



Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation

Vol. 12
Issue 2

April
2025

www.wbhouse.org

Officers: Phyllis Sawyer, President; Leslie Rawls, Vice President; Margaret Moore, Treasurer, Alisha Hasson, Secretary.
Board of Directors: Susan Kellam; Mary Ann Schmidt; Donn Lee.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

Spring Tea 05-24-25 * Youth Day 06-14-25 * Fall Festival 09-13-25 * Holiday Open House 12-07-25

A FEW WORDS FROM PHYLLIS

As one might expect, Spring is arriving in its unpredictable style with chilly nights and some very warm days. As much as we all enjoy seeing the daffodils blooming and robins making their springtime appearance, the house has some treasures inside that can easily be overlooked.

The kitchen, with its rustic cabinets and brick floor, holds tools essential to everyday life. A sad iron, wooden ironing board and washboard shows us that washday was a difficult chore.

Upstairs, the Map Room provides a look the old "Courthouse Hill". Hand drawn "Sam's Maps" show property details from the North Carolina line to Cape Henry. There are also beautiful maps by our friend Bob Clark. A framed set of these maps, also in the Library of Congress, hangs in our front hall.

A lady's workroom, with an antique sewing machine, quilting rack, and sewing basket gives a glimpse of life in days gone by. A bed chamber with a fireplace, cozy quilt, feather tick, and baby cradle awaited the tired residents at days end.

There is always something of interest at the Whitehurst- Buffington House, and visitors are always welcome.

SURVEY SAYS

The Whitehurst-Buffington House was the first subject of LiDAR scanning by the City of Virginia Beach.

Proposed last fall by Survey Techs Mario Montagna, and Mike Wasiejko, the survey was completed and processed this quarter.

The board was excited to be treated to a viewing at our March meeting with Mario.

The finished product, a case study for the City's new equipment, will be featured in the summer edition of the Virginia Association of Surveyor's publication.

The scan included all the main rooms of the Whitehurst-Buffington House as well as the immediate exterior.

LiDAR processing is handled by the Virginia Beach Public Works Engineering Group under City Surveyor Randy Smith.



SPRINGING OUT ALL OVER

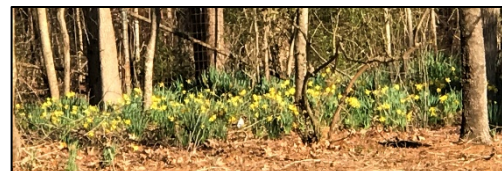
Finally, Spring is here and Easter is right around the corner. The celebration of rebirth is actually shared across many countries and cultures.

Of course the ambassador for modern laic festivities is the Easter Bunny.

The earliest mention of our furry friend is a 1572 German text about a hare. In 1682 a German botanist & physician named von Franckenau put eggs in a garden for hunting. Pennsylvania Dutch communities shared the hare in Colonial America by 1757. Per Rutheford B. Hayes in 1878, the Egg Roll and other fun began being celebrated at the White House.

Also dating to the 19th century is a story some attribute to the Anglo-Saxon goddess of Spring Eostre and some to the Germanic goddess Ostara. In it the goddess transforms a bird into a hare. In thanks, the hare lays colorful eggs.

Whether you are enjoying the eggs, the chocolate or pondering a deeper meaning, nature's reawakening is welcome respite. The invitation is open to enjoy a little of it at the Whitehurst-Buffington House.



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

UPCOMING EVENT NOTES

Stay posted for details on our June 14th Youth Day for students. This year the WBHF is partnering for the first time with the Virginia Beach Public Library (Princess Anne) to present a program and craft in addition to a tour of our historic house.

Plans for our annual Fall Festival on September 13th are already underway. Returning guests VB Farmers Market, VB Public Library, Tidewater Blacksmiths Guild, Regency Society of Va., Bee City, and Moore to See Photo Expeditions will be joined by Butterfly Society of Virginia. And Schmitt Sandwich Food Truck will be dishing up great food.

We do still have spaces open for Crafters & Artists. Anyone interested can email lawls2@cox.net about a space.

GUESTS

The Fairfield Garden Club held their March meeting at the Whitehurst-Buffington House. Members visit annually, but this year they participated in a comprehensive tour with president Phyllis Sawyer.

Also in March, Council of Garden Clubs Va. Beach outgoing president Rose Buscetti & incoming president Fran Baker toured the house with docent Lynn Lohrman. A big supporter of the WBHF, the CGCVB brings us weekly floral arrangements all visitors can appreciate.

The BLHC Coastal Virginia chapter posted on FaceBook about taking a walk in the West Neck Natural Area on the trail loops at the house along with some very nice pictures.

DONATIONS

The WBHF received four beautiful antique tea pots from England. They are currently on display in the dining room hutch, and we look forward to sharing them during our Spring Tea.



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.

Reservations Open on April 24th



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.