



Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation

Vol. 13

Issue 4

October
2026

www.wbhouse.org

Officers: Phyllis Sawyer, President; Leslie Rawls, Vice President; Margaret Moore, Treasurer; Cheryl Lane, Secretary.
Board of Directors: Susan Kellam; Donn Lee, Jane Bloodworth-Rowe, Becky Spain, Erik Moore. Emeritus: Mary Ann Schmidt.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS UPCOMING EVENT:

Holiday Open House on December 6th

A FEW WORDS FROM PHYLLIS

As the fall season arrives, our thoughts turn to the beauty of changing leaves, cozy sweaters, hot chocolate, and cooling breezes.

This has been a year of scorching heat and drought, making it difficult to care for our plants and gardens. We have joyfully celebrated the 250th birthday of our country but have also been saddened as floods and wildfires brought devastation and loss of lives, homes, and property in many areas of our great nation. While we have been spared such devastation, the threat of a major hurricane is always present in coastal areas like ours.

Throughout the years, the Whitehurst-Buffington House has remained strong and serene in its beautiful location, providing a welcoming home for its families since 1793. The warmth of the wooden floors, the view from its paned windows, and the bricks from many fireplaces add to its charm.

We welcome visitors to share this charm with us.

Walk in our yard, hike on the trails, tour the house, or just come and "sit a spell" under the Live Oak or Yaupon trees. You are always welcome.

The house is open Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday afternoons from 1:00- 4:00 pm.

FALL FESTIVAL



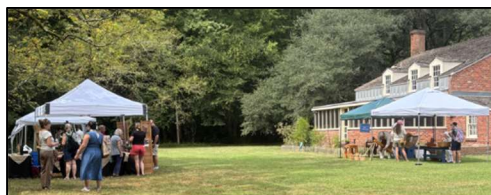
Fall Festival 2026 was hosted on Saturday, September 12th.

We were fortunate to host so many guests, crafters and artists that the booth spaces were extended to the south side of the house.

Even with the threat of rain the turnout was lively. Many new friends took tours of the house, and visitation at the booths was steady.

We enjoyed sharing the Whitehurst-Buffington House and spending time with the visitors who came out. We had fun with the four-legged companions too.

The WBHF is grateful to the guests who contribute so much to the festivities every year and to the crafters & artists who shared their talents.



See our Fall Festival pictures in Past Events 2026 Photo Folder on our FaceBook page or scan this QR code.



SPECIAL THANKS

To the City of Virginia Beach! In September City Arborist Ash Obernaus oversaw the selective pruning of our cherished Live Oak tree. The roof is safer and the tree is healthier.



The City is also currently working with the WBHF to finalize additional services and repairs that are needed.

To the Francis Land House! Recently clippings from their Herb Garden were shared with the WBHF for inclusion in our Kitchen Garden. Historically plants and seeds were often passed down within families, but they were also traded or shared within the local community. We appreciate the gardeners at the Francis Land House for continuing this tradition.

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

DONATIONS



Rebecca Whitson has donated two antique ladder back chairs that once belonged to her grandmother.

This type of chair gained popularity in the Edwardian era. We estimate Becky's chairs date to the late 1920s/early 1930s. We are excited to have them exhibited in the kitchen.

The WBHF looks forward to seeing the Tidewater Blacksmiths at the Fall Festival every year.



And, bonus for us, they always make something wonderful for the house. This year they crafted a candlestick holder! You can see it on display in the front foyer.



DID YOU KNOW

Most of our friends and members have had the pleasure of meeting Bob Clark. A member of the Itinerant Band, he has long played the hammered dulciner during our annual Holiday Open House.

What you may not know is Bob is an avid history buff whose annotated Virginia Beach maps of 1691, 1791 and 1891 were added to the Library of Congress collection in 2018.

The WBHF still has signed copies of these maps available at the house for a donation of only \$35 for an entire set.



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.

Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation

Holiday Open House

Sunday, December 6, 2026

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Period Decorating courtesy of the
Council of Garden Clubs Va. Beach

Live Music

Cookies and Cider

Admission is free

Donations are appreciated

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.