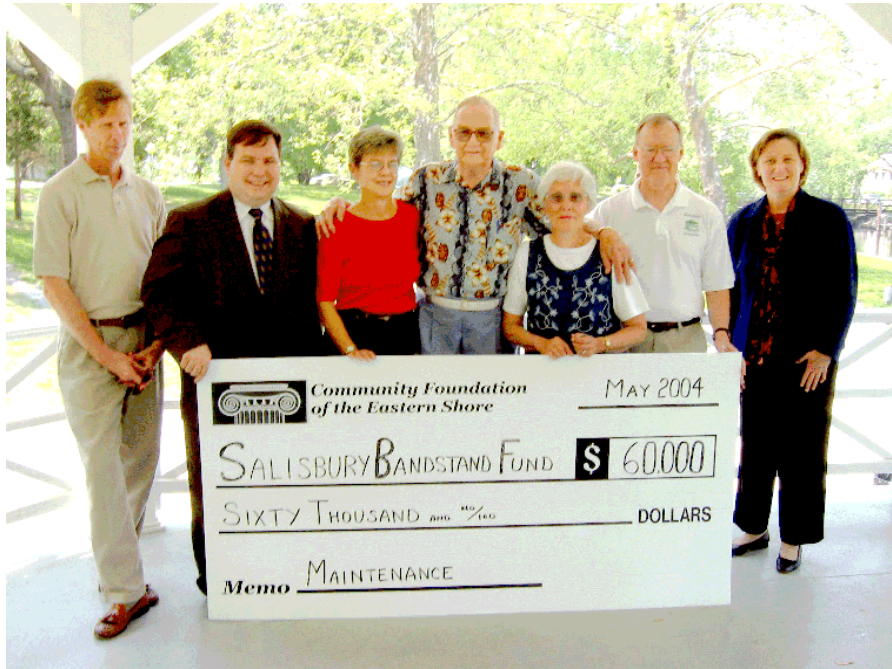


COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND ESTABLISHED FOR SALISBURY CITY PARK BANDSTAND



Celebrating the establishment of a \$60,000 designated endowment fund at the Community Foundation to permanently maintain the Salisbury City Park bandstand and footbridge are: (l to r) Mike Dunn, City Councilmember David Michaud, former Foundation President; Lynn Cathcart, City Councilmember; Bill Briddell and Kay Records, Friends of the Bandstand committee members; Dr. Charles Smith, Salisbury Community Band director; and Mayor Barrie Parsons Tilghman.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fund provides means for upkeep of Bandstand and footbridge renovations

(May 11, 2004) - Salisbury officials and volunteers who have actively worked to renovate the City Park's bandstand and footbridge gathered together in the park to inspect the revitalization work and celebrate the establishment of an endowment fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore to permanently maintain these community landmarks.

The Friends of the Bandstand, working in conjunction with the City of Salisbury, has established a permanent endowment fund to maintain and upkeep the Salisbury Park Bandstand and Footbridge with a gift of \$60,000. "When improvements to these facilities have been made in the past, they have eventually succumbed to wear and deterioration," said David Michaud, president of the Community Foundation. "But this permanent endowment fund provides a means for the city to maintain both of these historic structures in Salisbury's City Park forever. It just wouldn't be Salisbury without these local landmarks."

As with all endowment funds at the Foundation, the initial gift and all future gifts to the Salisbury Park Bandstand and Bridge Endowment Fund are prudently invested to maintain the real value of the fund's assets and produce predictable distributions for maintenance of the facilities over the long term.

The City Park was established with the purchase of the current park land for \$6,000 through the foresight of L. Thomas Parker, who served as mayor of Salisbury from 1924-28. The current bandstand, footbridge and lighted water fountain were built as part of the federal government's Works Projects Administration (WPA) in the late 1930s.

The bandstand and footbridge have undergone cycles of renovation and decline and in 2001 were closed to the public because of significant deterioration. A \$25,000 grant from the Community Foundation's Albert Bailey Wicomico County Fund in July 2001 spurred the recent restoration efforts. In 2002 the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable started a citizen's campaign to repair the structures with a \$25 contribution by Bill Briddell, who chairs the Friends of the Bandstand civic group. Shortly after, the late C.T. Webster, a city council member at the time, persuaded Gillis Gilkerson to be the general contractor for renovating the bandstand and work soon began on the project.

The original committee for the renovation project included: Bill Briddell, Lynn Cathcart, now a council member; Kay Records, Dr. Charles Smith, Salisbury Community Band director; and C.T. Webster. The bandstand renovations were completed in April and improvements to adjacent landscaping will be finished in the next few weeks.

At the first summer concert in the park in June a ceremony will unveil stone markers next to the bandstand that will honor C.T. Webster, and Dr. Charles Smith. The markers will be placed near a new brick wall which will include the placement of 362 memorial bricks that were sold to families for \$50 each to raise funds for the bandstand renovation. A plaque will also be displayed on the bandstand to acknowledge contributors of \$500 or more to the project.

The renovation project fundraising goal is \$200,000 and to date \$165,311 has been raised from donations. Gifts are still being accepted for both the renovation project and to increase the \$60,000 bandstand endowment. Anyone wishing to contribute to the building fund should contact the Salisbury Mayor's office. Gifts to the endowment fund should be made by contacting the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

Renovation of the footbridge is being funded by the State of Maryland by another \$150,000 that was appropriated by the legislature through the efforts of Del. Norman Conway, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Additional state funding is being sought by the delegate to complete the footbridge improvements which begins later this year.

The endowment fund at the Community Foundation will provide distributions at the request of the Mayor of Salisbury for maintenance of both the bandstand and footbridge to ensure these community landmarks will never again be allowed to deteriorate and become inaccessible to the public.

More information about the Foundation's endowment funds and other services to nonprofit organizations and charitable giving opportunities may be found on this website or by calling the Foundation office at (410) 742-9911.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
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