

Greetings all! We have a lot of exciting news....

Let the work begin!

It has been a busy year and we are announcing some exciting news about our progress! Many have asked “why haven’t we seen anything yet”. The answer is simple, funding! But, thanks to you, your support, and our volunteers working tirelessly behind the scenes, we are now able to begin restoration work on the house itself.

Our Board of Directors submitted a request for funds to be included in the Smyth County Board of Supervisors budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. After multiple presentations, both in person and in the submission of documentation, our organization was awarded **\$50,000** last month to be used toward the restoration of the Octagon House’s roof. Matching funds, raised through our capital campaign and fundraisers, totaling **\$27,000** have been raised and earmarked specifically for this phase. Restoration of the roof and sub-structure is critical and must be completed first. The Foundation has applied for Historic Rehabilitation Tax-Incentives. Therefore, restoration must follow National Park Service guidelines, which also increases the cost. Such guidelines state the roof must be the same as when the home was first completed. For the Octagon House, this will be a standing seam metal roof, which would have been used at that time. An invitation for construction bids will be published soon.

We have also received twelve loads of local, historic, hand-made brick to be used in the restoration of the southeastern wall, chimneys, window wells, and other areas required. The brick was donated by a local family, who was unable to save their historic home due to structural issues. We thank them immensely for their donation, but also their unwavering support of this project.

Volunteers...

We are in desperate need of volunteers! We need volunteers for many areas. However, our greatest need is helping sort and stack brick upon pallets. Thank you, Steve Medley and Roger McNeil, for the donation of pallets. We do expect this process to take a long period of time but, this is necessary in order to preserve the integrity of the brick and ensure the appropriate placement of varying qualities of brick. Our fundraisers have proven successful, our volunteers for such events are stretched to the limits but have persevered and helped them become our greatest source of income.

Fundraising...

We want to thank all those who have volunteered their time, effort, dedication, and talents in helping our fundraisers to be successful. Our spaghetti dinners have now become a “social event”, requested often and successful in helping us work toward our monetary goals. We have been able to host three dinners during the past year, each more successful than the last.

However, one does not have to wait until such dinners to enjoy food provided by our volunteers. Adwolfe Volunteer Fire Department has graciously allowed Octagon House volunteers to provide concessions during their weekly bingo nights. Rita Blevins, Nancy Smith, Gary and Kathy Johnson spend most Thursday evenings providing meals they prepare to those attending. We thank them for their tireless efforts and the fire department for allowing us to partner with them.

Membership...

We welcomed seventeen new memberships over the past year. As with many organizations, memberships are crucial to their survival. We continue to reach out through multiple avenues seeking new members, both individual, family, and business. Sadly, we have lost many long-time and devoted members. We mourn their passing and will miss their enthusiasm for this restoration project. We hope, as construction begins, you will see how your continued support has helped us save this unique and well-storied landmark.

Again, thank you all for your support and we look forward to working with you as this house comes back to life!

Join us

All are invited to the following upcoming events:

- The Annual Octagon House Meeting-September 12th, 6:00pm, Adwolfe Community Fire Hall
- The Octagon House History, Then and Now- September 18th, 2:00pm, Holston River Heritage Center, Smyth County Historical Society, 123 East Main Street, Marion, Virginia
- Spaghetti Dinner-October 7th, 4:30-7:00pm, Adwolfe Community Fire Hall