



MUSEUM NEWS

Investigating, Collecting & Preserving the History of Essex & Middle River

Upcoming Schedule

May 2021 Events

General Meeting:
Thursday, May 6 at 7 pm

Opening Day:

Saturday, May 22, 2021
11 am to 1 pm
Theme: First Responders
Appreciation Day & Tours

June 2021 Events:

General Meeting:
Thursday, June 3 at 7 pm

Flag Day Event & Tours:

Sunday, June 13
11 am to 1 pm

July 2021 Events:

General Meeting:
Thursday, July 1 at 7 pm

Christmas in July & Tours:

Sunday, July 25
12 to 4 pm

August 2021 Events:

General Meeting:
Thursday, August 5 at 7 pm

ESSEX DAY FESTIVAL:

Saturday, September 18

**Events subject to change.



Welcome Back!

The Heritage Society of Essex & Middle River is really excited to relaunch our newsletter this month! It's been some time since our last newsletter, so we are looking forward to reconnecting with our community and letting everyone know the great things happening at the Heritage Society. As we prepare to open to the public this season, we've decided to make some changes to our schedule. Instead of being open every Saturday from April - November for tours, we will be featuring one event per month on different days of the week so more people have the opportunity to experience what our little Museum in the heart of Essex has to offer. They may not all be as big as our annual Essex Community Christmas Tree Lighting, but we hope they will be just as enjoyable for you! Keep an eye out for First Responders Appreciation Day, Haunted Happenings, Christmas in July and more! We thank you for being a Friend of the Heritage Society, and if you're not already a member, please consider joining us. Thank you all for your support!

Lisa

Lisa Harlow, President

Building Updates

By: Sandy Gruz

It has been quite some time since our friends in our community have been able to visit the museum due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have made some changes over this period for the betterment of our facility and our community.

Outdoors: At present we are working with the county on repair of some of the pavers in the front of the building. We also removed a dead tree, and we are working on approval from the county to replace and/or repair potholes and blacktop on our rear parking area. We also made much needed electrical repairs to the outdoor electrical outlets.

Indoors: We have replaced the floor in our Meeting Room and replaced some of the older cabinets in that area as well. This room is available for rental to our community in 2 to 4 hour time slots for a nominal fee. If you are interested in renting this room for a meeting, a baby shower, a birthday, etc., please contact me for availability at 410-812-2842.

Also, we are working on a new exhibit that will be remarkably interesting to our older visitors in the community. Please watch for the upcoming exhibit. Looking forward to seeing our friends in the community soon!

Membership News

New **Honorary Lifetime Members** who were inducted this March are:



George Lang IV, Power Factor

Brian Pierce, Baltimore Paranormal Society, pictured with Sandy Gruz, Paranormal Chair



If you're interested in a Lifetime Membership to the Heritage Society, you can visit us at www.essexmuseum.com and pay via PayPal. The cost is \$100. Your name will be on an engraved plaque on our Lifetime Membership Board that hangs in the Museum's Blue Room.

NEW! Business Membership Opportunities

Business memberships to the Heritage Society are now available for \$125 per year. Businesses who support our Museum will receive invitations to members-only events and the opportunity to use our Meeting Room for private small group meetings. For more information, please contact Kelly Bowman, Membership Director, at 443-742-3817.

2021-2022 Team

President: Lisa Harlow
Vice President: George Weiss
Treasurer: Paul Rufe
Secretary: Will Feuer
Historian: Paul M. Blitz
Trustees: Brian K. Marchetti
Karie May
Del. Ric Metzgar
Building Maintenance Director:
Cynthia "Sandy" Gruz
Membership Director:
Kelly Bowman
Archivist/Web: Scott Huffines

Contact Us:

essexmuseum.com

essexmuseum@gmail.com

443-579-5266

And, find us on Facebook!

Mission Statement:

To investigate, collect and preserve the history of the Essex and Middle River areas for ourselves and future generations; to support and promote programs and projects for the good of the people of these areas.

Membership Information

Individual: \$15/year

Couple/Family: \$25/year

Business: \$125/year

Individual Lifetime: \$100



Haunted Happenings

By Brian Pierce

Did you know that the museum has a history of reported paranormal activity? I have been working with the museum for the past three years to document and investigate the various paranormal claims within the building and have experienced numerous unexplainable events ranging from audible footsteps when no one is there to being touched by something unseen. The museum is excited to offer multiple public paranormal themed events throughout the year, as well as private rentals for those wishing to partake in our haunted happenings. Through our partnership with Ghosts N'At Paranormal Adventures, we will be hosting opportunities for individuals to investigate the museum while being led by professional paranormal investigators. Our tentative dates for these events will be June 5 and August 28, 2021 with a special Halloween event on October 30, 2021. For more information, please visit ghostsnatparanormaladventures.com or facebook.com/ghostsnat.

Interested in renting the museum for a private paranormal investigation? Email Sandy Gruz at gwpeppers@aol.com for more information or to schedule. We at the museum are looking forward to a spooky 2021! Hope to see you soon!

Brian Pierce is Director and Founder of The Baltimore Paranormal Society.

Historian's Notes

Fire damages the 1744 Scott-Andrew House in Middle River

By Paul M. Blitz

Two unattended space heaters and two extension cords are believed to be the cause of a fire on the second floor of the Scott-Andrew House. The people in the house at the time of the fire were able to get out of the house safely.

The 1½ story Colonial-style house was built by Daniel Scott between 1725 and 1744 originally on a 720-acre tobacco plantation between Saltpeter Creek and Seneca Creek overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. This location was important for ships to transport the tobacco which was an important Cash Crop when Maryland was still a colony under the British Crown. The house on Luthardt Road is believed to be the last remaining Tidewater Plantation in Maryland.

Part of the land was sold to William Andrew in 1747. Over the years, the house and land were subdivided several times. Currently, the house sits on 5 acres of land and has been in the Garrison family since 1852.

To put things in a historical perspective, the house was built prior to the French and Indian War (1756-63) and the house has been in the same family prior to the Civil War (1861-65). The house is a registered landmark on the Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation List and the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory. The Scott-Andrew House was built approximately 40-50 years before the Ballestone-Stansbury House.

According to Baltimore County Code Enforcement, the fire was contained to the second floor of the house. The house is savable and inhabitable. All repairs would have to be approved by the Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Maryland Historical Trust. There are low interest loans and property tax credits available for historical preservation.

A family member contacted The Heritage Society of Essex and Middle River after seeing an article in the Baltimore Sun about the closing of the Lockheed Martin Corporation in Middle River. She didn't know what to do. The Heritage Society contacted the Maryland Historical Trust and the Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission who were unaware of the fire. They are assisting the family with some options and reputable contractors. The dollar amount of the fire damage and restoration are unknown at this time.

News from Friends of the Heritage Society

Upcoming Events at the Glenn L. Martin Aviation Museum:

Saturday, June 19: Family Fun Day

Saturday, July 17: Family Fun Day

For more information, please visit mdairmuseum.org.

Vice President's Corner

By George Weiss

We recently obtained an exceptionally large picture of a community in Essex called Edgewater Apartments. Some years later this apartment complex became known as Riverdale Apartments. Eventually this complex was torn down and re-built with single family homes now known as WaterView. This picture was donated by an anonymous person and was in dire need of repair in order for us to display it for our visitors to see. The repairs were completed, and the picture is now on display in the museums red room for viewing by our visitors.

We also added another item to our Military Room. Next to the water cooler you will now find a duffle bag like those that are carried by our men and woman in uniform.

We are working on a third area for a new exhibit in the rear of the building on the second floor. Watch for our new exhibit coming in the near future. Stay tuned!



Did you know?

The Essex Cube was installed at Virginia Avenue and Eastern Blvd. on Friday, May 4, 1979!

Our Baseball Collection is a Home Run!

The **Baumgartner Collection Book #74: Baseball** features local baseball teams and news from over the years! This great collection from our Museum archives can be viewed online at <http://www.essexmuseum.com/baumgartner-collection-book-74-baseball/>.

Help us expand our archives!

We are always building our collections! Do you have any historical pictures, news clippings, etc. about Essex or Middle River? Please email us at essexmuseum@gmail.com.