

FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 10 DECEMBER 2015

MUSEUMS OF FUQUAY-VARINA

ASHWORTH PARK IS A SHOWPLACE

Almost finished, the landscaping of Ashworth Park, home of the Fuquay-Varina Museums, is quite a showplace! Deemed the prettiest park in Fuquay-Varina, the staff and Friends invite the public to come and verify the accolades.

The Wee Care of Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church was so delighted to be the "first" to sit in the Teaching Circle. An amazing group of kindergarten and younger day care children, they walked over from the church and perched proudly on the rock seating.

Neighbors in the area expressed their appreciation for the Town's foresight and investment. Mothers and children coming to the park enjoy sitting and playing daily. Tour groups enjoy the park immensely.

Duke Progress has not quite finished the lighting. At a future time, expect to be invited to a grand opening, either before or after we relocate the caboose. BUT don't hesitate to come walk, sit, and commune with nature. Of course, if you have not toured the museums, then make that a purpose soon.

CABOOSE PROGRESS REPORT

On December 7, the Friends of the Museums celebrated an historic date of their own. The CABOOSE was declared ready for painting! Tim Carroll and Ben Slaughter gave the Board the good news on this momentous date. Upon completion of the paper work, the technicalities of abatement will be completed. The museums owe an enormous debt to the public spirited donors who have made this possible.

The windows are awaiting installation to enclose the caboose thanks to the generosity of Fuquay Glass and Rhodes Cabinet Shop. Next the Town of Fuquay-Varina Parks and Recreation will install the concrete pad for the permanent placement. Mike Weeks of Weeks-

Turner has provided the expertise for the pad construction plans. Rails are being donated by K. B. Johnson Oil Company.



Anyone in the public willing and able to contribute to the inside restoration should begin getting ready. Contact the museums staff, Donald Cotton, President of Friends, and Tim Carroll, Project champion to let us know your interest in helping. There will be needs of lumber, paint, and steel as well as willing hands!

As soon as practically possible after the exterior painting, look forward to MOVING CABOOSE # 375 TO THE ASHWORTH PARK. During the restoration period, the caboose will not be open to the public or tours.

A Go Fund Me account has been created to help collect donations for the Caboose project. Please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/4uc3v3vx> to donate and to share the project on Facebook and Twitter.

MEMBERSHIPS ARE SOUGHT

The Friends of the Museums need your membership support! An organization is only as strong as its

members! If you will, send dues for 2016 ASAP.

Checks to: Friends of the Museums Dues: Individual \$10 per year Family \$25 per year Mail to: P. O. Box 2034, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526
Include your phone, address and email as much of our communication comes in our electronic newsletter to members, ARTIFACTUALLY SPEAKING.

Members are welcome at the monthly Board meetings each third Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. at Four Oaks Bank.

CARILLION ASSISTED LIVING FUND RAISING EVENT



The Antique Extravaganza held at Carillion Assisted Living on September 19 was a great success. Victoria Souza and other staff members provided a wonderful venue. An array of food and beverage was presented by Carillion, while visitors and ticket holders enjoyed the appraisal.

Local expert, Jewel Ryals of Bostic and Wilson was

assisted by Becky Ryals, who worked the "google" research tool to good advantage. Together they entertained everyone with a lively informative afternoon.

Among the most unusual items reviewed were dolls: Barbie of 1950's and a homemade doll approximately two generations old. A grand music box, English china, a wooden store container, jewelry and watches drew oh's and ah's. No one went away disappointed with their "treasures" and many were "ecstatic."

The net to the Caboose Fund was \$920 in ticket sales. While there were more items appraised, the more affordable ticket of \$10 meant less revenue. Mrs. Ryals stated she planned to donate her services of \$400 to the cause.

Carillion is much appreciated by the Friends of the Museums for this wonderful partnership. Carillion will be among our valued donors to the Caboose restoration.

MEETING CONCERNING FUTURE LIBRARY

It was very appropriate that the presentation on the Vision for Wake County's Library Facility in Fuquay-Varina has twice been presented in the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Clubhouse. Why? Unfortunately, most of our citizens may be completely unaware that it was the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club which organized and established the FIRST library for the town on the campus of the present FVMS.

The Jackson House was painted, furnished, and managed by the FV Woman's Club from 1954-1960. Interested citizens adopted the concept of a town library and a Library Commission was appointed by Mayor Bruce Howard.

The second library opened in 1960 across from the FVMS on Woodrow Street in the "first town" in Wake County to occupy a building specifically constructed for a library.

During 1969, ties were established with Olivia Raney Library for a rotating collection of books in Fuquay-Varina. When the Wake County Public Library system was announced, Fuquay-Varina joined the system to which it still belongs. Not until 1988, did the library move into the current building on Fuquay Avenue.

From the first librarian, Mrs. Helen Gunter, through those persons appointed by the Library Commission, we have come to the present librarian appointed by Wake

County, Mrs. Judy Packer. All staff members have been extremely well received and supported by our town and her citizens.



Jason Horton presented the overview of the Library expansion.

Jason Horton delivered information on the Future of Fuquay-Varina's Library to membership annual meeting for Friends of the Museums. Appropriately, the F. V. Library and the F. V. Museums are neighbors on the block of Fuquay Ave. so the Friends are most interested in this matter.

The current building is the smallest version of Wake County Libraries. A Community Library would be a larger version; however, at present Fuquay-Varina is already at that level of use. To build a community library would just be matching our area with the current use. However this size would add a few programs, some more staff and a larger collection of books.

The largest version would be a Regional Library which already exists in many areas of Wake County. There being none in Wake County's southern area, Fuquay-Varina is a logical area for a new Regional Library according to Mr. Horton.

The bond issue of 2007 did not provide funds for a Regional Library but the middle size. Whether further bonds or funding could be dedicated to the Regional concept is an open question. The general consensus among the Friends was that Fuquay-Varina should be planning/pushing for the Regional facility. The immediate question is where this facility could be located so that it is convenient to the citizens and perhaps a drawing card toward visitors into town.

Horton's statistics seemed to lean to the concept that the larger number of patrons come directly from home and return directly to home on a "library run." If adequate property can be found on Main Street, that might be preferred by some citizens. Others have an eye on a larger site within the town where expansion would be assured. Whether on Main Street or not, a new library

does need to be located "within Fuquay-Varina," the Friend's membership concurred.

The members agreed that the concept of enlarging the present facility does not lead to serving the needs of our citizens because the current location would not allow for adequate parking even if an adequate building could be constructed. Any building on the present site would not be adequate for a Regional Library facility according to Horton. The "proposed parking" (as presented) encroached on our tobacco barn as well.

The question becomes: What is Fuquay-Varina's vision for her library future? Then, what property would allow that vision to come to fruition?

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD

The 2015 membership meeting for the Friends of the Museums was hosted by the Fuquay Questers and the FV Woman's Club at the Clubhouse on Ennis Street on the night of November 17. The membership was well represented this year.



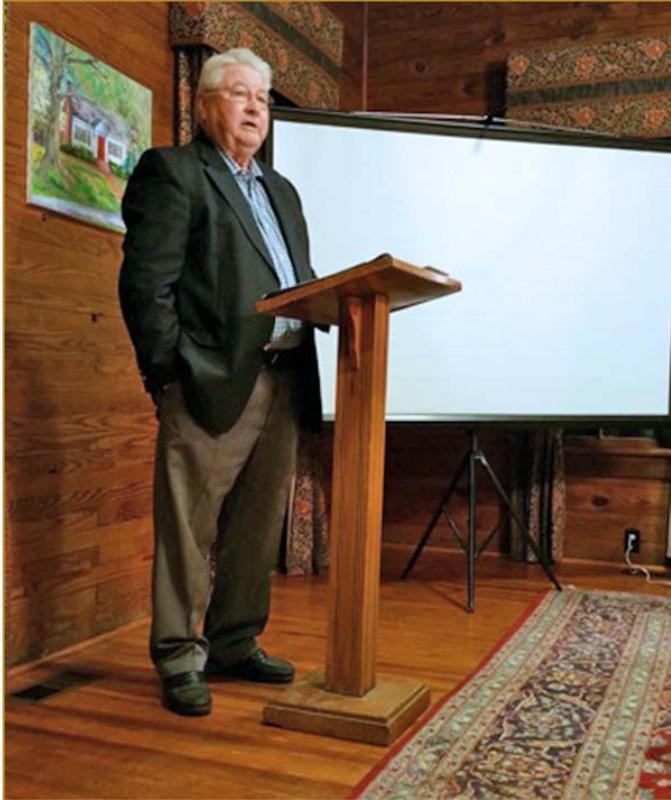
Members enjoy refreshments provided by the Fuquay Springs Questers as they listen and learn.

Following a presentation requested by the Wake County Libraries regarding the future of the Fuquay Public Library, the business session began. Presiding was Donald Cotton, President.

A report on the status of the caboose project was received with interest. There is expectation that the clean-up process will begin shortly when the Board approves a bid. Following that, windows which have been built with donations by Rhodes Cabinet Shop and Fuquay Glass will be installed.

Painting inside and outside will be completed prior to moving the caboose to the park. Mike Weeks is drawing plans for the pad and reconstruction of the original depot built by the Raleigh & Cape Fear Railway.

walkways have been completed. Duke Progress Energy has not quite finished the park lighting so until power is on, night tours are impossible in the barn.



President Donald Cotton, re-elected to the leadership role, led the membership meeting.

A grant from Trains Magazine was not forthcoming. One with Duke Energy is under consideration. Other avenues are being investigated. Donations have been made to the caboose fund; however, further funding is needed to complete the project. Tim Carroll has received drawings, post cards, posters and other items for sale.

The director's report stated that visitors continue to grow, especially with tours of seniors, scouts, school groups. Donations of 2015 were listed. Accessioning is well underway with our computer program. Work on the *Independent* collection has been completed. A major impediment is still a lack of space for research or expansion.

The Johnson playhouse is awaiting the building of a handicap ramp. Funding has been provided by the Needmore Ruritan Club for this.

The installation of the sculpture "Ghost Farmers" given by Ben Harris will take place now that the circle and



Shirley Simmons, Volunteer Director of the Museums, gave the yearly report.

Board Members elected for 2016 are as follows:

- President: Donald Cotton
- Vice President: Al Prevatte
- Secretary: Orlean Newton
- Treasurer: Brenda Johnson
- Board Members: Eleanor Stephenson and Dan Turner
- Past President: Max Ashworth
- Volunteer Director: Shirley Simmons

Larry Bennett was commended for distinguished service on the Board. He has asked to be relieved for the present because of family circumstances. The Commissioner Representative is appointed by the Town Board. Charlie Adcock has served in this position since the Friends were organized.