

# SPFI NEWSLETTER

March/April 2002

"The Past Builds the Future"

Volume 14, Issue 2

## SPFI BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2002

|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| PRESIDENT      | HELEN H. SPRINGER    |
| VICE PRESIDENT | M. CAPERTON HUBBARD  |
| SECRETARY      | CHRISTINE WALSH      |
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## EASTER EGG ROLL

The first SPFI Fundraiser of the year will be held on the 23rd of March (rain date 30 March). Our second Easter Egg Roll will be held at the Old Jail with the schedule and events very similar to last year. Please be ready to volunteer your time and baked goods. We guarantee a good time for all!



## MAY REGIONAL CALENDAR

- May 3 - 5: Central Virginia Battlefield Trust Annual Meeting
- May 11 - 18: PRESERVATION WEEK  
'PRESERVING THE SPIRIT OF PLACE'
- May 23 - 27: 'Lest We Forget' Sponsored by National Park Service, Fredericksburg Area Tourism, and CVBT. **Old Jail will be open May 25 and 26.** For detailed information on the many activities to take place during this five-day event, visit [www.fredericksburgvirginia.net](http://www.fredericksburgvirginia.net) or call Fredericksburg Area Tourism at 891-8687.



## ADVOCACY REPORT

SPFI endorsed the final version of the Comprehensive Plan approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 12, 2002. It allows for downzoning and reduces growth to about 2% per year. SPFI is also supporting a bed and breakfast plan for Fairview, located off Rt 208 in the Breezewood Subdivision. Conditions are still to be worked out for this

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## CORPORATE MEMBERS

The Board of Directors is delighted to announce that two Spotsylvania companies have become Corporate Members of SPFI. **Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC)** whose web page can be viewed at [www.rappelec.com](http://www.rappelec.com), is a consumer owned utility which provides electric service to more than 80,000 connections in parts of 16 Virginia counties. It was formed in 1980 with the merger of two cooperatives, Virginia Electric Cooperative in Bowling Green and Northern Piedmont Electric Cooperative in Culpeper. The cooperative's General Offices are in Spotsylvania County. REC maintains over 10,000 miles of power lines through its service area, which ranges from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the mouth of the Rappahannock River. The Cooperative serves a variety of residential, commercial, and industrial accounts. **SMI Rebar Virginia**, an arm of Commercial Metals Co. (CMC), is located in the Spotsylvania Cross Roads Industrial Park on Routes 2 and 17. SMI opened in the fall of 1988 as Owen Steel, making rebar for a variety of uses. In 1994 Owen was acquired by CMC, which is traded on the New York Stock Exchange. The CMC website is [www.CMCSG.com](http://www.CMCSG.com). SMI is working on the Pentagon reconstruction, as well as the new site of the US Patent and Trademark Office in Northern Virginia. SPFI warmly welcomes Rappahannock Electric Cooperative and SMI as partners in the preservation of Spotsylvania's historic resources.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This is the time of the year when the SPFI Board asks current members to renew their memberships. Many have done so in response to our statement in the last newsletter. I would like to give special recognition to those who have renewed and ask those who have not to please be in touch with us. Your participation is essential to our existence as a viable and credible voice for preservation in Spotsylvania. We know all too well the demands made on your time and your money and sincerely appreciate your membership. Without your

(Continued on page 2)

**President's Corner** (Continued from page 1)  
continued interest, SPFI would be history!

**Renewals:**

- Joyce Ackerman
- Jim Anderson
- Richard & Jane Arnold
- Mrs. Beasley
- Bill & Susan Beck
- Anita Crofts & Jim Steele
- Nancy M. Edenton
- Donnelle & Bruce Goplen
- John & Chi, Wade and Greta, Gustafson
- John Kaldahl
- Alfred & Mary Jane King
- Mark & Diane Kuechler
- Robert X. Kurtinitis
- John & Katherine Oliver LeFebre
- Elizabeth Nelson and Earle Morrison
- Linda & Donald Normand
- Sandra Regelbrugge
- Carol Speirs
- John & Helen Springer
- Thompson & Joyce Sterne
- Christine & James Walsh
- Mr. & Mrs Herman Woodfield
- Bruce Westebbe
- Richard & Barbara Westebbe
- La Vista Bed and Breakfast Inn

**Our Life Members:**

- Gary & Reba Jackson
- Carroll & Caroline Hayden
- Mr. & Mrs. Merlyn Witt

SPFI cannot succeed without your involvement. We need YOU at any level -- as a general member, a committee member, or member of the Board of Directors. Please be part of SPFI. Our Board meetings are held the first Thursday each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Snow Library conference room in the Marshall Center. We would be delighted to see you there! I can be reached at 891-8756 anytime.

*Helen Springer, President*



**Advocacy Report** (Continued from page 1)  
application. The case will be before the Board of Supervisors March 12, 2002.

The outlook for preservation and cultural resource funding at the state and federal levels is bleak with budget shortfalls at all levels. Despite this funding reality, SPFI continues to pursue sources of funding for

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**"OLD JAIL" RESTORATION PROJECT**

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The Spotsylvania Preservation Foundation's lease agreement with the County provides SPFI the opportunity of restoring the 'Old Jail,' located in the heart of the Courthouse Historic District. This project will be accomplished in three phases:

**Phase 1. Architectural Review and Condition Survey** - This phase began with a review of existing conditions, concentrating on issues of structural integrity and water protection. Analysis will focus on determining the root cause of deterioration, damage and failure. Findings will be documented on existing drawings and in a report. Problems will be prioritized according to their threat to the building.

**Phase 2. Restoration and Adaptive Reuse Plan** - An initial design for the jail's adaptive reuse will be prepared which will include upstairs offices and downstairs museum and interpretive areas. This phase will incorporate repair work along with a design and fabrication plan for the building's missing features.

**Phase 3. Construction** - A cost budget will be developed for each phase of proposed work. Project construction schedules will be established in line with projected funding. Qualified construction firms with historic preservation experience will be selected to perform the work.

Upon completion, the Old Jail will house a museum featuring its role in Spotsylvania County history. An interpretive program will be developed through research, object acquisition, systematic exhibit design and funding. Benefits will include attraction of visitors to the courthouse area, opportunity for education in political, social, and architectural history, and an improved understanding and appreciation of Spotsylvania's heritage. SPFI is actively involved in fund raising to support this exciting project. We are especially grateful for the generous grants allocated to the project by the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors authorized a \$10,000 grant to SPFI in the fall of 2001 and an additional \$5,000 grant was approved February 26, 2002.

## VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER LISTS REGIONAL PROPERTIES

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**O**akley, built by prominent landowner Samuel Alsop, Jr. and located on Catharpin Road in western Spotsylvania, has been named to the Virginia Landmarks Register. The Federal-style two-and-one-half story brick residence, started in 1816, boasts magnificent woodwork including elaborately carved cornice, mantels and interior door and window trim. Oakley was a wedding gift for one of Alsop's daughter, Clementina, and her husband, Thomas Coleman Chandler, in 1826 when they were married. In 1926 Oakley was purchased by George C. Beals of Boston and is held by the family today. Anne lives at Oakley where she and her late husband, George Leavitt Beals were ardent conservationists who were cited in 1991 among the top three recipients of National Good Earth Family Awards. The Beals were founding members of SPFI.

**C**arl's, in the City of Fredericksburg, has been added to the Register as an example of roadside architecture popular in the 1950's. It is a flat-roofed retail structure on Princess Anne St. with large glass windows and a neon sign that is a regional landmark and favorite place of residents to go for soft ice cream.

**W**ashington Avenue Mall, the street best known for its proximity to Kenmore Plantation, the Mary Washington Monument and its architectural diversity, has been listed on the Register. The street is a gathering place for residents as well as tourists in the spring when the dogwoods bloom and young people play in the green area. (Ed. note: Properties are first listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register. After approval, the applications are forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places for review and listing on that register.)

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### WHAT IS THE VIRGINIA FOLKLORE SOCIETY?

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**I**t is a **non-profit, educational, membership organization** dedicated to the discovery, collection, publication, and preservation of folklore and traditional culture in Virginia and to furthering the understanding, appreciation, and performance of the traditional arts and crafts of this State. Founded on April 17, 1913, the Virginia Folklore Society is one of the oldest state folklore societies in the country.

The Society's early membership was composed mainly of teachers interested in folklore and folksong materials, both for classroom use and for their value as perceived traits of a common national, cultural identity. Up until the mid 1970s, the Society met annually in conjunction with the Virginia Education Association

(VEA) meetings in Richmond, Virginia.

The Society was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia on April 2, 1974, and since that time has hosted an annual meeting and published periodic newsletters and an occasional journal, *Folklore and Folklife in Virginia*.

In 1989, the Virginia Folklore Society executive board, in cooperation with state agencies and funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, was instrumental in the establishment of the Virginia Folklife Program in the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy, Charlottesville. Some of the Program's accomplishments under the direction of its first Folklife Coordinator, Garry W. Barrow, may be viewed on the Virginia Folklife Program

Today the Virginia Folklore Society serves a broadly based public interest in folklore and tradition and includes among its members, academic & public sector folklorists, teachers, students, and interested lay & professional people having a wide range of backgrounds and experience. All are welcome.

The Virginia Folklore Society, University of Virginia, Department of English, 19 Bryan Hall, PO Box 400121, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4121

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### E-MAIL ISN'T EASIER

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**Y**ou would think e-mail is a quick, easy, effective way for citizens to get in contact with their legislators. Especially with the recent discovery of anthrax in Congressional mail, e-mail seems the logical alternative. Nevertheless, the trend on Capitol Hill and here in Richmond appears to be a backlash against the medium.

Our legislators' offices simply cannot handle the volume of messages they receive through the Internet. According to an article that appeared in the New York Times last December entitled "E-Mail Gets the Cold Shoulder in Congress," many Congressional offices no longer disclose e-mail addresses because they are "ill equipped to cope with the deluge of correspondence that the Internet has brought." Nearly one-third of the 100 Senate offices no longer accept e-mail through public addresses. Congress received about 80 million e-mail messages in 2000, according to the Congress Online Project, a two-year research effort financed by the Pew Charitable Trust and conducted by the Congressional Management Foundation and George Washington University. These researchers estimate that the number of e-mails doubled in 2001. The sheer avalanche of Internet correspondence prohibits e-mails from being read and given due consideration.

Garvey Winegar, a local columnist for the Richmond  
*(Continued on page 4)*



**Spotsylvania Preservation Foundation, Incorporated**

**WWW.SPFL.ORG**

*The Old Jail*

P. O. Box 1875

Spotsylvania, VA 22553

**REMINDER: CALENDAR YEAR 2002 DUES ARE**

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF SPFI?**

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Name<br>Address<br>City<br>State<br>ZIP/Postal Code | \$15.00 Individual/Senior Citizen Family<br>\$25.00 Family<br>\$50.00 Business<br>\$350.00 Individual Lifetime<br>\$500.00 Family Lifetime<br><br><b>Send to:</b><br><b>SPFI</b><br><i>The Old Jail</i><br>P. O. Box 1875<br>Spotsylvania, VA<br>22553 |
|---|--|

**E-mail** (Continued from page 3)

Times-Dispatch, addressed his thoughts on the ineffectiveness of e-mails in a January 4, 2002, article "Knowing the write stuff on reaching legislators." The best way to contact your legislators is via mail or telephone. "Veteran political types tell me that e-mails-so fast, so easy, so numerous-don't get read or acted upon with the same thoroughness as phone calls or regular mail. The point is especially true once the General Assembly gets cranked up and smothered with work." He concluded by saying, "So if you want your vote to count, make a phone call or write a letter, no matter how out-of-the-loop and old-fashioned it may seem."

Both staff members and lobbyists say that e-mail is far less successful than faxes, phone calls, or letters in reaching and influencing legislators. From Preservation Alliance of Va: E-mail silently accumulates in an In Box and is likely never to be read. Bulging mailbags, ringing phones, and humming fax machines, on the other hand, create a tangible sense of pressure within our

legislators' offices. As constituents we will be more successful in accomplishing our preservation-related goals if we lobby by traditional means. Make sure you accompany your virtual communications with hard copies. The extra effort of a letter or a phone call will enhance the likelihood that our concerns are reviewed and addressed.

*Preservation Alliance of Virginia*

**TREASURE'S REPORT**

AS OF FEBRUARY 5, 2002:

GENERAL FUND: \$ 2,371.51  
 JAIL FUND: 6,866.84  
 RECORDER FUND: 95.00  
 SCHOLARSHIP FUND: 1,923.95  
 Balance \$11,257.30

**Bob Kurtinitis, Treasurer.**

**SPFI NEWSLETTER**  
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