



# PRESERVE PORT

Newsletter of The Society of Port Republic Preservationists, Inc. February 2006

8691 Water Street P.O. Box 82

Port Republic VA 24471

[www.heritagecenter.com/SPRP](http://www.heritagecenter.com/SPRP)

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## The Opportunity You've Been Waiting For!

**It's that time! On April Fools Day, 2006, we will announce a new "Mayor of Port Republic." It could be you! It's an honest election...one dollar per vote...and the person in whose name the most money has been contributed will fill the coveted office.** There are no other requirements for the office. The Mayor has only one duty: lighting our community Christmas tree! (And even that duty may be performed by proxy.) The only perk is the honor of the title (and tax credit for those who contribute)

The office has been held in the past by a number of illustrious persons, the most recent being our gracious Mayor Peggy Richardson who will relinquish the top hat on April 1, 2006, when a new mayor is announced. She has served honorably and dutifully (and of course, would not mind serving a second term.)

A \$25 nominating fee is requested to get the name on the ballot. So unite your family, friends, neighbors, class, church group, workmates, etc. and get them to vote for your candidate of choice (even yourself). On your check, write "vote for \_\_\_\_\_"; send to SPRP, P.O. Box 82, Port Republic VA 24471. The five top contenders will be listed on our web site at the end of February and again two weeks before the final tally which will be made at 5:00 p.m. March 31. Don't wait.

### Spring Clean-up Day Set

Saturday, March 18 is set for our annual "Spring Clean-Up/Work Day". We'll tackle winter trash and damage in Riverside Graveyard and the Museum grounds, and hopefully have workers to shoo the dust from inside the Museum. Come, bringing your tools for the chore you want to help with. Meet at Museum at 8.00 or when able. Rain date: March 25

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### New Life on Board

The Society welcomes its newest Board Member, Nita Gibson. She comes from Alabama (not with a banjo on her knee) but with a lot of enthusiasm and determination to be a big help in preserving Port Republic by serving as a Director. Like many people, she "fell in love" with the area.

At the same time, we regret that Jeff Stockberger felt the need to take some "time off". We appreciate his past efforts, and intend to continue using his expertise from time to time.

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### Town Hall

We recently learned that the old Town Hall was purchased by Walter and Martha Curt. It is their intention to restore it with historic accuracy and have it used for community events. We are very pleased by their vision and their willingness to preserve this significant building in the Village.

### A Sad Note

Many of you will be saddened to hear of the death of my mother, Emma Barker, January 7, 2006. Those who knew her will remember what a lovely person she was. She lived the last 23 of her 97 years in Port Republic and was a staunch supporter of the Society as well as my personal best cheer-leader for my work in Port preservation. She will certainly be missed.

Anita Cummins

### 2006 Calendar (tentative)

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month-7:00 at the Museum:  
SPRP meeting

March 18: Spring Clean-up Day

April 2: Museum opens for season

July 16: SPRP Community picnic, 5:00 in  
Melvin Bradburn Park

June 2, 3, 4: Civil War "Preservation March"

July 8: SVBF Cluster Civil War "Kids Camp"

Dec. 17: Christmas in the Village

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### Membership Dues Time

Sorry, but it's that time again. We are a non-profit corporation, with no regular public funding, with no paid employees. As we undertake the monumental task of preserving the history and heritage of Port Republic and keeping it a nice place to live, we must request funds from those who care. Your dues and donations help defray the expense of quarterly newsletters, SPRP activities, and the maintenance of Port Republic Museum.

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### New Haven

Dr. Carole Nash and her CISAT students have begun their research of the "ghost-town" of New Haven, Port's sister city, that was chartered in 1804. Their preliminary research identified several home sites, based on surface artifact fragments. They continue to further their research through "forgotten maps", GPS mapping, documents, oral history, and eventually an archaeological excavation.

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### Civil War Event Planned

The Port Republic/Cross Keys Cluster of Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation is planning a "Preservation March" with camps, a concert and associated activities, June 2, 3 and 4 for Civil War enthusiasts. (Check out their website: [www.shenandoah1862.com](http://www.shenandoah1862.com).)

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*Remember the Past--Preserve for the Future*

Board of Directors: Tom Aycock, Anita Cummins, Kevin Gabel, Nita Gibson, Tamara Gibson, Sherry Gordon, Ellen Kaylor, James Oppy, Carol Poulson, Peggy Richardson, Joe Solometo, and Frances Wilkerson.

**A Lot Going On:**

- A small but enthusiastic crowd attended our “Artifacts Identification Day” in October at the Museum in October. Our thanks to Dr. Carole Nash and the Massanutten Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia.
- Director Sherry Gibson is coordinating efforts to publicize the Museum for potential visitors, via websites and brochures. If you have advertising ideas, let her know.
- In November, we appeared before the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors with an unprecedented request for funds. There is a timely urgency to find funds for the preservation of the early 18<sup>th</sup> century barn that was converted to the H.B. Alexander Cannery. We will hear their decision after the Finance Committee makes a recommendation.
- In March we’ll begin our search for sheep to be “lawn-mowers” in Riverside Graveyard...this time, looking for less adventurous ones than those last year who kept forcing “round-ups”.
- We are considering compiling a “Home Directory of Port Village residents” in an effort to build community cohesiveness. Peggy Richardson will be spearheading this effort.
- No word from our request for support for “Virginia Byway” through Port.

***A Bit of Port “Recent” History-Port Republic High School Baseball Team***

*A photograph purchased by Barbara Paulson at a recent estate auction recalls the glory of the former Port Republic High School and certainly a number of familiar names. The photograph, whose date is yet to be determined, probably around 1935, has the players identified as (Back, L to R): Jack Miller, Harold Wampler, Harry Alexandria, Norman Pirkey, Hobart Erman, Olin Jarrels, Joe Scott. (Front, L to R): Harvey Scott, Joe McCary, Harry Price Miller, Conn Wagner, Harold Jarrels, Carl Bowman, and Preston Armentrout.*



I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as votes (or nominating fee) for \_\_\_\_\_ for 2006 Mayor.

I enclose \$25 for membership 2006 through 2008. \_\_\_\_\_ or, I enclose \$10 for family membership for 2006. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Members receive free admission to the Museum and our periodic newsletter.)

I enclose a tax-exempt gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

I want to be called on to work as \_\_\_\_\_. I have artifacts I want to donate. Call me. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Make checks payable to SPRP and mail to SPRP, P.O. Box 82, Port Republic, VA 24471)