

# Smithfield Community Association, Inc.

PO Box 42, Peterboro, New York 13134

To all the members of the Smithfield Community Association:

Greetings from Peterboro, "The town with more history than people" .....

The SCA has been busy again the past year (as usual), with many accomplishments, large and small.

Last fall we had a "work weekend", where our volunteers get together to get a job done. On Sept. 7th, we had eight volunteers at work painting the entrance foyer on the Community Center. We tallied over 95 hours of work from the crew. The old school green is now a light cream with white trim. The banister on the stairs was cleaned and refinished, too. The lobby is where we display the Memorial plaques. The first is filled, but we have open spaces on a second plaque. Remember a loved one with a \$25 donation in their name to help preserve the building.

On October 2nd, Dave Brown and Linda Joeckel gave a tour of Peterboro and the Gerrit Smith estate to Mr. Mark Peckham. He works for the New York State office of Parks and Recreation, in the Historic Preservation Field Service Bureau. Mark is putting together the necessary paperwork to get the whole original Gerrit Smith estate property listed as a National Landmark. This would be a great advantage as we search for grant moneys to help restore the Land Office.

On October 18th., we were honored as Assemblyman Bill Magee donated his services as Auctioneer at our second auction fund-raiser. He was also the caller at our benefit auction several years ago. Thank you Bill. Thank you to all the local businesses that donated goods, and thank you to all the individuals who donated and purchased items at the auction. We'll do it again in a year or two.

The late fall also saw the continued work on the back half of the Community Center. With the cooperation of the Town of Smithfield, we have completed the construction of the new Town Clerk's office, and a new handicap accessible bathroom. The old library room, while a sentimental favorite to many, was just too old and under-used to continue. A decision was made to refurbish the room to serve as the town meeting room. The cost of the improvements were shared between the Town and the SCA. With the new doors, electrical service, insulation, drywall, carpeting, curtains, and some clever partitioning of the basement around the furnace, the Community Center can now be kept open year-round. Town board meetings, village court, and other users have a clean and comfortable place to meet. We still have a lot of moldings that need painting, so keep your eyes open for another "work weekend" soon.

Except for a few days, we were able to keep the Community Center's big Marshall clock running all winter. We are interested in compiling a list of all the people who have keep the clock wound over the years. If you know of anyone who had this job in past years, please call Linda Joeckel.

On March 6th., the Community Center hosted a party to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Gerrit Smith! The event was sponsored by the Peterboro Area Historical Society, and featured a time line of 200 candles, each carrying an event in Peterboro history. The candles were sold for \$5 each, and helped raise some much needed cash for the museum.

Our biggest event of the year was, of course, the Civil War Weekend, on June 14 & 15. The weather was beautiful, and even with the Jamesville balloons and Canastota boxing on the same days, we still had around 1500 to 2000 people visit town over the weekend. Madison County's director Rene Gabriel got to bring Ms. Anne Martin from Canada to our event on Sunday morning . Ms. Anne Martin has her own travel show in Canada. She was very impressed with Peterboro and our event.

This year we estimate that nearly 100 volunteers helped out in one way or another with the weekend. I give my personal thanks to each and every one of you. A special thank you must be given to those who went the "extra mile", volunteering for the less glamorous jobs, like setting up (and taking down) fences and tents, hauling signs, picking up trash, cleaning and decorating the Community Center for the dance. These are the jobs we really need more help with next year. If you couldn't

make it out to help this year, please plan on lending a hand next year if you can.

Our next big project is the beginning of work on the Land Office, we are presently looking for someone to do the brick work. In September, the employees of the Key Bank in Morrisville will do their day of community service painting at the Community Center.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, July 24. This is our "annual" meeting in which we elect half our board members for the next two years. All members are encouraged to come out and vote. We welcome and encourage any members (new or old) to help out by holding a board position. We meet once a month, on the fourth Thursday. Join us if you can.

Keep a lookout for these upcoming events being held by the Historical Society at the Peterboro area museum.:

Tuesday, July 15th. 7pm "John Brown and His Association with Gerrit Smith" A lecture with slides presented by Edwin Cotter, manager of the John Brown state historic site in North Elba.

Tuesday, Sept. 16th. 7pm "Searching for Elizabeth Cady Stanton in Peterboro" by Gloria Norris, author and former editor-in-chief of the Book-of-the-Month Club.

We'll also have a table during Peterboro Home Town Day on July 20th.

On Sunday, Aug. 2nd. 12-5pm., the Madison County Historical Society's holds their annual Hops Fair at the Cottage Lawn in Oneida. Look for the SCA and the PAHS to share a table there.

We have the following Peterboro items for sale:

Snippets: Pieces of Peterboro area history written by Town Historian Donna Burdick, Vol. 1-4

Smith family booklet on members of the Smith family.

Peterboro Bicentennial Resolution on parchment paper. Entered into the New York state legislative record by Assemblyman Bill Magee.

These items are \$1 each and may be ordered along with your membership contribution. please help by including 50 cents for postage.

**Please remember to send in your membership contribution. Still only \$10. THANKS!!!!**

For additional information on anything in the letter, call Beth Spokowsky 684-9022 or Linda Joeckel 684-9428.

Sincerely,

Steve Joeckel  
President, Smithfield Community Association, Inc.

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To help the Smithfield Community Association continue it's work of restoring and preserving the historic landmarks of Peterboro, I enclose my contribution as indicated below. Membership in the Smithfield Community Association is included with a minimum donation of \$10.

Contribution enclosed:

\$1000	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name _____
\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Address _____
\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ zip _____
	other	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phone _____

I would like to help during the volunteer weekend or the Civil War Weekend.

I'd like to order the following items:

\_\_\_\_\_ total \$ \_\_\_\_\_