

Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation



www.wbhouse.org

Officers: Phyllis Sawyer, President; Jessica O'Connor, Secretary; Margaret Moore, Treasurer.
Board of Directors: Susan Kellam; Mary Ann Schmidt; Leslie Rawls, Donn Lee, Deon Dallman, Phyllis Doverspike.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

We will be posting events for 2024 soon – Check our FaceBook page & Website for updates

A FEW WORDS FROM PHYLLIS

Now that the holiday season is over and the new year has settled in, it seems a time for contemplation.

2023 was such a wonderful year at the Whitehurst-Buffington House. We made new friends, gained supporters, and received many wonderful items for the house. The exterior of the house was painted-- thanks to the (Virginia Beach) city painters for a beautiful job.

We celebrated the 10th year anniversary of our ribbon cutting. Our board members, volunteers and vendors made the Fall Festival a fun and well attended event. The Holiday Open House was warm and friendly despite the rainy weather. And attendance for tours during regular open hours was up thanks, in part, to recent publicity.

The WBHF board is energized to focus on new challenges for 2024. Repairs to be addressed include work on the east chimney and roof tiles. We are also currently planning for upcoming events.

The WBHF looks forward to your ongoing support as we continue to care for this lovely old house.

Our board is seeking two new members. Anyone interested in joining us should contact Phyllis Sawyer at 757-427-1151.

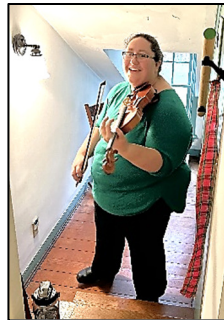
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



Our holiday open house was held the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 10th.

With the house decked out, hot cider and cookies laid out, and some board members in costume, we were ready to greet members and visitors.

Summer Cozzins was back playing lovely melodies on her violin.



We were also joined by Stephanie Sawyer (Natures Christmas) and author Cheryl Lane. Docents were on hand to share our history and answer any questions about the house.



Torrential rains made this year's open house a more intimate event, but we certainly enjoyed spending time with the members & guests who were able to visit.

FESTIVE FLAIR



It certainly wouldn't be the holidays without the skill and creativity of the Council of Garden Clubs members!



Period décor is coordinated by Kay Eckhardt and Peggy Caverly (pictured above), chairmen of the COGC-VB Historic Houses Committee.

We always look forward to what they create each holiday season. And we are so grateful for their continued support in making our celebrations more special.



On Sunday, Dec. 24th, a very nice article written by Bob Ruegsegger about our yuletide traditions appeared in *The Virginian-Pilot*. (If you missed it, a post with the link to the online article can be found on our FaceBook page.)

The Whitehurst-Buffington House is open 1:00- 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

MEMBERSHIPS DUE FOR RENEWAL

Memberships run annually beginning in January of each year.

To renew or to join for the first time, just mail to us at: P.O. Box 56114, Virginia Beach, VA 23456.

Levels are: Friend \$25; Patron \$100; Sponsor \$250 and above; Students \$10.

Receive quarterly mailings, advance notice of events and a discount on building use.

We are continuing to complete needed repairs. Memberships help the WBHF maintain our wonderful historic house.

SPECIAL GUESTS



Members of the Virginia Beach Art Center (The Artists Gallery) held a Plein Air at the WBH on Oct. 9th. It was impressive to see how the artists used different mediums to create their perspectives of the house and grounds. Truly beautiful work! Thanks to Bill Campbell for setting it up!

VISITORS

The Va. Beach Cultural Affairs Dept. held a lovely event at the house on Oct. 3rd. The 2023 National Arts & Humanities Reception was arranged by Emily Labows, (Director), Beth Hundley, Hillary Plate, Mari Coronado & Annmarie Reiley-Kay.

On October 6th the Cape Henry Women's Club, a community services organization, held their monthly meeting at the house.

Vickie Shufer (Wild Woods Farm) held a Wild Woods Walk in the West Neck Creek Natural Area. The class was held at the house on October 8th. Vickie is a long-time friend of the WBHF, and we love to host her enthusiastic groups.

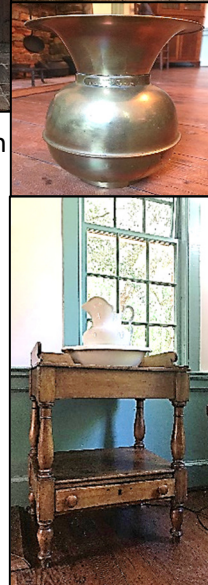
DONATIONS

The WBHF received multiple items from Jamie Buffington who grew up in the Whitehurst-Buffington House.



Included were a kitchen breakfront, cane seat rocker, Pullman Car spittoon, and a lovely wash basin with stand.

All these items were in the house when it was owned by Jamie's parents James W. and Emily Buffington. We are so happy to have his pieces back home.



Emma "Miss Emmy" Fountain resided at the West Neck Road family farm for almost all of her life. An accomplished pianist, Miss Fountain taught music from her Princess Anne County home and Marsh Schools of Music in Norfolk for nearly her entire teaching career.

She passed away at the age of 100, leaving her home, which is listed on the Historic Register, to the Princess Anne Masonic Lodge. Its members were kind enough to share some things with us.

Included were a gateleg table, a rush bottom side chair, and a small table. Miss Fountain's items are now on display at the WBH.



Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation

Interested in Volunteering?

Help us with:

___ Greeting Visitors

___ Gardening

___ Serving on a Committee

___ Cleaning

___ Leading Tours

___ Special Events

___ Clerical Work

___ Other: _____

Call the Whitehurst-Buffington Foundation President at 757-427-1151 for more information.

Visit &  Like the [Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation Facebook page](#).

The Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation, a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization, is dedicated to the preservation of this historic home as a living example of early American life in Virginia.