



Foundations

Matthews Historical
Foundation
Newsletter
August 2019

COMMUNITY MEETING AUGUST 15

Thursday, August 15 the Matthews Community Meeting will be held at the Public Library, 230 Matthews Station Street, downtown Matthews, beginning at 6 p.m. The program, "Voices of Tank Town" is being held in conjunction with the popular current museum exhibit Tank Town: A Good Place to Live. Four former/current residents of Tank Town have been invited to participate in a panel discussion for the meeting. The panel will share their remembrances of growing up in Tank Town during the 1950s and 60s. This community meeting is free and open to the public, however seating is limited. To reserve your seat call Becky 704-846-6693.

NOTE: The Tank Town exhibit will remain on display until Saturday, October 5. Please make plans to visit the Museum to view the exhibit.



Star of St. Matthews Lodge #566
Tank Town/Crestdale

SPECIAL EVENTS

AUTUMN DINNER

Important Date

November 4, 2019

This year marks the
20th
Anniversary
of the Annual
Autumn
DINNER and
AUCTION
at **Santé**

The first event was
held at the
Hidden Garden
Restaurant

The former name
of Santé

In 1999, it was a
light buffet supper
with Christmas
shopping before
and after supper at
the **Holiday Haus**.

The dinner has
evolved over the
years from shop-
ping to a silent
auction to a live
auction.



Watch your email and
regular mail for your
Autumn Dinner
invitation.

If you do not receive
an invitation please
call 704-846-6693.

WEBSITES

New features have been added to our websites. You now have the option of donating to the Matthews Historical Foundation or the Matthews Heritage Museum on the websites; also the ability to purchase tickets to our annual Santé Dinner or other events. The Foundation Websites are listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

MHF Board of Directors has planned 2 community meetings for 2019-20, The 1st meeting is August 15 (article above). The 2nd meeting is Tuesday, March 24, 2020 (location to be announced). The Foundation has entered the 21st century. Upcoming events will be listed on Facebook, other social media sites, and emailed to our list. Please friend us and like MHF and the Museum on their Facebook pages. Let us know your correct email if you have not been receiving emails from MHF. We appreciate your support and interest in MHF. Thank you.

Foundations is a publication of
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Written by Paula Lester
Edited by Larry Lester

Available at the Museum

Matthews Remembered DVD.....\$15
Matthews Memories Cookbook....20
Scented Candles..... 5
Soaps.....2

If you have a local artifact to
donate, please call the Museum
office 704-708-4996.

Visit our
websites

www.matthewshistoricalfoundation.org

www.matthewsreidhouse.org

www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org

Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendar

- August 15** Community Meeting Matthews Library 6 p.m.
- October 5** Tank Town Exhibit Closes - Permanent display of some artifacts will be housed in Museum and Town Hall Lobby
- October 11** New exhibit opens at Museum - Help Center Celebrating 40 years of helping local families
- October 15** Matthews Community Center Town Council Candidate Forum 7-9 p.m.
- November 4** Santé Autumn Dinner & Auction 6 p.m.
- December 13** Reid House Christmas Open House 7-9 p.m.

If you're having guests visit and are looking for something to do, pick-up a copy of the **Matthews Historic Driving Tour** brochure. It's available at the Town Hall Lobby, the Museum, and the Depot. The driving tour begins at the Reid House mapping 5 miles of local history with numbers that correspond with information about the buildings along the route.

Star of St. Matthews Lodge #566 - 124 Morris Road - Crestdale

In 1925, the Star of St. Matthews Lodge #566 received its charter from the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, Prince Hall Affiliation. Like most lodges in communities, Lodge #566 is a blue lodge, meaning that it is a local Masonic Lodge. African-American Christopher Columbus "Budd" Potts (1894-1963), was the first Worthy Master, or president of the lodge.

On October 20, 1928, trustees of the lodge—Potts, Crawford Neptune Patterson (1877-1943), William M. B. Reid (1877-1940), Daniel Marshall Maxwell (1878-1948), and Ranson Lake (1850-1930)—purchased an acre of land and a two-story concrete-masonry building on what is now Morris Road in Tank Town from the county Board of Education for \$500.00. Dedicated space for lodges was important to facilitate activities as well as recruitment of new members. Star of St. Matthews Lodge #566 is unusual in Mecklenburg County for having its own property for such a long period of time.

But while the lodges in cities such as Charlotte pulled their membership from the middle and upper class black elite of those areas, rural lodges served a different demographic. Many residents of Tank Town worked as sharecroppers or laborers. Some found work on the railroad or as service workers for local white families. Robert Kirkpatrick was the janitor at the Matthews School, Calvin Boyd worked at a nearby brickyard, and Jesse Johnson Bell (a woman) was a cook for Dr. Thomas Neely Reid.

In 1930, Budd Potts, lodge president and a farmer by trade, opened a fish market at 118 East Charles Street. His was the only Matthews store to offer fresh fish, delivered by train from Wilmington. He made fish sandwiches for customers on the pot-belly stove used to heat the store. Manley Clyburn, an African-American barber, cut hair in the corner of the store. Manley built houses in Tank Town and eventually moved his barbering business there. Budd Potts continued to sell fish until 1955 and was the only African-American business owner in downtown Matthews at that time.

In 1963, the name Tank Town officially changed to Crestdale. In the 1980s, Sam Boyd and other Crestdale community leaders worked to have Crestdale annexed by the Town of Matthews. In 1988, Crestdale became part of the Town and, for the first time, residents had access to town services.

The Star of St. Matthews Lodge #566 has been designated a local historic landmark. There is more Lodge information on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission website www.landmarkscommission.org