we enjoy the opportunity to report that we have topped the \$1/2 million dollar mark on that "virtual thermometer of fundraising," we don't have the luxury of stopping long to celebrate. Please mark your calendars for *our next fundraiser* on September 28th and begin recruiting volunteer help for our 1st ever "Brentsville Court Day," honoring the 180th Anniversary of Brentsville Courthouse. Also plan to attend the next Friends' meeting to see what you can do to help get this birthday bash underway.

CALLING ALL RECIPES

Write down the fixin's
for your picnic favorites
this summer as you're
preparing outdoor
meals

&

mail them to:

Friends of Brentsville
P.O. Box 732,
Bristow, VA, 20136

Or e-mail them to:
wleith@gmu.edu

Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Inc.

A non-profit, 501(c)3 volunteer organization
Established in 1996

To support the restoration and preservation of the

Brentsville Historic Centre

ENCOURAGE community involvement;
CREATE volunteer opportunities for citizens of all ages
RAISE FUNDS and/or accept any gifts of property or artifacts
To benefit the Brentsville Historic Centre
SUPPORT educational and historical programs;
PROMOTE acquisition and management of historical artifacts
significant to the Brentsville Historic Centre site
SHARE discovered artifacts and uncovered research
with visitors and tourists
COMMUNICATE effectively to raise public support for the
Brentsville Historic Centre.

www.brentsville.org

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:

INDIVIDUAL: \$15.00
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT: FREE
CORPORATE: \$125.00

A Friends Membership includes a subscription to our monthly newsletter.
Corporate fees include promotional opportunities. To join, simply write a check to

"FBCHC" and mail it to: P.O. Box 732, BRISTOW, VA, 20136.

High School students who desire to be on the newsletter mailing list should send us a note requesting to be put on the list to the same address.

For more information about the Friends of Brentsville
Courthouse Historic Centre,
call: 703-361-2318, visit our web site, or write:
P.O. BOX 732, Bristow, Virginia 20136



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