

THE NORTH BREVARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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OFFICERS

President - Bill Baldwin
Vice President - Debbie Coughlin
Secretary - Judy Davis
Treasurer - Linda Siano

DIRECTORS

Gini Campbell
Michael Knight
Katie McQuade
Ed Mezick
Susan Nelson
Esther Vulpus
Herman Wattwood, Jr

AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

(Newsletter Editor – Judy Davis)

President's Message by Bill Baldwin

What constitutes the “best of times” and the “worst of times”? In my opinion, the “best of times” revolves around all of you and your support for this Museum. The “worst of times” appears to be now as we all fight the coronavirus and everything that it affects. This coronavirus has certainly had a major impact in the operation of the Museum. The Board decided to close the Museum in March, remain as cautious as possible and keep the Museum closed until a time we felt it was safe. In March, we felt we would probably close for a couple of months and let this problem pass. That didn't exactly work out as planned since we thought we could get rid of the virus and get back to normal. However, we found that the tail (virus) was wagging the dog. No way could we have realized that this pandemic would be this massive. Even at the state and national levels, the impact was a surprise. Regardless, the state of the Museum is in a quandary.



This is where it really gets messy. The Board just held a pseudo-board meeting (via the internet) to try and determine what is in our future, at least

through 2020. I summarized all the major remaining “happenings” into the groups that follow:



Museum Opening

Any date would be subjective and will probably change anyway. The Board consensus is that we should not open before late this year or early next year, depending on the virus itself and/or availability of a vaccine. Areas of consideration include: (1) use and supply of PPE equipment; (2) do we do temperature checks or not?; (3) do we wear/issue masks and observe distancing rules?; (4) how do we sanitize toilets after each use; and (5) how will it impact us “older” docents, health-wise. *If you think about it, keeping a 6 foot separation could be an issue with Margaret and Vickie.* 😊



Board Meetings

Board meetings are subject to the same issues defined under the Museum Opening section. At a minimum, we would need a meeting at least 30 days prior to re-opening the Museum but we want to do it as safely as possible. Linda Siano is still keeping our bills paid (mostly at home) and Herman Wattwood will remain the head of our postal delivery service. The rest of us are in a hurry-up and wait mode.



Members Meetings

Again, the Board has elected to cancel all remaining Membership meetings in 2020. The health of all our members is at the heart of this decision. Besides, Dixie Crossroads has their own set of rules and would not be able to handle a “group” seated in a close meeting proximity. In this case, our best vehicle for information is to keep in contact with all members by our newsletter.



Helen O'Flanagan Durian

by [Margaret Miller Vessels](#)

A wonderful oral history of the life of **Helen O'Flanagan Durian**. Helen is a prominent member of our Museum. Her parents owned *O'Flanagan Furniture* in historical downtown Titusville and honeymooned at Dummitt Castle. Her Father was also an electrician and sometimes risked his life during a hurricane by fixing the old Walker Bridge when the draw wouldn't open. Thanks to Roz Foster and Mike Boonstra of the Brevard Historical Commission for this wonderful interview. (**YouTube video can be viewed using this link: <https://youtu.be/yOsMqo2vGBU>)



Helen O'Flanagan Durian



BBQ at Fox Lake

This is a tough one. Even if we jump through all the hoops to do all the planning, we stand an excellent chance of being upended by the resurgence

of the coronavirus (or its cousin). Even with no resurgence, a lot of “our” people would be afraid to gather in a setting such as Fox Lake Park. Also, displayers and demonstrators would probably back out. The rental of the pavilion at Fox Lake from North Brevard Rec Department is also an issue and the usage could be rescinded with the closure of the park. Director Susan Nelson (event coordinator) agrees that all resources and people would be pushed beyond their limits. Maybe we can try again in 2021.



Docent Appreciation Luncheon

The spring of 2020 was selected as a time to honor those docents who spend much time and energy to support the Museum. About a year ago, Betty Mattingly said she would like to underwrite that event and gave us a check to do just that. Therefore, the Board felt that we should move it into 2021 at a date to be defined. I even think Betty would have agreed that postponing it would be best.



Volunteer of the Year

Looks like *Erich Konjevich* and *Margaret Vessels* will need to hold that distinction for another year. Since there were two winners last year, maybe it's fitting to hold that distinction for two years. The award is normally given out in April anyway.

Election of Officers

The election of Officers and Directors is slated for this year. The Board unanimously agreed that all Board members remain at the same position until 2021. Basically, we lost this past year. Since the By-Laws define the fact that elections be held every two years, a motion is needed to alter that. Herman Wattwood made a motion (via telecom) that “All Officers/Directors retain their current position for another year due to the 2020 Covid virus impact”. Mike Knight seconded this motion (via telecom). All Board members concurred and agreed to extend.



Facilities Updates

There is one good thing about being shut down.

We can get some time-consuming work done on a non-interference basis. Such is the case with Room 2 which now has a new air conditioner/heater mounted on the roof. The installer was Jay's AC & Heating. Jay's was chosen due to being well recommended in addition to having a significantly lower bid which included a 10 year warranty (everyone else had 5 years). Don't know if everyone knew it but our old unit had a pretty good size hole in it.



In case you didn't know it, the Museum has dry-wood termites (the flying kind) again. They appear to be in the wall between Rooms 1 and 2. None of the termite people could find traces anywhere else. They all agreed that the only way to guarantee all the critters are killed is to tent (then gas) the entire building. However, that meant that the entire city block would need to be tented since we are interconnected. That's not going to happen! APEX Termite Control was selected but said we would need to remove all the Room 2 paneling on the west wall for access to the wood. So, the wall (and ceiling tile) was removed and trashed. The treatment was completed July 24th and now we are in process of replacing the wall, painting it and replacing ceiling tile. Eight months ago, APEX told us then they felt we should remove the wall for best access but that would have shut us down for a couple of weeks so we elected to try a "spot treatment" and hope that would fix the problem. Guess that didn't happen. The problem was bigger than we thought. Just hope none of them have decided to take up residence in some of our wood furniture.



Room 2 west wall sans paneling

Additionally, Room 4 has undergone a few changes. The tool area has been revamped utilizing the Pritchard display case. The shelf that held a few tools has been moved to the south wall. There, the shelves have been transformed into a usable document display for easy access by visitors.



Room 4 display shelving



[Dr. Patricia Cripe Manning](#)
[August 27, 1928 ~ May 26, 2020](#)

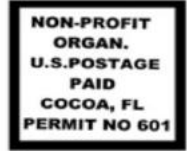
Our hearts are again saddened as we have lost another friend and major Museum supporter. Pat was a primary donor when we were seeking financial backing for the mural. Also, she kept us supplied with *The History of North Brevard*, a book which incidentally was written by her husband, John Manning, and Bob Hudson. We will miss her.



Dr. Patricia Cripe Manning



North Brevard Historical Museum
301 South Washington Avenue
Titusville, FL 32796



OR PRESENT OCCUPANT



Check us out on Facebook and on our website below. If you wish to be added to any of our occasional e-mails, please contact us. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments at all.

Email: titusvillemuseum@aol.com
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