

Times in Toano



Volume 2 Issue 2

Summer 2021

Newsletter
of the
Toano
Historical
Society

A Letter from Jack Wray THS President



Dear Friends of Toano Historical Society,

I believe Toano has what it takes to become a great destination. We have our own distinctive history, an array of nice looking historic buildings, and a growing community spirit. People want authenticity where they work and live, and Toano fits the bill. Downtowns are expected to have attractive streets that are pedestrian friendly so people can park and walk safely to unique shops and restaurants. We have a ways to go, but we will get there.

There are streetscape improvements coming to the Village center in 2022. The new proposed median and crosswalk will have a traffic calming effect and add visual appeal.

On the homefront -- Toano Open Air Market is alive and well, adding new vendors all the time. Virginia Bread Company is opening their bakery in the fall. Lucky Junque's 3rd Annual Vintage Market is happening October 9th. James City and Bruton Volunteer Fire Station #1 will be having its annual fish fry October 9. Pumpkinville will return. Hickory Neck Church is having its Fall Festival on Saturday, November 6th. Be on the lookout for a new business opening, Jolly Pond Hardwoods. They will sell local live edge slabs in the historic Wilkinson House (most recently Ballalva).

Coming to Toano! THS will host National Speaker Ed McMahon, former chair of Main Street America's Board of Directors. He will be speaking on historic preservation and community revitalization. His presentation will be tailored to the revitalization needs of Toano. Please see more details about this exciting Fall Members Event on page 2 of this newsletter.

Enjoy and thank you for your support!

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Jack Wray".



Toanohistoricalsociety.org

Contact us at:

info@toanohistoricalsociety.org

(757) 741-5010

PO Box 433
Toano, Virginia 23168

Copyright © 2020

Become a Member of THS!

If you would like to support the work of the Toano Historical Society, please consider becoming a member.

Annual Membership Cost:

\$25 Individual, \$35 Family, \$55 Business

Membership Benefits

- 10 % discount on THS merchandise
- Early notification of THS events and invitations to THS Members Events
- Support the mission of THS to inspire a new sense of community spirit, promote interest in our history, and preserve our small town character

To receive information on how to join

- Sign up at the THS table at the Toano Open Air Market
- Email membership@toanohistoricalsociety.org



THS Fall Presentation for THS Members and Invited Guests October 21, 2021

THS is hosting an event this Fall for THS members and special guests. Ed McMahon, the former chair of Main Street America and current chair of Sustainable Development and Economic Policy for the Urban Land Institute in Washington, DC will be the guest speaker. He will be speaking on historic preservation and community revitalization. Event invitations will be sent to THS members, community leaders, county officials, and other stakeholders.

For more information on becoming a member, see the article above. Become a member of THS today! You don't want to miss this special program!



Save the Date! 3rd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Saturday, November 27, 2021

Mark your calendar for this special event! We are pleased to announce that the 3rd annual Toano Christmas Tree Lighting will be held November 27 on the Toano Village Green.

We are in need of volunteers for this event in the areas of event planning, decorating, kids activities, vendor/entertainment management, and parking, amongst other things. If you would like to learn more about helping with this special community event, contact Deidre McAuley-Hayes at info@toanohistoricalsociety.org.

THS Merchandise at the Toano Open Air Market

THS merchandise is available for purchase at the Toano Open Air Market. Items include *The History and Revitalization of Toano* and note-cards featuring paintings of old Toano buildings by Toano artist Bill Shockley. We also have T-shirts, hats, watercolor note cards by former Toano resident Louanne Martin, and the 2nd edition of *From Toano to Germany and Back*. And be sure to check out our most popular item, peacock feathers from Fred Boelt's peacocks!



Meet the THS Board Members

Periodically we will provide a profile of a Board Member. This issue we feature Deidre McAuley-Hayes, THS Board Member-at-Large. Deidre also serves as the THS Volunteer Coordinator and Program & Events Coordinator.



Deidre McAuley-Hayes is originally from Troy, a small town in Montgomery County, North Carolina. Upon getting married in 2014, she and her husband Keith decided to make Toano their home because of its small-town charm. Together they have four children, Jarel, Christopher, Malachi and Hezekiah. Keith is retired from the U.S. Air Force and currently works as a Government Contractor for the Military.

Deidre previously worked as an Electrical Engineer at Newport News Shipbuilding for several years prior to attending law school at Regent University in Virginia Beach. She is an Attorney and has been practicing Intellectual Property law for the past 18 years. She is also an avid horsewoman and the owner of ShowAssist, a mobile app company that enables on-demand hiring of experienced horse care providers providing temporary assistance to Equestrians while at competitions across the US and Canada. She enjoys traveling and spending time with her family, friends, and church.

Deidre is a Board Member at-large for the Toano Historical Society. She is also the Volunteer Coordinator and Programs & Events Coordinator for THS. Her focus is to help find ways to advance the revitalization of Toano and to bring our community together.



Volunteers Needed for THS Events

Are you a good organizer?

Have experience with event planning?

Then we can use your help!

THS is currently seeking volunteers for our Programs and Events Planning Committee. If interested, contact Deidre McAuley-Hayes at info@toanohistoricalsociety.org.

Toano Spotlight

Friends of Forge Road and Toano

By Linda Rice, F.O.R.T. President



Friends of Forge Road and Toano (F.O.R.T.) is a nonprofit group founded in 2004 by concerned citizens in Upper James City County. We work to promote the preservation of rural lands, enhance awareness of the area's historic significance, and support agri-tourism.

F.O.R.T. has initiated several actions that complement the work of the Toano Historical Society (THS), including, among others:

1. Obtained approval from the Board of Supervisors for the 2006 Toano Streetscapes and Design Guidelines study to provide direction for future improvements in Toano. This study was used as a starting point for the restoration of the historic village of Toano and its recent designation as a National Historic Commercial District.
2. Secured funding from James City County for the two "Welcome to Toano" signs and landscaping in the median on Richmond Road.
3. Prepared a "Times in Toano" photo exhibition which depicts early life, farmhouses, and commercial buildings from the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. These photos are now displayed in the Martin Store.

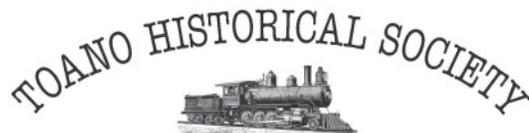
The establishment of the THS by the Wray family and the activities of F.O.R.T. have resulted in more recognition by County officials of the importance of preserving the historic and rural character of our area. We urge all Upper County residents to join both organizations to continue to make our voices heard.

For More Information about F.O.R.T. contact Linda Rice at lindarice678@cox.net

Toano Historical Society

PO Box 433

Toano VA 23168



Toano Historical Society Board of Directors

President, Jack Wray

Secretary, Richard Krapf

Treasurer, Susan Kohlman

Historian, Fred Boelt

Newsletter and Website, Tim and Patte Martin

Board Member-At-Large, Deidre McAuley-Hayes

Volunteer and Programs & Events Coordinator, Deidre
McAuley-Hayes

Social Media Chair, Emmalyn Carter