STEAMBOAT ERA MUSEUM

2018 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

A YEAR OF UPHEAVAL

(But in a Good Way)

We may have spent the better part of 2018 apologizing for our mess but it was for good reasons: We were knee-deep in preparations for the installation of the Potomac Pilothouse - in time for the 2019 season. To complement our new centerpiece, we also reconfigured the existing exhibits and added some

In other words, the museum got a complete makeover. You may recognize some bits and pieces but the space has a whole new look and feel.

Major renovations began last winter when walls were removed to accommodate the sizeable Pilothouse. We also dismantled the country store display and

the cannery exhibit to make room for the artifact. Caution tape was everywhere!

Behind the scenes, there were hours of research through old photographs and memorabilia to identify images to incorporate into the new displays. We took our story-telling up a notch with the development of an interactive exhibit about an African-American steamboat captain.

Now that the Pilothouse has been installed and the surrounding exhibits are in place, we are eager to welcome visitors to a new experience in our



In April 2018 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of the museum. The museum was covered with caution tape throughout the season!



John Morgenthaler, the shipwright restoring the Pilothouse, spoke at the 2018 Annual Meeting.



Once again the Irvington Crab Festival was a big success as the museum's largest

IRVINGTON CRAB FESTIVAL 2018 SPONSORS

yearly fundraising event. We couldn't have done this without the support of our sponsors.

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A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING MUSEUM, EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS VOLUNTEERS!

Museum Highlights in 2018

- More then 3,000 adults and children visited the museum or took part in museum events.
- The museum received generous grants from the Nettie Lokey Wiley and Charles L. Wiley Foundation and the Carter C. Chinnis Charitable Trust. The Garden Club of the Northern Neck awarded a grant to transform the museum's garden into a Victorian flower garden.



- More then 200 children took part in the museum's scavenger hunt and Friday morning activities. They learned about the Steamboat Era and made steamboats which were then tested in a pool.
- More than 500 children were introduced to local steamboat history through History-on-the- Go.
- River Counties Community Foundation awarded the museum a grant to convert the static Captain Hansford exhibit to an interactive screen.
- The Town of Irvington and the Tidewater Foundation contributed to the operational funds of the museum.
- A Smithsonian bus tour visited the museum.
- State highway directional signs to the museum were placed on Routes 3 and 200.

- The museum supported other non-profit organizations in the area, by taking part in the Reedville Fishermen's Tablescapes event and by advertising in event programs. We invited children from the Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA to attend Friday morning activities free-of-charge.
- Richmond exhibit design firm Riggs Ward was hired to consult on new exhibits and interactive projects.
- The museum announced it was an "Amazon Smile" member. When supporters purchasing items on Amazon buy through the Amazon Smile site, the museum receives a portion of the sales.
- The museum purchased a Point of Sale (POS) scanner to keep track of admissions, membership, donations, special event tickets and gift shop sales.
- Special member events included a Founder's Reception, Annual Meeting and Eat Dessert First Holiday gathering.
- NPR station WCVE served as a media sponsor for the Irvington Crab Festival.
- The museum celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of the museum.
- The Fifth Annual Holiday Marketplace was a great success. More than 600 shoppers found unique gifts.
- With a \$15,000 challenge grant from Beth and Marshall Orr and the Museum's Board of Directors, the Annual Appeal once again raised important funds for the museum.

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