



Huntley Headlines

Friends of Historic Huntley

Spring 2009

Spring Open House

Sunday, May 17, 2009

2 to 4 p.m.

Puppet Show • 3 p.m.

Free • Rain or Shine!

Enjoy this semiannual opportunity to visit Historic Huntley, a Federal-style villa built in 1825 for Thomson F. Mason. The **Open House** features **guided tours, a scavenger hunt, and light refreshments**. Don't miss our **Puppet Show** entitled *A Day in the Life of the Mason Family*. Meet Sir James and the whole cast of characters.

Directions: Take Rt. 95 South (Beltway) to Exit 1; south on Richmond Highway (Rt. 1) for 3.5 miles; right onto Lockheed Blvd.; after 1/2 mile, turn right onto Harrison Lane; Huntley is 1/4 mile up the hill. ❖

Huntley Spruce-Up

Tuesday, May 12, 2 to 4 p.m.

Volunteers are sought for pruning, raking, sweeping, and tidying up the house. Please bring work gloves. Snacks and praise provided! Meet at Historic Huntley. 703.768.2525 to sign up. ❖

Dates to Note

May 3, 12 noon to 3 p.m.

Wetlands Awareness Day

October 18, 2 to 4 p.m.

Fall Huntley Open House

Construction Approval Pending— Let's Hope! Let's Hope!!!

If approved by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) Board at its April meeting, construction at Huntley actually may start this coming October! What good news that is! There are many to thank for moving this forward—folks at headquarters and staff at Huntley Meadows Park, but especially Congressman Jim Moran! Congressman Moran included \$100,000 for Huntley construction in the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. The Huntley funds will be administered by the National Park Service through the Save America's Treasures program. That funding plus the funds in the 2008 bond issue allocated to Huntley surely will put us over the top and make construction possible.

The exterior restoration of the main house will remove non-period additions on the north and west sides of the structure and reconstruct the exterior to appear as it did in the early 19th century. The exteriors of the outbuildings will be restored to the same period. The interior of the house will be renovated to provide public access for cultural programming including learning lab spaces and a public restroom in the basement level and exhibit rooms on the main level. The cost estimate for preparing the bid documents and completing the recommended scope of work is \$2,500,000.

If the FCPA approves the scope as presented, construction would start around October 2009 and be completed by June 2011. ❖

Nonstate Agency Grant

FCPA staff is investigating a variety of ways to spend the Nonstate Agency Grant funds by the June 30 deadline. This is a \$23,750 earmark from the 2007 state budget bill administered by the Virginia Department of Humanities.

The funds will be used for all or some of the following projects: restoration of the historic landscape, sign design and fabrication, and an electric cart required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The restoration of the historic landscape will follow the recommendations in the *Cultural Landscape Report* prepared by John Milner Associates for the FCPA. The view from the house will be enhanced by removal of selected trees. After restoration of the house is complete, period-appropriate and native plantings will be installed. The woods buffer between the site and the surrounding neighborhood will be retained, but there will be removal of invasive species. ❖

YES! Please sign me up for membership in Friends of Historic Huntley today!

Enclosed is my check for \$10.

New Member Renewing Member

Name: _____ Tel: Home: _____

Address: _____ Work: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

I'm also interested in volunteering in the following area(s):

Historic research Fundraising Special events General volunteer

For FOHH use only: *Date received:* _____ *Amount:* _____

Budget Concerns

The FCPA will vote on the final budget for FY2010 on April 27. As we are sure you are aware, reduced tax revenue has necessitated drastic cuts in the county budget. The parks were especially targeted for staff and funding cuts. Plans call for cutting some staff positions while others will be only funded at 50 percent, with parks required to raise the remaining amount to keep the positions. Seasonal staff would be cut 50 percent. Historic Huntley will not be directly affected, but cuts to Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) will indirectly affect Huntley. Friends of Huntley Meadows Park have been active in an effort to inform HMP users through flyers and by speaking in support of the park at public forums. The parks are a valuable resource that enhances our quality of life. Please give your support to Huntley Meadows Park. ❖

Events at Huntley Meadows Park

Wetlands Awareness Day. Learn about the importance of wetlands and experience their beauty. The kids' Fun Fair has games, prizes, and an old-fashioned cake walk. Sponsored by FOHMP. **Sunday, May 3, 12 noon to 3 p.m.**

"Ado About Nature," photography exhibition by **Jorja and Bob Feldman, through May 31.**

For more information: 703.768.2525, www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org. ❖

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HUNTLEY

P.O. Box 7241

Alexandria, VA 22307-0241

Address correction requested

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Huntley-Related Web Sites

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/histhunt/

<http://members.aol.com/fohhuntley>

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gmp/historichuntleyreport.pdf

www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org/

Huntley Headlines is produced by Friends of Historic Huntley, a local citizens group formed to assist Fairfax County in the restoration, preservation and utilization of Huntley and to enhance the public's knowledge of this historic villa.

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Mission Statement

Friends of Historic Huntley is dedicated to working in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority to preserve Historic Huntley for the benefit of the community and to:

- Support the appropriate use of the house and its site;
- Encourage and conduct research on its architecture and history; and
- Stimulate appreciation of our heritage through education and interpretation.

Address changes: Please send your mailing label with corrections clearly noted to: Friends of Historic Huntley, P.O. Box 7241, Alexandria, VA 22307-0241 or email FOHHuntley@aol.com.