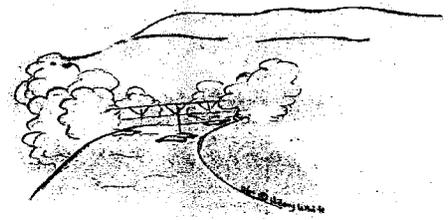


Strasburg Heritage Association



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Strasburg, Virginia

General Meeting Scheduled

Strasburg Heritage Association will have a general meeting on Sunday, February 24 from 4-6 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Valley Room of the Hotel Strasburg. At our meeting we'll unveil our new historic building plaques and explain how the application process for the plaques will work. Our featured program will be a discussion of revitalization efforts in downtown Strasburg. Guest speakers will include Mayor Rich Orndorff, Conly and Tina Crabill and Richard Seelbach. The Mayor will talk about current projects and his vision of our downtown in the future. Conly and Tina will share their ongoing experience with the renovation of the Rogers House, featured elsewhere in this newsletter. Richard will inform us of his renovations of and plans for the original Pot Town Tavern and the adjacent building.

Also a part of the meeting will be the election of SHA's Board of Directors.

Refreshments will be served at the meeting. The public is welcome.

Historic Plaques

Carla Wallen

One of the first goals of the Heritage Association was to come up with a plaque to designate, as well as honor, our historic Strasburg and Davis District buildings. Now after several months of considering many design ideas, that goal has been reached! The Board of Directors has voted to accept the special plaque created by Carole Orr-Miller, one of Strasburg's very own outstanding potters, assisted by Cathy Wolfe-Heberle. The fine artwork for the logos was done by Hilary White of Strasburg.

Carrying on the historic tradition of Strasburg pottery-making, the new plaque is made of pottery, and each one will be hand crafted at the Orr-Miller Studio and signed. The plaque is an oval shape with the words, "STRASBURG HERITAGE" in the border at the top and "HISTORIC BUILDING" in the border at the bottom. The SHA main area (logo) depicts a scene of Signal Knob and the Shenandoah River, which have been so important in Strasburg's history. The plaque is made using a buttermilk glaze, with cobalt blue and iron brown accents. There are two logos from which to choose, and each of

these features a prominent place to put the year your historic property was built.

SHA is delighted to offer these plaques for sale. They will be on display at the Association's general meeting, to which the public is warmly invited, on February 24th and also after March 1st at the new Chamber of Commerce offices adjacent to First Bank on West King Street.

Enclosed is an application form with more detailed information. Each plaque will be truly unique. In addition to being individually handcrafted, it will express the owner's great pride in the history of Strasburg and Davis District and by carrying on the tradition of pottery-making, it will celebrate its future.

Strasburg Community Library

Barbara Adamson

The Strasburg Community Library will be in the news in upcoming months with its planned building expansion and remodeling project, due to begin in February.

The Library began as a project of the Strasburg Business Women's Club and opened to the public in 1959. It operated in three different locations before moving to its present site in the former home of Dr. G. G. Crawford. The property was conveyed to the Business Womens' Club

by Dr. Crawford's grandson, David Hatmaker and was dedicated as the Library in 1983. Mr. Hatmaker is the son of Ellen Crawford Hatmaker, a charter member of the Club. Club membership changed over the years and the organization officially became the Strasburg Community Library, Inc. in 1992. The Strasburg Library joined the Shenandoah County Library system when it was formed in 1997.

Strasburg Library is the busiest of all the county's community libraries, second only to the main facility in Edinburg in the number of patrons served. The addition/renovation project will add 2658 square feet of floor space and will include some renovation of the existing building to allow for more efficient use of space. The front facade of the house will remain unchanged. The rear addition will be removed as will the small outbuilding in the rear yard. The newly built wing will be in the same configuration as the old wing but larger with a new main entrance facing the existing side yard.

A part of the renovation plan in the library interior is to return the original living room, now the adult fiction section, to its original look as a comfortable living room in which to read and possibly hold small group discussion sessions. Library Executive Committee members and volunteers are pleased that these plans will provide an expanded and improved facility to meet the present and future needs of our growing community with the least impact on this historic home. The library is set to embark on a fundraising campaign in the next few weeks to raise \$200,000 from the community to add to \$184,000 the Shenandoah County Library Foundation has dedicated to the project.

The Rogers House

Virginia Cadden

The Rogers House, belonging to Tina and Conly Crabill, is the home on Main Street having its outside stucco removed and revealing beautiful brick work. It is set back from the street on the Holliday side to accommodate the former Town Square, a good idea lost in time. Especially nice are the molded brick cornice section and the 8-10 inch solid brick walls. An inscription in a closet declares that it was built February 22, 1868. A much later notation on the back of the pantry door, in pencil, marks how tall Willard Rogers was at eight years old and above it, his height at 14.

The kitchen wing was added about 1916 as probably were the porches and the little tower of Queen Anne architecture. Altogether there are five fireplaces in the house. Original lighting and two handsome carved mantels grace the parlor and former dining room--these display small colored tiles and are adapted for coal fires. The original pine board floors have been covered with oak hardwood downstairs and the kitchen displays quarter-cut pine, the non-splintering deluxe form. The porches were laid on railroad rails secured in concrete, an appropriate solution since John Rogers worked for the railroad.

Plans for the completion include repointing and preservation of the sun-dried brick for all but the kitchen which will retain its stucco

covering. The Crabills have already renewed the windows, wiring, plumbing etc: the tradition is that this house was the first in Strasburg to have running water. The final and perfect touch will be a wrought iron fence around the yard.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Barbara Adamson

At the first annual meeting of SHA at which elections are taking place, one half of the members of the Board of Directors are ending their terms and are up for re-election to a two-year period. The other half of the Board will end their terms in February 2003, at which time they may be re-elected to a two-year term.

The nominating committee, consisting of Doug Cooley (Chairman), Bill Wine, Rich Orndorff and Carla Wallen has reported that all of the current directors up for reelection have agreed to run for another term. They include Barbara Adamson, Judy Bogner, Virginia Cadden, Doug Cooley, James Hockman, Dee Keister, Donald Le Vine, Shirley Maxwell, George Phillips and Carol Rutherford. Those members remaining on the board include Mary Jane Adams, Duncan Currie, Maggie Hyde, Kathy Kehoe, Sarah Mauck, Rich Orndorff, Ralph & Gloria Stickley, Carla Wallen and Bill Wine. The officers will continue in their current positions. They are President Judy Bogner, Vice President Virginia Cadden, Secretary Barbara Adamson, Treasurer George Phillips and Acting Treasurer Don Le Vine.

ENTRANCE CORRIDOR OVERLAY DISTRICT

Shirley Maxwell

Strasburg Town Council recently passed an Entrance Corridor Overlay District (EC) Ordinance. The ordinance purpose is to promote high quality design criteria on certain entrance routes into town, thereby helping preserve overall attractiveness and development complimentary to Strasburg's historic and architectural character. Among other things, the ordinance provides for complete screening of goods stored or displayed out of doors (except automotive and similar large-item sales) within view of the roadway, undergrounding of utilities, and the discouragement of chain-link fences in front yards. It calls for integrated treatment of buildings and other development features in the EC (such as pedestrian and vehicular access). It also requires that buildings and parking areas in the district be designed to minimize mass and bulk; to relate to the proportions of nearby buildings and the streetscape; and to use building materials prevalent in Strasburg and Shenandoah County. Metal wall panels and reflective glass are specifically named "inappropriate" building materials.

TOWN LEGEND

Kathy Kehoe

Many people know Marie Williams as a town legend. Not only is she a life long resident of the town, Mrs. Williams still lives on the same street where she was raised and where she raised seven children. She was one of eight children of Perry and Daisy Smith, who lived in a small house on what was then known as B Street. She married the boy next door, Sandy Williams and they built a house next to her in-laws. Now Marie boasts 19 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren, many who still live in the town. Marie spent many years on the Town Council, organized and chaperoned the teen dances and managed the town pool. She served on the Ladies Auxiliary for the Strasburg Fire Department and sang in the St. Paul's Lutheran Church choir. On February 20th, Marie Williams will turn 95 years old. Join this fine lady who is part of our town history on Feb. 16th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church from 2-4 p.m. to celebrate her 95th birthday! She may even talk some town history!

