

Sands Ring News

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Special points of interest:

- Museum's non-profit status as a 501c(3) organization
- Grant received, more needed
- New Educational Program Staff
- Infrastructure work underway
- Thanks to our members and volunteers
- Membership Application

*Sands Ring
Homestead Museum
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The Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum is a non-profit organization organized exclusively for educational purposes under Section 501 c(3).

The Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum

In April, 2007, The Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum received non-profit status as a 501 c (3) organization. Members of the Sands Ring Board felt it was time to update the organization so it could grow and move forward. In the 1950's, when the Board was first created, the 501 c(3) designation did not exist.

Now that The Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum has non-profit status, it can be more effective in helping to maintain and preserve this historic homestead. The building is owned by the Town of Cornwall and the Buildings and Grounds Department maintains the property.

Nearly 250 years old, the Old Homestead is showing its age. It's needs are many.

Throughout the Homestead's history concerned government officials, community members, Sands and Ring family descendants, and business organizations have rallied together to meet its needs.

The Friends organization provides a vehicle for obtaining grant money, for fundraising, for expanding our educational offerings, and for making the Museum more accessible to the community.

Our Wish List

As with any organization we have a list of future projects we believe are necessary for our museum to meet the needs of the community in the 21st century.

Our Wish List includes:

- New chimney liner and hearth repair in the Meeting Room
- Reinforcing the back wall of the Old Kitchen fireplace
- Modern bathroom that is handicapped accessible
- Converting the unused upstairs rooms into museum exhibit and office space

Museum Needs Grant Monies

It is the belief of the Board of Trustees of Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum that in order to maintain and expand the facilities at the Homestead, we will need to secure significant grant monies, including state, federal, and private.

Our museum recently received a Get Ready Grant from the Upstate History Alliance. Liselle LaFrance, a museum consultant who is also Director of Historic Cherry Hill in Albany, advised members of the Board on the importance of strategic

planning to include infrastructure, collections, research, and interpretive and educational programs.

Our next step is to apply for a Get Set Grant to continue our strategic planning process.

New Educational Program Staff

Our Board of Trustees approved the hiring of a new Educational Director and Assistant Director.

Our long-standing Director, Rose Hufford, retired after 20 years of service to the Colonial Education Program and the children it serves. The children will miss Rose's stories and her warm, compassionate demeanor. Rose was honored at the Board of Trustees meeting this summer and will be the guest of honor at her retirement dinner this month.

Sally Stanley is our new Director of Colonial Education. Sally comes to us with many years of experience,

as a previous Educational Program Director at Sands Ring Homestead Museum, as a former elementary school teacher, and as an accomplished educational writer. The Board of Trustees is excited to have Sally return in this critical year. Sally also serves as President of The Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum, our non-profit organization that supports our educational program and the museum.

Our new Assistant Director is Doris Wickiser. Doris' strong interest in history and her teaching experience make her a welcome addition to our educational team.

Our colonial education program has begun and is moving along well. The students are excited to learn about life in the 1700's.

As in the past, the students from CCSD are scheduled to visit us during the 2008-2009 school year. We have been receiving inquiries from nearby districts as well and we are in the process of scheduling visits for other students, too.

The Board of Trustees agrees that our Colonial Learning and Activity Programs should be offered to the community at large.

If you would like to volunteer, call us at 845-534-4829 or E-mail us at sandsringfriends@yahoo.com.

We have a lot of ideas for the upcoming year and we'd love to have your help!

Our Mini Wish List includes:

Yarn for our Educational Program

Thanks to Dale Conklin for fabric supplies!

Thanks to our Volunteers!

The Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum is very thankful for the support and assistance of our volunteers. We couldn't have hosted our seasonal open houses and our community events without them. In addition, this fall our volunteers have also helped us prepare educational program supplies and even helped us split our firewood! Thanks again to all!

Rayna Walters

Kate Vatter

Jim Goodwine

Colleen Zlock

Phil Cameron

Ann Smith

Brooke Garfinkel

Jayne Petterson

Kiernan McMahan

Floranne Moulton

Eileen Tulloch

Alma Mahan

Sally Mattausch

Infrastructure Work Underway

In the past six months significant work has been completed at the Homestead. The Town of Cornwall Buildings and Grounds team have led the work. A new chimney liner was installed in the Old Kitchen fireplace.

Additionally, the Old Kitchen received exterior repairs as well. New siding, window frame repairs, new shutters, and a fresh coat of paint completed the project. The Old Kitchen is ready for the winter of 2008.

Thanks to our corporate sponsors:

Becton Dickinson for new banners and printed materials

Adams Fairacre Farms for straw for our Scarecrow Activity

FRIENDS OF SANDS RING HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

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Sands Ring Homestead is one of the oldest Dutch colonial houses still standing in the Hudson Valley. The Homestead is open to the community during our seasonal Open Houses and during other events held throughout the year. Since the early 1970's students have participated in the living history programs at Sands Ring Homestead Museum.

Our Mission:

To foster an understanding of the colonial period by sharing stories of the Sands and Ring Families showing how one family lived and prospered in the Hudson Valley.

To provide hands-on-workshops in an historical 1760 homestead using original artifacts and reproductions to illustrate life in colonial America.

**Thank you to all of the members
of our Board of Trustees for
your service, support, and
encouragement!**

Board of Trustees Election

At our October Board of Trustees Meeting the executive board of officers was elected.

The members of the Board of Trustees are as follows:

President: Sally A. Stanley

Vice President: Margaret Vatter

Secretary: Bruce Stanley

Treasurer: Lidwin Goodwine

Trustees:

Rose Hufford

Vince Hufford

Elsa Cameron

Marjorie Krupa

Upcoming Events at Sands Ring Homestead Museum

Oct. 4 Fall Open House

November Cornhusk Angel
Workshop

December Open House

April/May Open House

July 4th Open House

Also, in the past we have hosted an Art Auction and the community Art Walk. We are planning more Art events in 2009....stay tuned!

We don't have our own website (yet), but you can check out our future events on the Town of Cornwall website.

www.cornwallny.gov

Future Eagle Scout Projects at Sands Ring

Two Boy Scouts, Matthew Sweet and Denis O'Keefe, have proposed Eagle Scout projects at Sands Ring Homestead Museum. They have been busy planning, estimating, and preparing their potential projects for review. If all goes smoothly, the Homestead will be spruced up in time for the spring season. We will share the details of their projects in our next newsletter.