

FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 21 APRIL 2020

FUQUAY-VARINA MUSEUMS

CORONA VIRUS IMPACT ON MUSEUMS for 2020



The Corona Virus Pandemic has taken a toll on all our lives, our governments, our businesses, our families, our schools, our clubs, our churches and our institutions. The Fuquay-Varina Museums is only one of many such institutions. We are surely not lamenting our circumstances nor can we claim a catastrophic effect as so many can. To date none of our docents or staff have become victims so we actually have that as a praise.

Since this newsletter is being archived for our permanent record, we have decided to issue this special issue of Footprints so that the historical evidence upon the F. V. Museums from this pandemic will be documented.

Collections Thank You's

On the brighter side, the Museums Staff continues

to have inquiries related to new collections. We are proud that so many people want to preserve our history and we deeply appreciate the willingness to wait until it is safe for us to work with these offers. Not one individual has been anything but cooperative and understanding of these conditions. Keep thinking and saving, so the history of our area will be preserved! Thank you to "Way Back When" and other groups who continue to remind the public of our efforts and interest.

Friends of the Museums Board

The board cancelled monthly meetings of the board beginning with March until the guidelines make meeting feasible. All board members fit into the category of individuals who need to be protected. Whether the Board's next meeting might be May or June our President and other officers are not sure at this time.

Closing of Museums

Initially docents questioned their safety as our numbers include 4 cancer survivors, several diabetics, several heart disease individuals, and almost all who serve during the regular days were over 60 years of age. We did not open beginning March 6, after we noted that most of our recent visitors signed in from out-of-state (visiting family, friends, or vacationing in the area.) Almost immediately, we recognized that we had had visitors from one of the Raleigh schools which had a connection to a diagnosed case. While this tour happened about a month prior, it gave us pause for

future visitors. A third concern was our shared spaces with DMV which had customers from all over the area. The risk was too great, better to err on the side of caution.

Re-Opening of Museums

In keeping with the U. S. Task Force suggestions, the museum will not be open for tours as long as social distancing is advised. Governor Cooper's guidelines are not yet known for North Carolina. A tour cannot be done at 6 or more feet obviously. An opening decision has no time future at this point.

Cancelling Tours

One tour for Home School students in March was cancelled with the recommendation that this might not be wise. Fortunately, most public school tours come during the fall and were not impacted. Our expectation is that the fall tours will again be possible.

Heritage Day 2020

Heritage Day has proven to be a most inspiring day over the years for adults and children. Set for the first Saturday each May, May 2 is not feasible for public visitation this year. We had plans to sponsor an "Historical Children's Parade" of costumes, characters, decorated bikes & trikes, wagons with themes, etc. This idea will be kept for another Heritage Day. Heritage Day is run by our staff and docents, especially the Fuquay Springs Quester Chapter # 1134, in coordination with Parks & Rec.

Our Dancing With the Stars Fundraiser

Our new Fundraiser based on Dancing with the Stars had set up committees. Just one organizational meeting had been held in February. We had not yet selected our theme, or completed our menu. We were in the process of developing our "letter of introduction" which would serve for soliciting help for the event, "stars" for dancing, and other parts of the event. The Board will consider whether this can still be "rescued" as we cannot yet conclude what

the August 6, 2020 date will hold. We also will need to be able to coordinate this with the Highgrove event site and their schedule in light of the pandemic. No decision can yet be made by anyone on this issue.

Membership Drive

Our new Membership Tier, adopted in November, was in the process of being implemented. Individual memberships were being received. We thank you for continuing to send these to us. Non-profit groups were being scheduled for presentations by our director, with two already completed. Unfortunately, the board had held up the business membership informational sheet so that it was not ready to distribute before the beginning of the new year. Thus our complete MEMBERSHIP TIER which was promised in our February 2020 Footprints has not yet been rolled out. The Board will need to revisit these plans as well as set a timeline for our drive.

For Now

Keep the Friends of the Museums in your line of vision. Our 501 c 3 nonprofit is still viable and will be back like everything else when the time is right and under appropriate conditions.

Meantime: contact us through this web site if we can share anything.

President: Orlean Newton
Vice President: Curtis Holleman
Secretary: Debra Semple
Treasurer: Brenda Johnson
Volunteer Director: Shirley Simmons