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COMING EVENTS

At publication time (late-April) the opening of Fairfax County parks has not yet been determined. Forthcoming events are notional. Check the web site for up-to-date scheduling.

Sun, 21 12:00—3:00; Grinding demonstrations. Father's Day Celebration. Dads and Granddads get free entrance with adult group. \$10 for adults, \$8 for youths

Sun, July 5 and 19 12:00—3:00; Grinding demonstrations. \$10 for adults, \$8 for youths

Sat, July 18 10:00—12:00; GRAND OPENING OF MILLER'S HOUSE. See accompanying article opposite.

Blacksmith Demonstration, on the first Sunday of the months we grind, 11:00 to 4:00. Free.

Wood Carvers: 1st and 3rd Sundays: June, July, August, 12-4 PM. Ages 12 and up. Instruction free, small charge for wood blanks.

Summer camps: See accompanying article opposite.

Site web page: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill>

!! SAVE THE DATE !!

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2020

10:00 TO 12:00

GRAND OPENING OF THE RESTORED MILLER'S HOUSE COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE

The miller's house as been undergoing a major restoration for the past several years. Once the construction work was complete, the staff developed a master interpretive plan for the furnishings and began acquiring authentic furniture but which are not antiques. This means that they can be used: sat in, played with, and moved around. Two rooms will be open to the public, one depicting the house as it may have looked in the early 1800s; the other in the latter part of the century. Come see the furnishings, (*con't on page 3*)

Summer Camp Plans

Four camps are tentatively scheduled:

EcoCamp: June 29 – July 2

Doll Camp 1: July 13 – July 17

Doll Camp 2: July 27—July 31

Mini-Miller Camp: August 3–7

The Mini-Miller camp teaches participants the fundamentals of the operation of running a mill and grinding grain into flour. Participants get to keep the flour they have ground. Ages 8-11.

Camp Registration is live on ParkTakes..

Consider making general contributions to the Friends by identifying "FOCRM" on Amazon Smile.

Notes from the President

Well, it seems like I chose an eventful time to be elected as the president of the board of directors for the Friends of Colvin Run Mill (FoCRM). You may know, the park at Colvin Run Mill has been closed, along with all Fairfax County parks, due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The park and its historic buildings are being monitored and maintained by a very few outstanding park employees. The mill's program on simple machines targeted toward our region's third graders was stopped when all public schools closed. Our regular tours, grinding demonstrations, special events, sale of our stone-ground flour, and blacksmithing demonstrations have been cancelled until further notice. But rest assured that we will be letting everyone know by very means we have when the park reopens.

With these closures comes loss of revenue to the entire park system and the effects will be felt in the budget for a long time. I find that the mission of the Friends of Colvin Run Mill is more important than ever now. We advocate for this historic property at Fairfax County budget hearings, we support the park's events with volunteer hours, program development sponsoring staff training, and we make known to the public just how unique this working mill is using social media such as FaceBook and Instagram (@FriendsofColvinRunMill). Please like our pages and share our content with your friends.

In the past several months, we've donated furnishings to the miller's house as the new exhibit is readied. Two rooms are now fully furnished, one in the style of the 1810's and one in the style of the 1880's. These will be open for tours, and since the furnishings are reproductions, the public will be invited to sit a spell and try out games of the times or just listen to stories of the past residents. We are also providing new blacksmith tools for the forge to allow blacksmith demonstrations to show more techniques.

Even before the park reopens, we are looking at what we can do to keep Colvin Run Mill as inviting and educational as it's always been. To do this, FoCRM depends on donations and volunteers like you. *(continued next column)*

For everyone who follows us, an angel gets its wings.

@FriendsOfColvinRunMill



(President's notes continued)

While you are spending more time on-line during these Covid-19 days, please consider making a donation to FoCRM or contacting us via our FaceBook page to volunteer. We have plenty of volunteering opportunities for a day and/or regular weekly or monthly tasks. You can garden, help maintain the country store, or give tours of the mill and grounds. Training will be provided and your help will be greatly appreciated.

To give on-line via PayPal go to: <http://friendsofcolvinrunmill.org/membership>

Dan Dyke, President

Friends of Colvin Run Mill Board of Directors News

As previously reported but worth repeating, the votes are in. The following members form the Board of Directors. Positions were determined at the January 14 Board meeting.

Dan Dyke—President

Gene Bacher - Vice President

Jim Wallar—Secretary

Kitty O'Hara—Treasurer

Wes Callender—Member

Larry Herman –Member

Bob Coblenz– Member

We look forward to presenting Friends interests, suggestions, ideas and energy to the Park Authority and the site staff. Please contact us at any time with suggestions or complaints. Email Dan at: dandyke@verizon.net

Donations to the Friends of Colvin Run Mill make it all possible. Use PayPal (go to "focrm.org/membership") or send a check to Friends of Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls, VA 22066

GRAND OPENING *(cont from page 1)*

enjoy games, refreshments (including tea tastings by Laurie Bell), and your neighbors. This will provide a great opportunity for youngsters to **experience** what life was like over two hundred years ago, not just observe it in some static display. Hand cut silhouettes by Lauren Munny will be available courtesy of the Friends of Colvin Run Mill (donations appreciated).



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BOIL DOWN

Bright sunny days attracted over 500 visitors (one of the highest numbers ever) to watch maple sap being boiled into maple syrup in late February and early March...before the Covid-19 lockdown happened. Many also used the opportunity to tour the mill. We hope they'll return to see it in operation.



FOUR FLOOR TOURS

Take the opportunity to see all four floors of the mill to learn how milling innovations from the late 1700's made this mill a "modern factory" when it was built circa 1811. Tours are offered on Saturdays (minimum age is 10) starting at 10:30 and there is a \$10 fee. Pre-registration thru ParkTakes is requested or call the site at 703-759-2771.

Tours may last up to two hours and involve climbing steep stairs. Access to upper floors is not ADA-compliant but alternative arrangements will be made for those who cannot climb stairs.

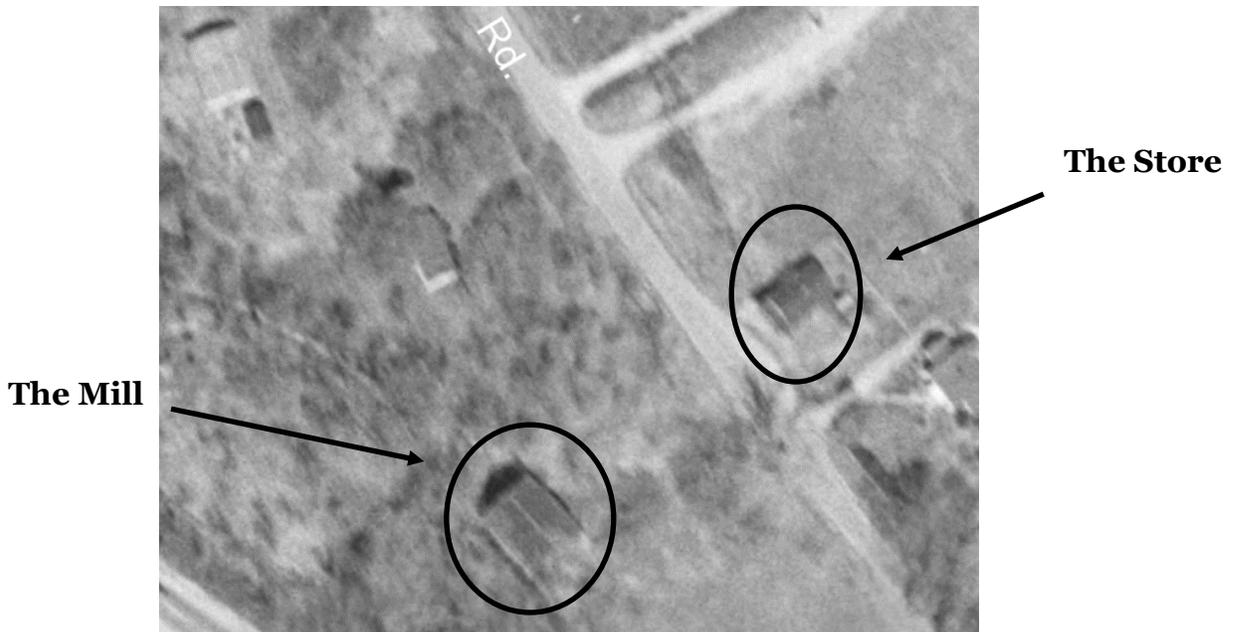
MILL COLORING BOOKS

During the site lockdown, FoCRM published pages from a coloring book about the Mill and the grinding process on our Facebook page. Free mill tours were awarded to those who submitted the best colored pages.

We will soon post the book on the Friends web page (www.friendsofcolvinrunmill.org) for the continued use and enjoyment of youngsters of all ages. Download, color, then come to the mill to see all the pages in the book in real life. Until the Fairfax County Park Authority announces it safe to again visit the Mill, stay well.

NEW MAP RESOURCES AVAILBLE

Jim Wallar has been working with the county archeologist on maps surrounding the mill. Software is available to develop detailed maps using existing county resources. A series of maps have been created showing land ownership, historic sites and aerial views over the years. These are under review by the staff and can be viewed by interested visitors by contacting the staff at 703-759-2771. Below are examples of aerial photos of the mill site taken from the Fairfax County GIS and Mapping Services website (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/maps>).



1960 (Before restoration)



1975 (After restoration)