

FOUNDATIONS

*Quarterly newsletter for the Matthews Historical Foundation
and the Matthews Heritage Museum*



Looking Back at 2024: A Year of Milestones and Connections

By Bob Aycock

The Matthews Historical Foundation and Matthews Heritage Museum are proud to reflect on an incredible 2024 filled with achievements, meaningful connections, and exciting opportunities to share our town's rich history.

We're delighted that the Matthews Heritage Museum was once again voted Best Museum in the *Matthews-Mint Hill Weekly's* Best of the Weeklies readers' choice awards. Additionally, the Historic Reid House earned the title of Best Historical Site. The Museum also received nominations in *The Charlotte Observer's* Charlotte's Best contest for Best Museum and Best Family Attraction. While we didn't win, being recognized among the region's top attractions was a tremendous honor.

This past year, I had the privilege of presenting history talks at Windsor Run and Holiday Willow Grove, and to the Matthews Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club of Matthews. The Matthews Library also invited me to give two presentations. It was a joy to engage with the community and share stories about the history that makes Matthews such a special place.

As we look ahead to 2025, we're eager to build on these successes, continue preserving our town's history, and bring more opportunities for our community to connect with the past. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us!

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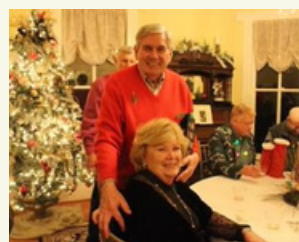
Building Connections Through Community Events

This year, we loved connecting with the community through a variety of events hosted at the Historic Reid House and across Matthews. Highlights included two engaging presentations at the library, our popular Historic Cemetery Tours offering a glimpse into Matthews' past, and the debut of *Museum After Dark*, where visitors experienced the Museum in an eerie new light. We were also delighted to participate in this year's *Festival of Trees* at Novant Health Matthews Medical Center. We're excited to continue fostering these meaningful connections in the year ahead!

President's Corner

By Becky Willard

I hope each of you had a delightful holiday season. We had a particularly festive December at the Historic Reid House. The season kicked off with the MWCSL's Victorian Teas, and the decorations the ladies provided were stunning. From a peacock-themed tree in the parlor to a violin-adorned wreath in the music room, and a dining room tree draped with real teacups and saucers, every room of the house was beautifully transformed. It was an elegant affair enjoyed by all. We also had our annual MHF fundraiser at the Reid House with food provided by Santé, a live auction with former mayor Lee Myers as a very entertaining auctioneer, and a fun wine-pull raffle. The season wrapped with tours of the Reid House and our visitors enjoyed learning some of the history of the house. We are looking forward to a great 2025 and continuing to work on preserving our community's history for future generations.

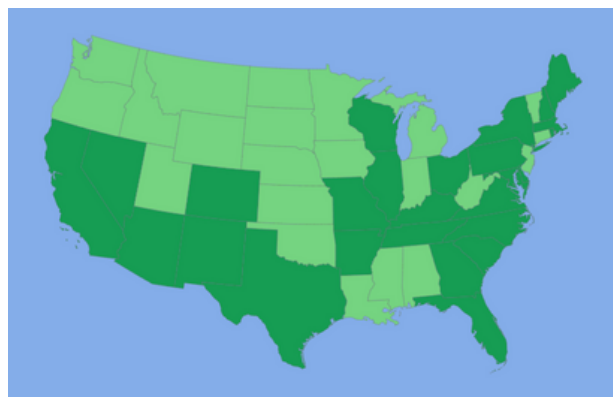


UPCOMING EVENTS

- Due to the popularity of our Historic Matthews Cemetery Tours, we will be continuing them throughout 2025. Plans are also underway for a tour of Roseland Cemetery, and we are eager to share its important history with the community.
- The Second Annual Spring Art Show, benefiting the Matthews Historical Foundation, returns to the Historic Reid House on April 25–26—and it promises to be even bigger!

Connecting Matthews to the World

Last year, the Matthews Heritage Museum had the pleasure of welcoming visitors from near and far. In addition to guests from across North Carolina, we were thrilled to host visitors from 25 states across the U.S. and 7 countries around the globe, including Brazil, Germany, India, Italy, Mexico, Spain, and the United Kingdom. It's inspiring to witness how Matthews' rich history connects with and captivates visitors from a wide variety of places and cultures. Each guest brings a unique perspective, reminding us of the universal power of stories to bridge communities and celebrate shared experiences. We're grateful to everyone who visited the Museum—whether from across the state or across the globe—and we're honored to play a part in sharing Matthews' story with the world.



From the Director's Desk

By Bob Aycock

From festive holiday events to remarkable attendance, this winter has been nothing short of extraordinary. I am incredibly grateful to our Board, Docents, and the Town of Matthews for your steadfast support and dedication. Together, we've achieved something truly special. In 2024, we proudly welcomed an impressive 2,907 visitors to the Museum, showcasing the enduring interest in and appreciation for Matthews' rich history. Equally remarkable, our dedicated volunteers logged an outstanding 798 hours of service—an achievement that reflects the heart and passion of our community. Thank you all for making this season so memorable and for continuing to help us preserve and celebrate the heritage of our wonderful town. Here's to even more milestones ahead!

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

Thank you to everyone who made it such a great year!



798 VOLUNTEER HOURS

242 AVERAGE MONTHLY VISITORS

2,907 TOTAL MUSEUM VISITORS

Attendance increased by 81% from 2023 to 2024

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST DOCENTS

We're delighted to welcome our newest Museum Docents: Betsy Jacobs and Jacky Olin!

We're excited to have you join our volunteer team and look forward to the wonderful contributions you'll make in sharing and preserving Matthews' history. Your passion and dedication play an important role in creating meaningful experiences for each of our visitors and ensuring our town's stories continue to inspire future generations. Welcome aboard!

PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE

The Matthews Historical Foundation extends its appreciation to all our members for their ongoing interest in and support of the Foundation and its initiatives. For over 37 years, we have achieved remarkable milestones, and we are excited for what the future holds. Every project and event we undertake is made possible by the generous contributions from our members, sponsors, and benefactors. Your support is invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment. Together, we can continue to preserve and celebrate our community's rich history for generations to come. Thank you for making our work possible!

To view our membership levels, please visit our website:
matthewshistoricalfoundation.com/membership

Checks can be mailed to:
 Matthews Historical Foundation
 P.O. Box 1117
 Matthews, NC 28106

*As a 501(c)(3) organization, your donations are tax deductible.
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