



FMHA

FORT MILES HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
120 WILD RABBIT RUN
LEWES, DE 19958
(302) 645-0753

Winter Spring 2006

Welcome to the FMHA Spring 2006 Newsletter

I am happy to announce that we are the fastest growing historical society in Lewes, now numbering almost 400 members. There are only three historical societies in Lewes, including the Lewes Historical Society, the Lightship Overfalls Society, and FMHA. We are the newest and have grown from four members in August of 2003 to near 400 today. And, as of January 2006 we are the official Friends group of Fort Miles, as recognized by Delaware State Parks and Recreation. We are kicking off our new 2006 membership campaign so read the form enclosed and rejoin us!

There are some upcoming events and “things” that I would like to bring to your attention. First, Lee Jennings (Delaware Parks Historian) and I have just written a book on Fort Miles, entitled (this is not hard!) **Fort Miles**. It is an Arcadia regional history book and was just published last month. If you would like to purchase the book you can order it through me by mail by sending a check for \$23 and I will return to you a signed copy by mail. Or you can purchase it at your local bookstore. If you buy the book from us, all the proceeds including the book profits, go to FMHA. There will also be some book signings in local bookstores so watch closely in the local papers for dates and times.

I would also like you to put Monday evening, April 3, 2006 6-9 PM on your calendar as that will be an evening at the **Buttery** in Lewes just for FMHA members and members-to-be. The **Buttery** is giving us the entire restaurant for an evening with FMHA for kicking off our 2006 fundraising campaign, learning about what is going on at the Fort, book signings and general interaction among the group at one of the top beach eateries. There will be a cash bar. Tickets for the evening are \$30 for an individual and \$50 per couple. As with all FMHA items, since we are a 501c3 organization, you can deduct for IRS purposes. Call me at 645-0753 for tickets or send in the Evening at the Buttery Form enclosed with this newsletter.

You should also put the weekend of April 29-30 on your calendar also. On Saturday evening, April 29, we will have a 1943 dance at the Fort Miles Orientation Building from 8-11. We did this last year and it was a blast! The re enactors will be there in their WWII outfits as well as many dancers in the dress of the early 1940's. As last year, a swing band will do the music and a great time will be had by all! Call the Park Nature Center (645-6852) for reservations.

We are also looking for new members to the FMHA Board of Directors. Our Board presently consists of: David Main and Bob Frederick, cofounders; Ted George, secretary; Steve Hyle, treasurer; Bev Dalecki and Joe Johnson, members. We would like to expand the Board to at least ten members which means that three seats are open. If you would like to join us, please give me a call. We meet the third Saturday of the Month for about two hours to conduct FMHA business so that would be the time commitment.

FMHA is also going to participate in the Lewes Antique Shows this summer to sell our T-shirts, totes, hats, polo shirts and our books. Like last year, we will reserve a table and would ask FMHA members to volunteer during the two days (June 24 and August 5) and join us at the Lewes Historical Complex. If you would like to help us work the table during the two days, give me a call at 645-0753.

As to news concerning the Fort. The contractors have put the 12" gun carriage in the south gun block and within a month or so the big gun will be moved inside the bunker to much fanfare! The Americor students have been working to take the duct work down inside the bunker to clear out the corridor between to the two gun blocks where the museum is going to be located. Joe Johnson (and his secret helpers) has been working to get the Flak 20 mm cannon from U-853 in good working condition so we can use it as a static display inside the museum-to-be. So, things are progressing well. We will be assembling work teams for spring work both inside and outside the bunker as we did last year so if you would like to join us, call Joe Johnson at 645-1875/ 645-4503 or give me a call at 645-0753.

Well, that brings you up-to-date. Please visit our website at www.fortmilesa.org to find out more about what is happening and some new photos of FMHA. I am also enclosing our new 2006 Membership Application which is due by July 1.

Cheers!

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