



# FMHA

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

June 2006

## Welcome to the Newsletter of the Fort Miles Historical Association.

### *Membership Information*

Our FMHA membership continues to grow! We are now over 450 members which demonstrates the sincere interest folks have in both our organization and our mission. On April 3, 2006 we had a great evening at **The Buttery** in Lewes for over 100 members. Many thanks to John Donato for his help! We look to continue that evening next year and hope more can attend.

### *Upcoming Work Party June 17, 2006 1-5 PM/ Bunker Tour Training*

We have identified the above date as our next work party when we will be in the bunker to give it another cleaning up as well as work on some other projects such as painting the old recreation building and the static 155 mm display in the gun park. Call Joe Johnson at 645-4503 to sign up if you want to work. We will meet in the parking lot of the Park Office at 1 PM and I will distribute park passes for park entrance. Also, if you would like to be trained as a bunker tour guide, give me a call (645-0753) to register for training at the Biden Center from 1-3 PM June 17, 2006. This training will enable you to expertly give Bunker Tours during the year and we really need tour guides!

### *WWII Weekend in May/ Upcoming WWII Dance and Weekend*

We had another great WWII weekend at the Fort, April 29, 2006! Lots of folks turned out to visit the Cantonment, checked out our new Fort Miles Orientation Building, attended the 1943 Dance Saturday night, and saw all the neat things offered during the weekend. The weekend was so popular that we are going to repeat it again this summer. The next 1943 Dance at the Orientation Building will be Sat, July 29, 2006, 8-11 PM. Call the Park Nature Center for tickets (645-6852) and get your tickets early as the April 29th dance sold out quickly. Same time, same station.

### *FMHA Summer/ Fall Upcoming Events*

FMHA has signed up to have a presence at four important upcoming Lewes events, all at the Lewes Historical Complex, Saturdays, 9-4 PM. We will need two and preferably four FMHA members to run our table at the events to sell hats, shirts, books and memberships. If you would like to volunteer to work, please call Joe Johnson at 645-4503 and leave a message. The dates are

*Antique Shows*, June 24 and August 5, and *Craft Shows*, July 8 and September 30. Set up will begin at 8 AM. Parking will be off-street. Opening at 9 AM.

#### *Fort Miles Board of Directors*

Your FMHA Board meets at 8:30 AM every third Saturday of the month at Books by the Bay in Lewes to conduct official Association business. Your board has been expanded to match the increasing activity of FMHA and we would like to welcome our newest members: Ray Quillen, Joe Kosaveach, Merlin Beil and Brian Lindsay. Again, your other Board members are (and a big “Thank You” to all of them for their hard work): Ted George, Secretary; Steve Hyle, Treasurer; David Main; Bob Frederick, Bev Dalecki and Joe Johnson. And thanks to Lee Jennings, as always!

#### *Towers Campaign*

Bob Frederick and David Main are working to put together a capitol campaign to restore Fire Control Towers 7 (the Observation Tower in the Park) and Fire Control Tower 3, the southernmost tower at Dewey Beach. The plan will be to raise the money to make Tower 3 accessible to the public, and to restore and repair Tower 7 which is presently accessible but needs repair. They are working in tandem with the Friends group of the Indian River Lifesaving Station to bring this effort to completion.

#### *FMHA Thanks*

- \*To the Delaware and River Bay Commission for donating \$10K to further the goals of FMHA and a special thanks to Tommy Cooper and Bill Lowe.
- \*To member John Kelly for leading the WWII re enactors again during another successful WWII weekend.
- \*To Senator Gary Simpson for steering through the DE Legislature a \$25K grant to bring to the gun park an 8” railway gun as a static display.
- \*To FMHA Boar Member Joe Johnson for being chosen by Governor Minner the 2006 Volunteer of the Year for his efforts in Battery 519!
- \*To Board Member Joe Kosaveach for all his hard work on bringing to life one of the Fort Miles early mines for a static display in the new museum-to-be!
- \*To other contributors such as “Keith” and “Greg” who are working behind the scenes to bring the Flak 20 mm cannon from U-853 (the sister of U-858 that surrendered at Lewes on May 14, 1945) to life for a static display inside the museum.
- \*To Gary Wray and Lee Jennings , Park Historian, for writing the newest book on Fort Miles, entitled ...what else? Fort Miles (ISBN 0-7385-4195-8) published by Arcadia Publishing in 2005. All proceeds from the book go to FMHA. At all local bookstores or call 645-0753 for a copy.

Thanks for your support!

Dr. Gary D. Wray, President