

THE MAIL POUCH

VOLUME 36

Issue No. 11

November 2024



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov 14th, 2024. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00pm and will be held at The Museum's Taylor Annex. For directions or additional information, please contact James Taylor at (540) 295-2974.

November Meeting Agenda

- Brief Update on recent progress at the Museum's cars and displays.*
- Discussion of upcoming Projects.*
- Entertainment TBD.*

On The Cover: Norfolk Southern Train 25A passing beneath a colorful canopy of leaves in Springport, Indiana, on the New Castle District. Photo by Craig Sanders

A monthly publication of the Rappahannock Railroad Museum

Opinions expressed in *The Mail Pouch* are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.. Please send all correspondence to the following address:

Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.
11700 Main St.
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Museum Officers and Staff

President:	James F. Taylor	Chief Mech Engineer:	Donald Kirkpatrick
First Vice President:	Leo Zerhusen	Museum Liaison:	Theodore Barker
Secretary:	Frank Schimmenti	Newsletter Editor:	James Keehner
Treasurer:	Virginia Smith	Registered Agent:	Mike Thomas
Museum Curator:	James F. Taylor	Chairman B.O.D.	Mike Thomas
Webmaster:	Dennis Overcash		

Web Site: www.RRMuseum.org

THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

On to November, looking forward to a good month preparing for colder times at museum and a big Thanksgiving dinner at end of month. October was a challenging month as we worked to finish several big projects that were behind schedule, but in the end all worked out positive. I expect November to be busy also as we make changes and improvements at our Museum. Planning now for operations in 2025. Members are working together to receive an increase in visitor attendance in 2025. We plan on being open each Saturday thru the year. We do not plan on closing for weather but each person must evaluate weather each Saturday, if unsafe in your area wait until the next Saturday to come.

James (Jake) Taylor
President
Rappahannock Railroad Museum

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Museum and the Editor can use your help to fill the pages of the Mail Pouch. If you have a subject you would like to share, photos or just about any other information, please consider submitting it for publication in our Mailpouch. There are a lot of exciting things happening at the Museum, I would be glad to publish personal notes from those who are making the changes and updates at the museum. All submissions will be included in the Mail Pouch (unless restricted by copywrite laws).

Thank you all for your support.

Jim Keehner
Editor
Rappahannock Railroad Museum



Auto-train can sneak up on you, a reminder not to ever get on the tracks.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Rappahannock Railroad Museum EVERY SATURDAY MORNING TRAIN RIDE – EXCURSION. Ride the rails along Historic Deep Run Creek in Spotsylvania Co. on open rail maintenance cars and experience how the railroad workers of the mid 20th century rode to their worksites. Every Saturday 9AM to Noon – weather and conditions permitting. To ensure you get aboard the last train run, please be at the museum by 10:30AM. We attempt to board all parties on a first come basis but boarding is conducted on the platform by our station conductor and train crew so first come first aboard may not always occur. All children under 12 or those needing intensive supervision must be accompanied by a responsible adult. They must be seated together. Departing from the Rappahannock Railroad Museum, 11700 Main Street, Fredericksburg, Va. 22408. Donations accepted.

Monthly Meetings:

November 14, 23024

December 12, 2024

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

2025, July 14-19, 2025, Convention HQ is the Sheraton Hotel 21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, MI 48375. <https://nmra2025.com/>

NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION

Collinsville, IL / St Louis, MO • September 3 - 6, 2025, www.45thnngc.com

GREENBERG TRAIN SHOWS

Nov. 16-17 - Wilmington, MA

Nov. 23-24 - Edison, NJ

Dec. 7-8 - Timonium, MD

Dec 21-22 - Chantilly, VA

Dec. 28-29 - Hampton, VA

Prince William County Model Railroad Club Schedule - PWMRC.org

1st Saturday of each month - Open House Quantico Railroad Station

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

November 9-10 Spotsylvania Towne Centre, Next to the Food Court

November 22-24 46th Annual Model Railroad Show, Science Museum of Virginia (N gauge only), See WRIC publicity for event

December 7-8 Annual Train Show, Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge #4123, See 2023 RMR Christmas Train Show highlights

Editor's Note: *If anyone has any other Organizational information that they would like to see in the "Upcoming Events", please forward that information to the Editor for inclusion. I try to get a spread of regional and National events, but I cannot research every organization that is out there, so if you belong to or are interested in something that is not included here, please send me the information.*



Auto-train just as quick it is gone.

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MONTHLY RECAP

10-05-2024 - LONG DAY FOR SOME! A great weather day after all those rainy ones. Visitors were a little slow to start but had good turnout. Made three trips to main line. Got to see late running Auto-train. Train was followed by the 401 and one car on check out run. We were short of members today but those present did a great job of keeping operations moving. We did get to improve displays in the N&W caboose, check out equipment, received shrubs to be planted at Museum. But one big job was completed by four members (Dave, Leo, Curtis, Justin) who spent the evening applying the second coat of paint to the B-60. They could have used a little more help but they did a great job, THANKS. Next part of project is applying the lettering. They hope to get that done real soon, be sure to offer them help.

Officer election: Time short let Phil know if you want to be on ballot for 2025 or if you want to continue in your office. He needs to know your wishes! Try to plan time for your Museum on Saturday morning!

10-12-2024 - A PRODUCTIVE DAY. The weather was real nice Saturday, we had good attendance of members so we were able to work on projects, welcome visitors and members could get short breaks. We had an estimate of 82 people attending. We received some good donations (items and fiancés). We are doing good, but we have a lot of projects that need finishing before cold weather sets in. Finish upgrade of displays in N&W, finish painting B-60, finish work on ODC car and very import we must repair the passenger loading platform. The Museum Board meet at 1:00 and had a productive meeting, they will give report at November 14 meeting.

STATION PLATFORM REPAIR: Maybe this Saturday we can repair it starting at noon. We have the material, it is on rail car so boards will be delivered right to the station, Just need to remove old boards, check out foundation and screw the new ones down. I know there are no 10 min. jobs but this should go rather quick. If you would like to bring your cordless drill or what ever may help project come prepared to finish this job and then go get your lunch. Just a reminder we are replacing with Trex boards. HELP

CHRISTMAS MEETING: our December monthly will be held at Scafa's Italian Restaurant this year same place (Spotsylvania)as last year. Google it and be ready to enjoy a time together. Working together for preserving History

10-19-2024 - FANTISTIC PROJECT DAY! Saturday was a little low on attendance, but weather was nice. We did have an est. total of 68 attending. We had a lot of projects that needed to be completed before cold weather set in. Work on B-60 lettering nearly completed, replacing decking boards on platform was started, Lot of shifting of equipment. Museum operations stayed on schedule, train made 3 trip to main line and got to meet NB CSX freight. Visitors were well entertained touring and watching our operations.

But best of all was how well members worked together, even as they were changed from one project to another, Teaching and learning operations and how to do projects. Truly working on Rail road. Not a discouraging word was heard but a lot of tired people at end of day and it was a very long day for some. Members THANK YOU for all you do!

Saturday 26: Shannon Air Port will be holding their air show with candy drop. There will be a huge traffic back up on Rt.2. Train crews will have to be VERY careful crossing road. and watch out for walkers everywhere. We may get extra visitors but also good advertizing for museum. Due to possible traffic you may want to arrive a few minutes earlier.

Officer elections: Ballots will be mailed out before long. Please watch mailbox. Vote and mail back. Show your support for 2025.

Personal: Let's all hang in there as we catch up on many projects, Things will be more enjoyable soon and we can relax a little and enjoy the upcoming holidays. By the Way the Brass Lanterns back ground for new members . It was started in 2001 as the "Bill Jerow Volunteerism Award" each year the president presents an outstanding member with the Brass Lantern for their outstanding support of the RRM. Their name is posted and they may take lantern home for the year or let it hang by the award certificate in the Taylor Annex. Preserving Living History.

10-26-2024 - ALL WAYS SURPRISES! Hard to explain Saturday Morning! It started out with a large group of visitors arriving at 8:50 and short of members. But with a lots of changes members got train out and made several short runs, had to borrow several members from annexes to help with opening. Then due to horrible traffic congestion, we did not have any visitors after about 10:30 all were going to air port for "candy Drop".

But the BIG change was that the Assistant County Administrator had emailed me that we could not cross RT.2 or activate crossing gates due to a legal statement from "Railworks CO." they are the track maintance Co. for county. We are proving info requested by county and hope to have use of crossing back before long. We will continue short train rides

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MONTHLY RECAP

during this time. We do not want to make any route changes at this time, for safety reasons. Follow ALL safety rules as normal, There may be inspectors in area. Refer any inspectors to Mike, Gregg or Me.

Station improvements: We plan on installing trek boards Saturday morning please be ready to help. Still plan on running short trips with train. Loading passengers near station SAFETLY for workers and train!

Elections: Ballots mailed , vote and return them. Support your Museum. Continuing to provide the best railroad family museum in area.

RRM Christmas Party will be on 12 December 2024 at 6:30 PM at Scafa's Italian Restaurant, 10349 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania, VA, 22553. Phone: 540-898-7819.

The restaurant is accross from the Giant grocery store in Hilltop Shopping Center. It is the same place as last year. I will have copies of the Menu and a sign up sheet at the Museum starting this Saturday, 9 Nov. 2024. I booked a room for an estimated 25 people. This may be changed as people sign up.



Photo of Justin riding the velocipede one last time before he goes off on his two year adventure. We wish him well.

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N&W CABOOSE MODEL

Phillip Miller



LETTERING THE MODEL

Creating and installing Decals

Norfolk & Western CF class caboose #18021

The CF class of cabooses were built in the N&W East End Shops in Roanoke, Virginia, with wood sheathing sides, wood roofs, and steel underframes. There were 381 of these cabooses built between 1914 and 1924, at a cost ranging from \$1,151.27 to \$3,001.01. The cabooses were originally numbered 18000 through 18380, but were renumbered 518000 through 518380 in 1924 by adding a “5” to the car number. These cabooses remained in service until the 1970s, with one caboose #518239 still in local service at Bement, Illinois as late as July 7, 1982.

The prototype caboose #18021, renumbered to 518021, still exists! Built in September 1914, and retired in September 1972, the caboose eventually joined the Southern Michigan Railroad museum roster in Clinton, Michigan as the oldest piece of rolling stock in their collection. This caboose was donated by N&W to the United Way in the 1970s, and subsequently sold to a railroad museum in Ohio. It changed hands to another museum before being sold as surplus. It eventually ended up in a farm in Hillsdale before being donated to Southern Michigan Railroad Society by Mr. Grover Johnson. It may be the oldest N&W CF class caboose still in existence.

This 1/8 scale “Live Steamer” model was built by museum member Floyd Swiggett but was not stenciled due to his passing. Stenciling was done in 2024 by museum volunteers.

The car has a lavatory with a small window on the car side, seen above. The car rode on plain bearing design trucks, which required periodic lubrication.

Sources:

Cabooses of the Norfolk and Western by Robert Bowers and James Brewer, published by N&W Historical Society, June 1994.

Southern Michigan Railroad Society website, https://www.instagram.com/southernmichiganrailroad/p/C-wLn2bsoel/?img_index=1

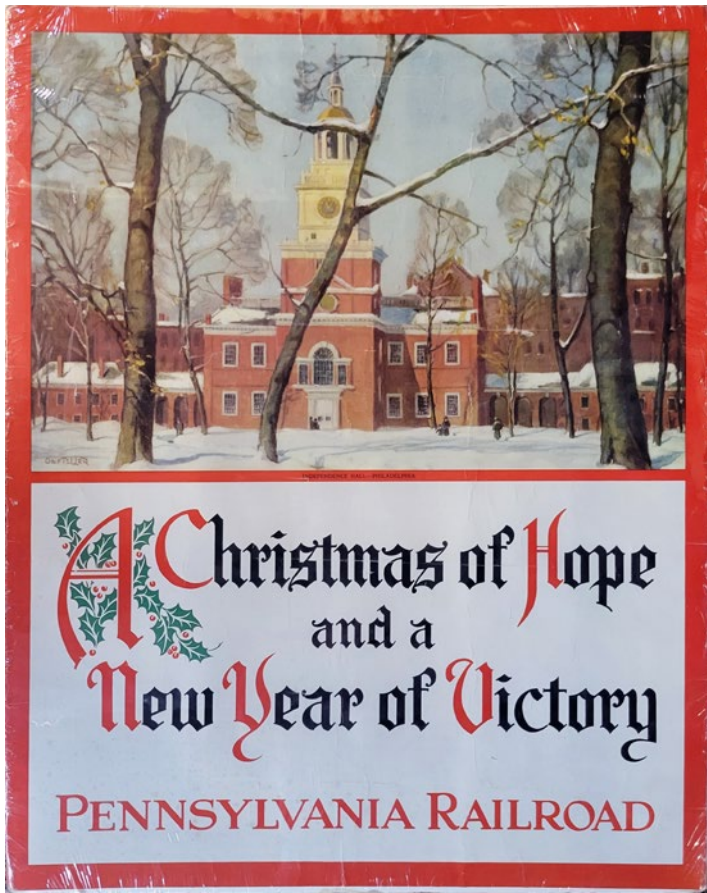
Right: Author Phil attempting to not loose his mind while attempting to decal the caboose while the sides are verticle!



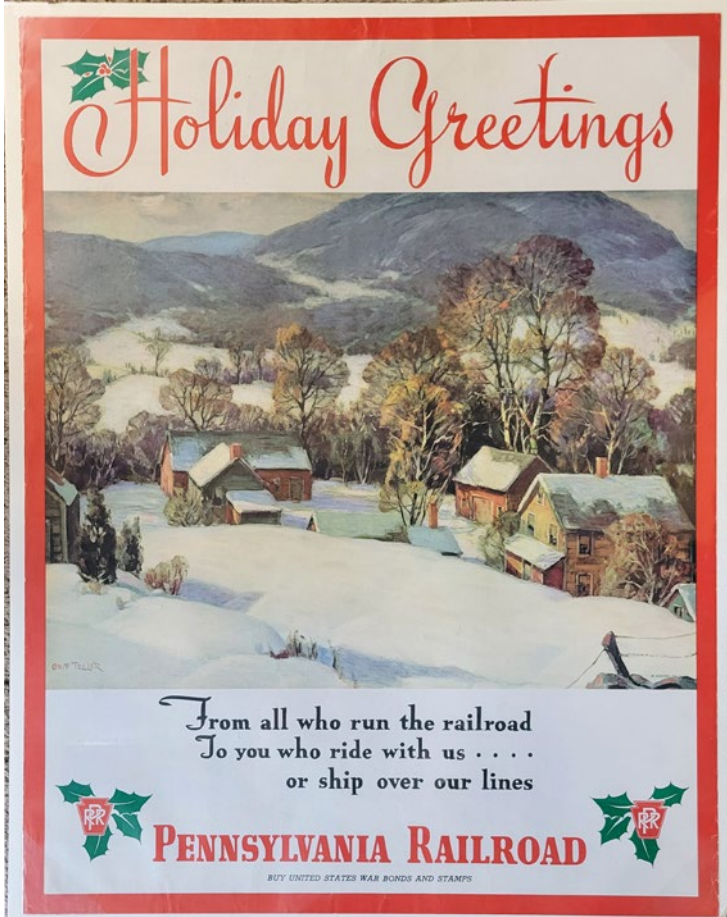
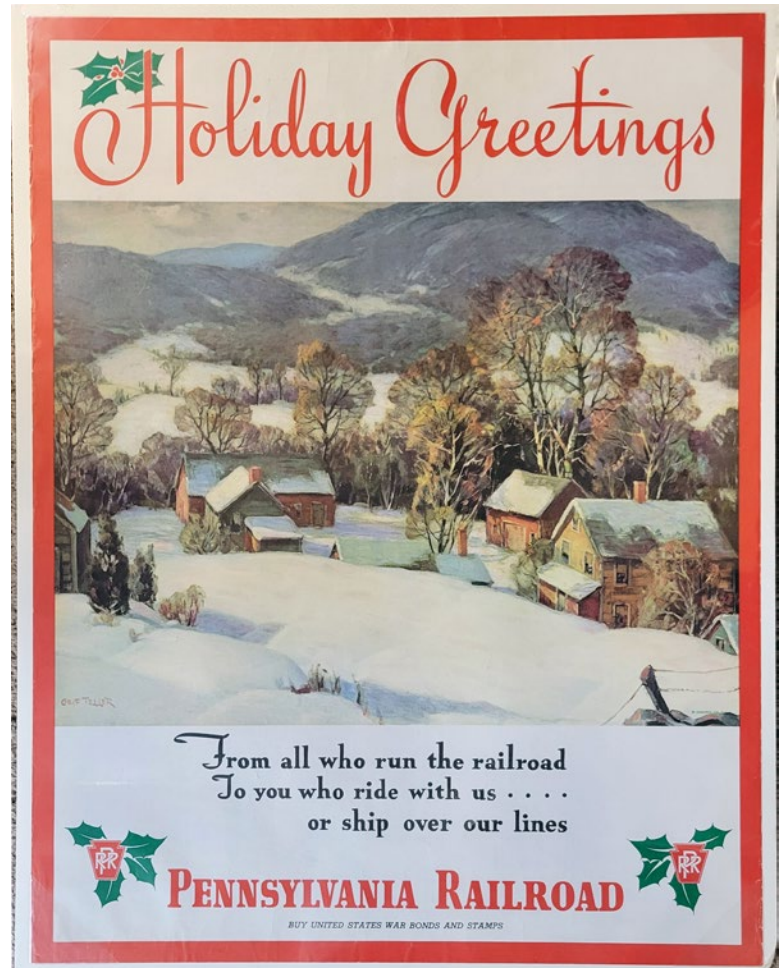
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RAILROAD CHRISTMAS CARDS/ADVERTISING

Andy Sentipal



Left above and right below: These two WWII themed posters feature non railroad scenes painted by the famous Pennsy calendar painter Grif Teller. Issued during the war to boost morale.

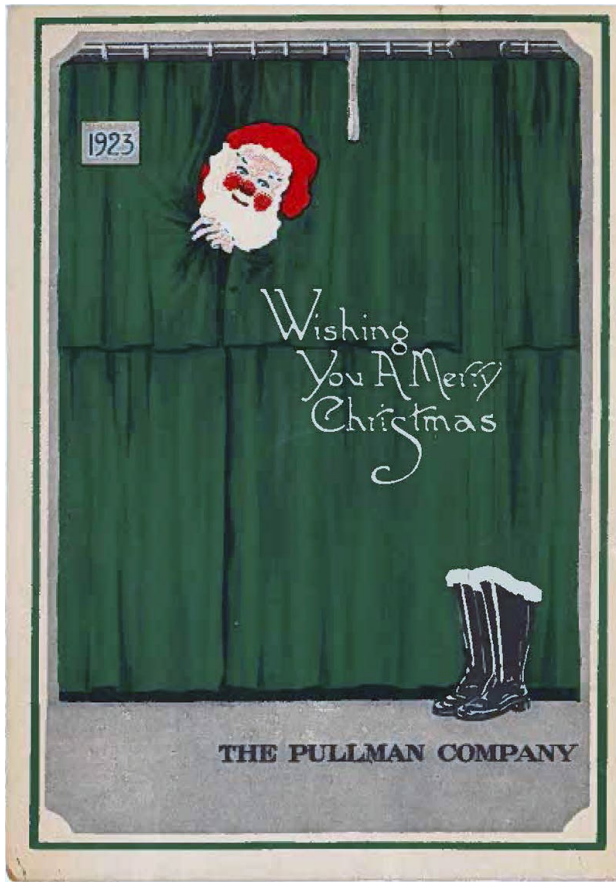


Left Below: This 1930s era Christmas poster features a Colonial scene that was very popular in that era for numerous advertisements by various railroads.

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RAILROAD CHRISTMAS CARDS/ADVERTISING

Andy Sentipal



Left above: A 1923 Pullman Christmas Card. Below: A 1939 PRR Christmas Brochure.



Left Below: A PRR Broadway Limited Christmas Menu.

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PHOTOS



Top Left: The tired paint crew Saturday afternoon after finishing the second coat on B-60.

Top Center: night shot of B-60 with new paint job (lettering to be done).

Top Right: Justin Duffus being presented with Brass Lantern for 2025 by Chairman Mike Thomas and President James Taylor.

Top Center Left: First step in applying the letters started, yes unusual but there is a plan.

Bottom Center Left: yellow decals in place.



Bottom Left: load of lumber paces LYT back to station.

Bottom Center: Local shifter #561 holds on passing track for Passenger train # 89 to leave station.

Bottom Right: THE color after Yellow decal removed.



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Membership Application/Renewal Form

Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.

Please type or print legibly

New Renewal if renewal Updated information Y N

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Family Membership(S) if Joining: _____
Membership

Regular \$15.00 _____, can Vote, can hold office

Family \$1.00 each _____, cannot vote, cannot hold office.

Museum Donation _____

Total: _____

Please mail to the following address or hand in at meeting.

Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.
11700 Main Street
Fredericksburg, VA. 22408

I agree to be a member in good standing and follow safety rules of
the Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.
Membership dues for January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday	Nov 2nd	Meet at our Museum Site 9:00am to 12:00pm for tours and train rides, construction and upgrades(weather permitting). Members continue to improve displays and area.
Saturday	Nov 9th	Meet at our Museum Site 9:00am to 12:00pm for tours and train rides, construction and upgrades(weather permitting). Members continue to improve displays and area.
Thursday	Nov 14th	MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX. Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
Saturday	Nov 16th	Meet at our Museum Site 9:00am to 12:00pm for tours and train rides, construction and upgrades(weather permitting). Members continue to improve displays and area.
Saturday	Nov 23rd	Meet at our Museum Site 9:00am to 12:00pm for tours and train rides, construction and upgrades(weather permitting). Members continue to improve displays and area.
Saturday	Nov 30th	Meet at our Museum Site 9:00am to 12:00pm for tours and train rides, construction and upgrades(weather permitting). Members continue to improve displays and area.

Additional work days may be scheduled on an as needed basis.

Thanksgiving Dinner and pants that seem too tight,
Fall colors are showing at their hieght;
Visitors are still coming from many places,
Despite some troubles we are all maintaining our game faces.

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SUBMISSIONS NOTE: Any items that you wish to have published in *The Mail Pouch* must be submitted as a complete package, articles must have all supporting images and diagrams at time of submission. Items to be published that are “borrowed from other publications” must have the proper credits noted to avoid copyright violations. Any items that you wish to have published in *The Mail Pouch* must be submitted to the Editor in electronic format (Text Files for articles and separate Digital Photos) prior to the **20th** of the proceeding month. Items not in an electronic format (items needing scans or typesetting) must be submitted prior to the **15th** of the proceeding month. Articles, Photos and other items may be submitted in person on Saturday mornings at the Museum, or electronically at jkeehner67@hotmail.com, **subject line EDITOR.** *All items submitted after the deadlines of the month will be held for publication in the following months Newsletter.*