



# MUSEUM NEWS

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## CELEBRATING THE HISTORY AND COMMUNITY OF CAPE CHARLES & LOWER EASTERN SHORE

Marion Naar, President & Treasurer  
(757)-442-2821

Bill Neville, Vice President  
(410) 651-5505

Brittany Cannon, Secretary  
(757) 331-2960

Kimberly Leake Denny, Executive Director  
(757) 607-6483

### MUSEUM BUILDING REPAIRS

#### Exterior Museum Brick Work – the No-Choice Project

If you passed by the Museum building this January or February you will have noticed the 30 foot high scaffolding as it moved around all four sides of the building. With a look at the finished work, you will now see new steel lintels (window 'eyelids'), new mortar, refurbished brick and sills, and clean windows. The steel ladder at the back side of the building is now firmly affixed to the wall so periodic trips to inspect the roof and drainage can be made safely by those not afraid of heights. The work was done by Johnson Masonry & Repair of Virginia Beach at a cost of \$54,000. Mark Johnson's crew did the repairs carefully and efficiently, and Mark was sensitive to our financial situation, adding some work items not in the original estimate. During the course of the work several Cape Charles residents stopped by to look: Mark will now have two or three more jobs in town.

As with all buildings, regular maintenance is essential. The present masonry repairs are critical to the health of the Museum building – without them its bricks, mortar, and lintels would continue to deteriorate. Since acquiring the building from Delmarva Power in 1993, CCHS has devoted many thousands of dollars to maintain and improve it: replacement of the original windows and doors in

2002, installation and subsequent upgrades of HVAC systems, installation of entrance awnings, extensive ceiling repairs (\$21,000) and total roof replacement (\$40,000) in 2011/12. Most of this work was funded by grants. We will pay Johnson Masonry initially from our savings but expect to recover most of the cost again with the help of grants. We are applying to the Marietta McNeill Morgan and Samuel Tate Morgan, Jr. Trust, which has supported us in the past. If awarded, this will likely be a challenge grant which requires CCHS to provide matching funds specifically targeted for the project. We will seek such funds from the Town of Cape Charles and the Eastern Shore of Virginia United Way, as well as by contributions from individuals and other organizations.

### CAPE CHARLES RAILROAD ARTIFACTS ACQUISITION PROJECT

The recent closing of the Cape Charles railway yard is truly the end of an era for the town, but a whole new chapter for the CCHS. You can't miss the changes taking place in our backyard. The siding is now full - we've added the 2000 diesel engine, tanker car, boxcar, flatcar, and gondola car to our collection. We are so grateful to Mike Howard and the great guys at Coastal Railway Construction for their hard work and sponsorship of this acquisition project. In addition to the rolling stock, we have been privileged to collect hundreds and hundreds of artifacts pertaining to the Bay Coast, Eastern Shore, Pennsylvania, and New York Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroads. Two items of note are a waiting room bench we believe originally came out of the Cape Charles Station, and the original

NYP&N Cape Charles Railroad safe. The Parksley Railroad Museum has also generously added an original NYP&N railroad lantern to our collection. The next phase is to move the Captain Edward Richardson - Nandua carfloat barge Pilot House out of the Harbor District. We hope to have it moved to our site before the Shrimp Boil. It will be placed on a permanent foundation at the west end of the museum. The Pilot House will function both as transportation artifact in its own right and unique exhibition space.

### AERIAL VIDEO OF CAPE CHARLES

Cape Charles is on the cusp of changes which will forever alter the appearance of our harbor area. This includes the removal of the rail yard, changes at Bay Shore Concrete and the ferry dock area on the north side of the harbor.

With this in mind, Harvey (Windy) Belote owner of WFS Aerial Imagery generously volunteered to use his drone to capture for posterity what Cape Charles looked like at this moment in time (November 2018).

This will give our museum a valuable resource to complement our acquisition of the locomotive, various rail cars and the pilot house from the iconic railroad barge Captain Edward Richardson. This pilot house is planned to be moved and attached to museum where it will be used for much needed floor space to display appropriate railroad related items.

The Cape Charles Historical Society and Museum would like to thank Windy for his meaningful contribution. It will allow current visitors as well as ones in years to come to have a clear view of the town and harbor as it appeared at this time of significant change.

# FARMERS MARKET AT THE MUSEUM

**Opening Tuesday, May 21st, from 3-6pm**

**EXPANDED ARRAY OF VENDORS, INCLUDING LOCAL ARTISANS! WOULD YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW LIKE TO BE A VOLUNTEER OR VENDOR? PLEASE CALL KIMB (757) 607-6483**

## NOVEMBER 2018 OYSTER ROAST

Over the past 20 years of holding oyster roasts it has been our good fortune to invariably have good weather. Last fall, an unusually rainy season altogether, dealt us a rainy day. Yes, it let up some during much of the event and it was not cold, but the rain that preceded it resulted in lots of mud, posing a challenge for outdoor tent and table set up and everyone's ability to move about. Boots and plywood over mud helped – but mostly the good cheer and ingenuity of volunteers and customers, many of whom chose to eat outdoors rather than inside, saved the day. The oyster roasting team were true heroes, cooking outdoors with minimal shelter. The donated ice cream from Brown Dog Ice Cream was ever popular, rain or no rain, and the Mike Proffitt Band once again provided a variety of music. Visitors to the Silent Auction were fewer than usual due to the weather but it still yielded over \$1,400. Altogether we sold 230 tickets, fed about 240 people (including complementary tickets) and made a profit of just under \$7,600.

Our Oyster Roast is a major source of funds to keep the museum open – pay for utilities (air conditioning water and sewage) in our two buildings, the Saturday and weekday museum attendants, insurance, and our essential executive director. The work to pull off both oyster roast and shrimp boil is considerable before, during and after the event. In particular, putting up the tents is a major physical challenge, and the volunteer crew we rely on is, for the most part, no longer young. So the Board has made the decision to do as all other groups do – rent the tents and raise the ticket price to cover it. Given what we provide, our Roast will still be

comparatively affordable and should remain very popular. Ordering tickets from our web site has proved very convenient for out of town customers.

## SHRIMP BOIL SATURDAY APRIL 27TH

It's entering the planning stage. As you may know the Garden Tour, this year centered in Accomack County, has moved to the first Saturday in May. Although we have always scheduled the Boil to coincide with the Garden Tour, we have decided to retain the last Saturday in April as the date for the Boil. The logistics of arranging the museum for the Boil and accommodate visitors and Farm Market at the start of the museum season, make the April date preferable.

High Quality silent auction fundraiser items are gratefully accepted, especially original art & antiques, local business donations and gift certificate baskets, and nice new items! Due to space constraints we regret that we are unable to accept home decor, serving, or kitchen donations at this time. Please call (757) 607-6483. We are also happy to have you as an event sponsor!

As noted above, for reasons of safety we plan to rent the tents for the Shrimp Boil as well, which includes setup, takedown and insurance, from a local firm, Eastern shore Events & Rentals. To cover this cost we will raise the adult ticket price from \$40 to \$50 and the child ticket to \$25, still affordable and competitive with similar events. A perk of membership - Members can buy up to two adults and four child tickets for the Shrimp Boil at \$40 adults, \$20 child. The Shrimp Boil menu will continue as before – delicious with many local ingredients.

## MEMBERSHIPS AND MEETINGS

As noted in the accompanying letter, we cannot overemphasize the importance of memberships. Please use the included form – any amount is welcome, we've added a category for 'Other' – or you may donate by credit card from the website, [capecharlesmuseum.org](http://capecharlesmuseum.org). Be aware that credit card payments incur a 3% charge so despite the cost increase in stamps, payment by check or cash is still a good option.

As a special members-only benefit, you will be entitled to purchase up to two adult and 4 child tickets to the Shrimp Boil and the Oyster Roast at a reduced rate - \$40 adults, \$20 children. Regularly priced tickets this year will be \$50 for adults, \$25 children

If you live locally or are here periodically, please be sure to visit the Museum and if convenient attend a monthly meeting, held generally on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10:00 at the Museum (no meeting in July or December). Everyone is welcome. Note that Board elections will take place in November. We are actively seeking new Board members – new candidates most welcome. Let us hear from you.

## VOLUNTEER WITH CCHS IN 2019

Are you interested in volunteering to help as we restore and identify our railroad artifacts? Or maybe you're available to help out at the Shrimp Boil, or during the farmers market? Would you like to help out in the artifacts office, or be a volunteer docent? Our mission can always benefit from your talents! Please provide your phone number and email on your membership form, stop by the museum office and sign up, or call our director Kimb Denny at (757) 607-6483.

You can also email us at [capecharlesmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:capecharlesmuseum@gmail.com)

## EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA BROADBAND AUTHORITY

**The Cape Charles Museum and Welcome Center grounds now offers public access free community WiFi hotspot on our grounds! Local residents and visiting tourists alike can take advantage of this free internet access thanks to the generous sponsorship of the ESVBA.**