

“Chugging Along” at the Lee Hall Depot

The historic Lee Hall Depot, the last remaining original C&O station of Warwick County, is undergoing exterior renovation to stabilize the structure from the elements and vandalism. In the fall of 2013, a contract was awarded to A.R. Chesson Construction Company of Wilmington, NC. The scope of work includes repair/replacement of siding, windows, doors and chimneys; rebuilding overhangs and brackets; roofing; exterior painting and installation of fire suppression and security systems. Estimated cost is \$853,120 with a completion date of spring 2014.

Concurrent with the exterior rehabilitation, the Lee Hall Train Station Foundation, a nonprofit organization supporting the city's efforts to restore the building, launched a capital campaign to raise \$600,000 for interior improvements. Outfitting the station as functional museum space entails creating 1) period rooms such as the station master's office and Railway Express Agency office. 2) exhibits in the freight room documenting the impact of rail service on rural Warwick County and the village of Lee Hall which grew up around the station. 3) community space for meetings and educational activities. Individuals/businesses may sponsor all or part of a room.

Another ongoing effort is building an artifact collection including archival materials (photographs, documents and oral histories), station furnishings and even rolling stock such as a C&O caboose. A Wish List of needed items is on the website www.leehalldepot.org.