

# Historic Petersburg FOUNDATION, INC.

Fall 2020

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## President's Message



Louis Malon

What a year it has been! I feel safe in assuming that none of us has lived through a sudden confluence of pandemic, thorough economic disruption and shifts in cultural awareness issues such as we have experienced in the last six months. These are indeed historic times and I hope you are making note of your personal experiences and thoughts in the midst of all this. Future historians when they look back at our times as we look back at earlier times and wonder "What were they thinking and feeling?" and "What were the experiences and conditions for everyday folks in the midst of these whirls of history?" So, however you capture your memories, make a special effort to do so in these times.

Not only everyday people have been affected, but all cultural and non-profit institutions have as well. HPF missed out on some great events in the spring and summer. We lost our annual meeting, our planned bus trip to Jamestown, the member's luncheon and most of the planned historic district walking tours.

But I hope you will see in this newsletter that we are rallying back and carrying on. There are a number of events planned and anticipated in the coming months, most of which are highlighted in this issue. But, as we have learned, things change. So, please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for updates on plans. There is a lot of pent-up energy and thirst for shared experiences. HPF will do everything we can to provide opportunities for these to happen right here in Petersburg.

Thank you for your continued support and Encouragement. I certainly look forward to seeing you all in person, out and about in Petersburg very soon!

Louis Malon

*Our mission is  
"to lead the  
preservation  
and restoration of  
Petersburg's historic  
architecture, and  
neighborhoods and to  
tell their story."*

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## HPF WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEES TO THE BOARD

We are pleased to announce the addition of six new members to the Board of Trustees. Our newest Board members embody the spirit of community and bring talent, expertise and energy to the table. They joined the HPF Board in May and are on a mission “to lead the preservation and restoration of Petersburg’s historic architecture, and neighborhoods and to tell their story.”



**Lisa Bergstrom** is a consultant working with Tribal Communities and cultural institutions across the country on projects regarding cultural heritage, preservation and capacity building. She worked for Preservation Virginia for five years, which brought her to Petersburg. She is married to Ric, and they have three boys. Lisa enjoys sailing, gardening, travel and my two huskies!



**Lisa Vaughan Jordan**, Ph.D. serves as a professor of history and political science at Southside Virginia Community College. Her degrees focus on history, education, and public administration with additional certifications in local governance and archaeology. For the last decade, she has been very involved in historic preservation work and is a board member of PPTF and member of the Petersburg Architectural Review Board.



**Jason Lamb** has been burdened by a passionate, long-term home restoration with no end in sight. He has been in Petersburg off and on since 1987 and works as a digital product designer.



**Dino Lunsford** is the owner and founder of Old Towne’s Alibi; owner and founder of DF Lunsford Construction; owner and founder of Lunsford Holdings, LLC; owner of Primo Partners, LLC; Co-Chair of Petersburg’s Architecture Review Board and the founder of Downtown Thunder Inc. (501c non-profit).



**Marcus Squires** is a teacher in the Petersburg City Public Schools. Marcus fell in love with Petersburg’s beautiful architecture and is part of the effort to create a new historic district in the Walnut Hill neighborhood.



**Kyle Tucker** When Kyle and his wife, LeAnn, are not cruising around Lake Chesdin in their pontoon boat or walking their dog, Avery, around a local park or battlefield, they run a medical billing business, Dexios Corporation. Kyle’s interest in historic preservation comes from a life-long fascination with Virginia history. He hopes to raise the profile of the amazing history of Petersburg through a public relations campaign with a focus on video story-telling.

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## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR FY 2020-2021

THANK YOU to all the members who have renewed their memberships for this year!! We understand it is a very uncertain and unsettling time right now. HPF is planning many events that will not only help our beautiful city retain the historical fabric of Petersburg but will also give you reasons to get out (within all health guidelines!!) and enjoy each other!

We cannot function without our great members supporting us each and every day. Please send in your membership and be a part of this very important Foundation.

***HPF NEEDS YOU!!!***

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we were not able to hold the Annual Membership Meeting in April. We missed you! Hopefully, we can get together later this year to recognize these achievements in historic preservation.

## 2020 PRESERVATION AWARDS

**Preservation Volunteer Award** – Bill Hartsock

**Governmental / Public Servant Award** – Kate Sangregorio

**Craftsman / Artisan Awards:**

Lee Ballenger – 405 Cross Street

Robert Hutson – 1021 W. High Street

**Petersburg Heritage Award** – Gregg Kimball

**Charles J. DuBois Sustaining Preservationist Award** – Joseph Miller

**Special Achievement Award** – Bob and Bobbi Kennedy

**Architectural Preservation & Restoration Awards:**

405 Cross Street by Dana Ballenger

734 Harrison Street by Rebuilding Together Richmond

1021 West High Street by William Fitzhugh

20 North Sycamore Street by Carlos Colindtes

233 North Sycamore Street by Larry Murphy

404 North Sycamore Street by Richard Cuthbert

## TECHNOLOGY GRANT AWARDED TO HPF

In May, The Cameron Foundation approved a COVID-19 emergency grant of \$3,950 to HPF. This grant is for the purchase of technology equipment, audio-visual tools and software to help increase the technological capacity of HPF so that we may provide virtual programming amid the pandemic. HPF Board member Kyle Tucker is leading this project with two college interns. This is exciting new territory for HPF! Check out HPF's Facebook page for videos.

## UPDATE ON THE EXCHANGE BUILDING PROJECT

On July 21, the Petersburg City Council unanimously adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HPF to allow us to proceed with the renovations at the Exchange Building. Last year, the National Park Service awarded HPF a \$350,000 Saving Americas Treasures grant to undertake the work. The Cameron Foundation made a matching grant of \$300,000 contingent on some conditions, including a working agreement with the City to support the project. As of this writing, how that support will be structured is still under discussion.

HPF has established an Oversight Committee, under the chairmanship of Martha Atkinson, to ensure the project is successful. A contract for additional investigation of the current condition of the building and refining the corrective measures needed is underway. This month, we will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a team to undertake a Historic Structures Report (HSR). This document will provide the discoverable history of the building, its construction and use through time. Most importantly, it will also lay out the preservation priorities so the measures addressed in the grant application can be most effectively and efficiently accomplished.

This is a multi-year and multi-phase undertaking but will provide Petersburg with a much better understood and preserved National Historic Landmark. Public programs to share the information uncovered and plans made will be held. HPF is grateful to the National Park Service, the Cameron Foundation, the City and all who have assisted in getting this project approved and underway!



## MOONLIGHT MAGIC BALL IN THE 'BURG



On Leap Day, Saturday, February 29, 2020 HPF celebrated 50 years of man's reaching the moon at the Moonlight Magic Ball in the 'Burg at The Country Club of Petersburg. Michelle Olgers served as Emcee to the sold - out crowd of 165 guests. Auctioneer Chip Jones entertained everyone with his energy and exciting style that encouraged top bidding during the Live Auction. The astrology readings by Nathan Brown were a popular part of the evening activities.

For the first time, HPF offered online bidding for auction items thanks to Lucia Malon, who did an out of this world job to make this possible. This expanded bidding beyond guests who attended the fundraiser and was well received. Another new aspect to the fundraiser that has increased participation in recent years is the raffle.

For the Moonlight Magic Ball in the 'Burg, the raffle prize was a trip to the space coast including admission to the Kennedy Space Center. The Ball in the 'Burg is a fun way to support HPF's mission, but in order for this event to lift off successfully, there were many small steps and giant leaps behind the scenes.

We are grateful to the volunteers who devoted hours and hours to this event, to those who donated wonderful items to the auctions, to the guests who turned out in creative costumes and to the heavens above for a magical night before COVID-19 came into our world.

### Moonlight Magic Event Sponsors:

- NASA – Cockade City LLC, D.F. Lunsford Construction, Few Made Jewelry, The Progress-Index, Ken Pritchett, Weichert Realty, City Treasurer Ken Pritchett and Patty
- The Astronauts – The Branch Family, Colonial Honda, Dr. Bill Irvin, Mr. Dean McCray, Roslyn Farm Corporation
- The Launcher – Dr. and Mrs. Bill Irvin, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Malon, Mrs. Patty Pritchett
- The Flight Crew – Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Lee, J.T. Morriss & Son, Inc., WashZone
- The Simulators – Joyner Paint & Frame, LLC, Petersburg Revival, LLC
- Donations – Ms. Martha A. Burton, Dr. Barbara Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Leonard, III and Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Rizzo.

*Thank you for supporting the 15th*



The photo album from the 15th Ball in the 'Burg can be seen on HPF's Facebook page.



## FALL WALKING TOURS

A series of walking tours in historic neighborhoods was scheduled for March through May, but these plans had to be changed due to the pandemic. HPF was able to hold a walking tour in Old Towne on March 21st with Michelle Murrills as the guide. Then, on June 13th, after the state restrictions were lifted, HPF held a second walking tour on High Street with Bob Kennedy and Tom Redfern as guides. We have been very pleased with the attendance for both of these tours that have been offered at no charge to the participants. HPF will lead four walking tours in October.



## USED BOOKS FOR SALE

Last summer HPF acquired an extensive collection of books from member Joan Black. They have been offered for sale at several HPF events and on our Facebook page. If you've exhausted your collection of reading material while staying at home due to the coronavirus, we invite you to check out this collection.

You can come browse the collection safely by appointment Or if you would like to purchase a book listed on Facebook, we can arrange a no contact sale where you can pay and pick up your book(s) from HPF's headquarters Wednesday -Friday.

There is a wide variety of used books at great prices!



## REPAIRS TO THE PETER JONES TRADING STATION



The time has come to address several issues at these stone ruins in the Old Towne Historic District. HPF plans to tackle the work in three phases and thanks to a grant from the Emma E. Bogart Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, work can begin soon.

**PHASE 1** will be an immediate re-grading of the foundation to prevent groundwater from spilling along the eastern most wall. Years of this overflow have allowed the bricks to exfoliate and degrade. While this is not yet a structural concern, to leave it unaddressed will allow the deterioration to persist. HPF plans to channel the groundwater away from the building through grading the soil and gravel that meet the walls away from the structure. Then, using the natural grade to allow it to flow into the street gutters intended to channel storm water into the municipal drainage system. This process will require the temporary removal of the iron fencing currently in place and will allow for a rethinking of how best to position a fence to protect the building but also allow maximum public access to the building at the street grade along Grove Avenue.

**PHASE 2** will address the exposed bricks in the existing endings of the standing walls.

These bricks were not intended to be exposed in this way and having them unsealed has allowed moisture, vegetation and other debris to get into the walls and the cavity encouraging and accelerating the deterioration of the bricks. With advice of preservation professionals, we will either seal the existing configuration using an appropriate lime mortar based concrete parge, or use additional historic bricks to finish off the walls with and end capped stepped off to approximate the contours of the existing ruin profile. Depending on the approach determined to be the most protective of the bricks with the least impact on the contours of the site, this may be a phase that extends beyond this first year.

**PHASE 3** will enhance the existing parking area by removing existing vegetation that has encroached on the entire area, refreshing the gravel parking space and replacing concrete parking bumpers to better define the parking spaces available.



## UPCOMING HPF EVENTS

### GROVE AVENUE WALKING TOUR:

October 17 at 10 am - Park behind the Peter Jones Station.

The tour will begin and end from this lot.

There is no charge for this activity.

### BRUNSWICK STEW FUNDRAISER:

October 17 from 10 am - Noon at the Peter Jones Trading Station, 508 McNeil's Alley.

\$8 a quart

Order yours today at [www.historicpetersburg.org](http://www.historicpetersburg.org)

### POPLAR LAWN WALKING TOUR:

October 24 at 10 am - Park in the IGA grocery store lot.

The tour will begin and end from this lot.

There is no charge for this activity.

## OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

In August, representatives of the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce approached HPF with the possibility of moving their operations across Washington Street into the Shirley T. VanLandingham Headquarters building. After many years at 325 East Washington Street, the Chamber decided to offer that building for sale and seek other administrative and meeting space. HPF has designed the renovation of 318-320 East Washington Street for just such an opportunity. We currently utilize the west side of the building for our administrative offices and occasionally use the upstairs rooms for Board and committee meetings.

In late August, after agreeing on lease terms, the Chamber moved across the street and now occupies the east side of the building. They also outfitted the two large upstairs rooms with conference tables that allow for a shared use of that meeting space. This opportunity spurred us to have several maintenance issues on our building addressed, including various wall repair and painting, rear door and deck repairs and ensuring that all HVAC units are functioning properly and efficiently. We continue to provide an administrative office for the Petersburg Preservation Task Force, now located on the second floor on the east side of the building.

Having the Chamber within the same building allows HPF to strengthen the partnership with that organization. The Chamber, founded in 1881, continues to build upon its 135 years of promoting economic vitality in the Petersburg region by fostering business growth; educating its members and the community; and advocating legislation to influence public policy. Pam Allen, current president of the Chamber stated “The move of the office will allow us to respond to the future demands of the Chamber while being intentional about building relevant programs and services for our members and the community. We will be located in the building with Historic Petersburg Foundation which allows us to continue to serve our members while partnering with another longstanding, reputable Petersburg non-profit.”

While the initial least term is for one year, we look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce.

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**We support the mission of Historic Petersburg Foundation in the restoration of the City of Petersburg, one house at a time.**



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### *Office Hours*

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

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