



THE MUSEUM WILL BE RE-OPENING TO VISITORS EVERY SATURDAY BEGINNING MARCH 16TH, 2024, DURING THE HOURS OF 10:00 AM UNTIL 2:00PM. PLEASE COME AND VISIT AND SEE THE CHANGES THAT ARE TAKING PLACE!

<https://www.mathesvamuseum.org/>



NEXT MOVIE NIGHT

Come join us in our new Media Room—the 2nd Friday of the month beginning MARCH 8th. Doors open at 5:30, movie starts at 6:00 Remember the county and state fairs from the 1950s through the 1970s? The musical, “State Fair,” will be this month’s featured movie. We are showcasing this particular movie, as it relates to our May Faire 2024 theme, “A Rural Life,” focusing on farming, fishing, and families. Visit www.mathesvamuseum.org for more information.



DEBUTING THE NEWLY REFURBISHED MEDIA ROOM

Movie Night at the Museum, February 16, marked the Museum’s grand reopening of our media room. A receptive crowd enjoyed a movie and reception and ribbon cutting in the almost finished and refurbished room, which has surround sound, and new seating. Yet to be completed are the restored windows which will soon feature original work by local artists.



MUSEUM RECOGNIZES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Recognizing Black History Month, the Museum's front window as well as on the inside walls, featured photographs and artifacts of black men and women who made history in Mathews. Two events were also a part of the month's activities. The first, was the debut of "Loving," an HBO documentary film from the 1950's about an interracial couple's struggle for legal recognition of their marriage. The second event was a Sunday, February 25 performance by both the men's and women's choirs of the local Ebenezer Baptist Church, followed by a reception. It was an exhilarating afternoon, with a totally captivated and appreciative audience.



MUSEUM RECOGNIZES JOHN CARAMIA FOR HIS SERVICE

The reopening of the Mathews Historical Museum's media room included acknowledgement of one of the Museum's early leaders, former Chairman John Caramia. Current Museum President Tom Robinson, (on the left), presents Caramia with an award for his nearly eight years of service dedicated to the development of the organization. Caramia took the helm of the Museum, in his retirement, after over 30 years of experience in curatorial management and museum experience, including Colonial Williamsburg.



HELP IS ONLY A FACEBOOK POST AWAY—AND MANY “THANKS” ARE DUE!

Volunteers quickly RSVP'd to a Facebook request for assistance during the recent renovation of the Museum's media room. There were painters and carpenters and handymen, all responding to our call for assistance, with a looming deadline of February 16 for the grand reopening. One of the respondents, construction volunteer Shenan Hostetter, is a VDOT employee who is granted paid leave by her employer to work with charitable organizations. How lucky for us! Shenan built the frame for the rear theatre wall and worked on and painted some of the window sashes. She has her own business, “All Seasons,” specializing in trim work. Nino Acuna finished painting the windows, reinstalled them and cleaned the glass. Joe Arnold helped build the display windows and worked with Kenny Childress to install the video projector and hook up the electricity for the projector, computer, DVD player and sound system. Joe and Alex Ribencoff did considerable electric work throughout the building. Alex also provided the scaffolding to work on the projector installation and to repair the sagging ceiling in the front room so that the room could be painted, and the track lighting installed. And a special “shout out” is due to the Paulett Painting company for volunteering an ENTIRE painting crew to prepare and paint our new movie room. And a special thanks to two anonymous donors, and the Colemans and Trinkles for helping provide the new carpeting. It looks great! You will have to come and “see it to believe it!”



MAY FAIRE 2024: “A RURAL LIFE,” SATURDAY, MAY 4, IS SPONSORED BY THE MATHEWS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Volunteers are already hard at work on May Faire 2024, our county's spring heritage festival! Family, fishing, and farming are the underlying themes for “A Rural Life,” on the Court Green, May 4, 9:00am until 4:30pm. This year's festival will definitely take on a “county fair” atmosphere which will showcase Mathews' very rural way of life—the people, their histories, their agriculture heritage, and their stories—both past and present. The day will open up with the Big Red Fire Engine sounding its horn, and local children's choruses performing. There will be the traditional May Pole Dance, a mini-children's farm with hatching baby chicks, and arts and crafts and food booths, antique farm engines, music on stage including the Flat Tones, and a very special feature, nationally acclaimed entertainer Johnathan Austin and his “24 Hour Emergency Juggling and Magic Service.”

JOIN US IN THE PLANNING! WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT!
WE'RE ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Contact <mailto:mathewsmayfaire@gmail.com> or call 804-725-3983.

CRAFTS OR FOOD VENDOR? There are still openings.

Apply at www.mathewsvamuseum.org or call 804—384-3255.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION NOW...WATCH FOR OPENING NEWS!

The products, memorabilia and artifacts that were once in the Thomas (Tommy) Hunley General Store are being recaptured and restored in a General Store Exhibit which is under construction now. All items in the store are from Mathews County and the actual construction on the new General Store is being done by Ray Hunley, son of Mr. Hunley. Watch for information about the store's debut, at www.mathewsvamuseum.org

