

FRANCONIA MUSEUM ELECTS OFFICERS

The Franconia Museum has elected its officers for 2012. Carl Sell will serve as president, Don Hakenson, Phyllis Walker Ford and Debbi Wilson as vice presidents, Jane Higham as treasurer and Judy Hutchinson as secretary.

Sell replaces Steve Sherman, who after three terms at Franconia has been elected vice chairman of the Fairfax County History Commission. He will remain on the Museum Board. Sell currently also is the president of the Rose Hill Civic Association and is a former member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission and the Park Authority, where he served as chairman.

Hakenson is the Museum's vice president for history. Steeped in local history, he has written numerous books and is one of the foremost experts on the life of Confederate raider John Singleton Mosby. He conducts semi-annual Mosby tours and he and Sell also conduct the Both Sides Tours series to Civil War sites.

Walker Ford serves the Museum as the vice president for education, helping to share local history with area schools. She is president of the Laurel Grove School Association, a non-profit group that supports the one-room school that served area blacks from 1882-1932. She is the descendant of families who were among the first black landowners in Fairfax County. She also represents Lee District on the Fairfax County History Commission.

Wilson is the vice president for administration. That means she keeps everything straight, just like she and her mother, Helen, did for 46 years (combined) in the Lee District Supervisor's office. Wilson also edits the Museum's twice-yearly newsletter.

Jane Higham continues as treasurer. She also is part of a family with long-time ties to Franconia and is active in community and church groups. Judy Hutchinson is new to the position of secretary, but her roots reach back a long way in the community. She also has her own transcription business and serves as the administrative assistant to the Executive pastor at Calvary Road Baptist Church.

Other members of the Board of Directors are James Cox, Carol Hakenson, Daniel Kuntz, Betty Nalls, Cary Nalls, Margaret Welch and Joseph (Sonny) Wright.

The Franconia Museum is located in the Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road. It is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturdays. An all-volunteer organization, the Museum gains its operating expenses from memberships, donations and the sale of its series of books entitled Franconia Remembers.

Volume VII of the Franconia Remembers series will highlight the history of the Franconia Volunteer Fire Department. It will be released later this year. Keep up with the Museum activities at franconiamuseum.org.