

ROSEDALE NEWS



Historic Rosedale

3427 N. Tryon St
P.O. Box 790004
Charlotte, NC 28206
(704) 335-0325

Hours

Wednesday-Saturday
10am - 3pm
House tours:
11:30am & 1:30pm

Rosedale's Mission

The Mission of Historic Rosedale Foundation is threefold: to educate, to preserve and to continue to build a more diverse and inclusive platform for interpretation. We shall:

1. Present an authentic view of five generations of the Frew, Caldwell and Davidson families, and the enslaved and free African Americans that lived and worked on the land;
2. Preserve and interpret the 1815 historic house and the surrounding buildings emphasizing the important role these white and black families held in Charlotte, NC;
3. Provide and maintain a peaceful green space with Treasure Trees, garden borders, native and heirloom plants within a highly developed urban corridor.

Upcoming Events

Visit our website for more information and to buy tickets!

"Shadows of September": A Rosedale Paranormal Festival

September 26 • 11am-6pm

Paranormal Investigation at 8pm

Rosedale's Paranormal Festival will feature a full day of family-friendly activities celebrating the Carolinas' spirited side — all while supporting the preservation of one of Charlotte's most treasured historic sites.

Victorian Funeral

October 9 • 6:30pm

Visit Historic Rosedale to experience the traditional funeral practices of the 19th Century. Led by a knowledgeable guide, visitors will tour the house to learn about the mourning practices of the Victorian Era.

Historic Rosedale Book Launch

November 5 • 3:30pm-6pm

Come meet and hear from our authors as we present our official Historic Rosedale publication with a book launch event. This event is free and open to the public. Books will be available on site for purchase.

African American Legacy Memorial Garden Dedication

November 7 • 1pm-3pm

Join us for the official dedication of our Memorial Garden. This event will feature guest speakers and a mini-tour that highlights the significance of the garden.

Drinks through the Decades

November 20 • 6:30pm

Visit Rosedale to get a taste of traditional drinks from different historical decades.

Candlelight Tour and Garden Stroll

December 6 • 6pm

Tour Historic Rosedale by candlelight to see how it would've appeared to its 19th-Century residents.

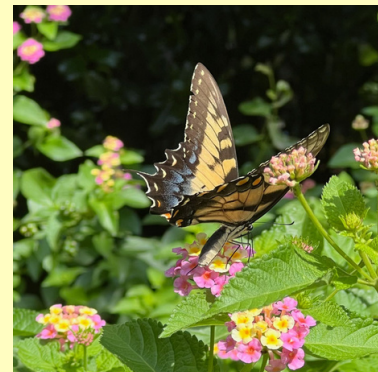
From the Board

By Janet Levy

The beginning of the fiscal year on July 1 also marks membership changes in the Board of Directors of Historic Rosedale Foundation. This July, three long-time members rolled off the Board, and we added a new member. Tom Spada, Tina Wright, and Margaret Glover Schrimsher ended very long and productive terms on the Rosedale Board. Tom will continue to watch over facilities and repairs, for which he has made many, many contributions over the years. Tina will continue to volunteer in the gardens, a task she has contributed for a long time. We hope to see Margaret on site as well, representing her family which has been involved with Rosedale for two generations. Sean Sullivan, a relative newcomer to Charlotte, has joined the board. Sean has worked in residential and commercial real estate, earned an MA in historic preservation from Boston Architectural College, and serves on the Charlotte Historic District Commission. He has become a docent at Rosedale, giving tours, as well as a garden volunteer. Welcome Sean!

Several committees of the Board have been active throughout the past six months. The Collections Committee is working on finalizing a Collections Policy and moving Rosedale's collections records to an online system, a long-overdue task. The Garden Committee is working hard on garden planning, with a current focus on controlling invasive plants. The Governance Committee has tackled a variety of tasks such as creating an organizational chart for Rosedale and searching for new board members. The Governance Committee has also appointed a new Asst. Treasurer, board member Tamia Allen Williams, to support Treasurer Will Potts. The African American Legacy Committee, led by Barbara McCray Jackson, has focused on final planning and construction of the memorial site behind the Pavilion. The memorial garden subcommittee, led by volunteers Ronald Schuman and Kyle Smith and significantly supported by Tom Spada, has led the construction planning. As of the end of August, construction is almost finished and a public inauguration is planned for early November.

Recent Activity in our Gardens



Photos by Tina Wright

Did you know?

This is the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, which is the state butterfly of North Carolina!

From the Executive Director

By Deanna Witte-Walker

Mission, Mission, Mission! If there is one word that is used repeatedly in the history museum (and non-profit) world, it is mission. Honestly, at times, it feels like it is all I hear. However, it is truly central to the work we do and to our service to the community. The mission of Historic Rosedale is outlined on the first page.

There is another phrase in museums/non-profits that rings true and that is: "There is no mission without money." I read [an article by Colleen Dilenschneider](#) early in my graduate career that drove this point home. By acknowledging this necessary balance, we can be more successful. To this point, long-standing museum practices, such as membership programs, annual fundraising events, etc. create annual sustaining revenue – so we can achieve our mission!

We continue to see a measurable increase in visitors; however, we need to also increase our fundraising efforts. Nevertheless, this is not an article asking you to give money (though we hope you always feel free to do so.) Instead, this is a plea to ask if you would **consider joining the Rosedale Development Committee**. We need your help to explore ways to increase revenue. Whether you like to be a "leader," a "worker bee," or an "idea person", we need it all, and we welcome your participation.

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions and/or suggestions.

(704) 335-0325

Deanna.Witte-Walker@historicrosedale.org

Architecture Corner

By Caroline Cook

Rosedale features two semi-circular fanlights, or lunette windows, positioned above the primary doorway and within the portico's triangular pediment. While common in Georgian design, these Federalist-style windows use lighter, classical proportions inspired by Greek and Roman architecture to enhance symmetry and natural light.



From the Forge

By Marty Foil

Summer is winding to a close and the Rosedale blacksmiths are looking forward to cooler weather! Our resident blacksmiths are looking forward to milder temperatures (at least outside) and sharing our ancient craft with Rosedale guests! Our smiths are in the shop most Saturdays each month to demonstrate our craft and educate visitors about the enslaved smiths at Rosedale. While you're visiting the shop, be sure to ask to take a turn at operating the forge bellows! Remember to check out the Rosedale Gift Shop - we have many hand forged items available for sale!



The blacksmithing legacy at Rosedale began in 1838 when Dr. Caldwell purchased blacksmithing equipment from a merchant by the name of John Johnson. That equipment included an anvil (\$18), bellows (\$25) and assorted hammers, tongs and other blacksmithing tools (\$11.25). Watch this space in upcoming issues to learn more fascinating tidbits of Rosedale blacksmithing history!



The African American Legacy Program

By Barbara McCray Jackson

In 2020, the Chairman of the Board of Historic Rosedale, Mr. Thomas Spada, felt a consolidation of information about the African Americans who had labored on the property should be made. A committee was created which included docents, university personnel, authors, genealogists, descendants, businessmen, and students. Various programs and exhibits have been featured through the years, the result of efforts by committee members and the retired coordinator, Margarette Joyner. We invite you to come to Historic Rosedale on Saturday, November 7, 2026 to witness the Dedication of the Memorial to the Enslaved Ancestor workers and subsequent African American workers on the property.





Rosedale’s Gift Shop

By Marissa D’Alessio

As the seasons change, Historic Rosedale’s gift shop is full of wonderful, cozy treasures to bring home with you this fall. Our bees have been working hard all summer to supply honey for our gift shop. Come on out to Rosedale to bring some home today! Visit our gift shop for artisan made products like quilts, candles, pottery, and other art. A visit to the Rosedale gift shop means supporting local artists and your local museum! In addition to our typical artisan-made products, the gift shop is expanding to include more Rosedale-specific merchandise. Stop by now to see our new postcards and magnets that you can bring home to commemorate your visit to Charlotte’s second oldest historic home!



Friends of Rosedale

Do you want to be a Friend of Historic Rosedale? Purchase a membership today! With seven tiers to choose from, we have a membership to fit anyone’s needs. Members enjoy free admission, unlimited house tours, free guest passes, and exclusive discounts. On top of all these perks, members help to support the often overlooked, yet massively important operating expenses for the Foundation. Giving back to Rosedale means that you are directly supporting historical research, preservation, and education in Charlotte. Call (704) 335-0325 or go to [our website](#) to sign up today!

Preservation at Work

This past spring, Historic Rosedale received a beautiful "facelift." Supported almost entirely through a grant from the Philip Van Every Foundation, the exterior of the 1815 house was washed and fully re-painted by James Contracting. Visitors are sure to notice the Paris Yellow trim when they drive up. This detail stands out today, just as it would have back in the early 19th century. The technique that was used to make this Paris (or Chrome) yellow was just newly developed in Frew's time. Fortunately for us, it is not nearly as expensive to acquire in 2026. If you haven't already, we invite you to come see how stunning the house looks today.



Volunteer at Rosedale

With positions ranging from gardening to blacksmithing, we are always looking for eager volunteers to join us. Volunteers are a core part of how we are able to maintain and expand our operating efforts. Volunteers help with research, programming, and guided tours of the site. If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering with us, [visit our website](#) to express your interest!



HISTORIC ROSEDALE'S BOARD & STAFF

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African American Legacy Program Coordinator
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Cameron Walsh

Interpreter/Collections Assistant
Caroline Cook

Newsletter Editor
Marissa D'Alessio

Have a suggestion for the next newsletter?
Please contact Marissa.Dalessio@historicrosedale.org

