

Fort Vance Historical Society



- The Fort Vance Historical Society (FVHS) was organized in 1969 by 17 local residents with the mission of “bringing together those people interested in history, to provide preservation of historical material, and to promote a better appreciation of our history.” The Society serves the communities of Burgettstown and West Middletown Boroughs, and the townships of Mt. Pleasant, Smith, Hanover, Jefferson, Independence, Cross Creek, and Hopewell.
- The Society gets its name from a fortification constructed near Burgettstown, which enabled its occupants to warn nearby settlers of impending American Indian attacks.
- FVHS is located within the Burgettstown Community Library at 2 Kerr Street in Burgettstown, but hopes to acquire the former Burgettstown Enterprise newspaper building for a permanent home.
- Since 2013, the all-volunteer organization has worked to increase the public’s access to its archives. A significant portion of the Society’s historical documents and photographs are now available on the FVHS website. The documents are categorized by subject (e.g. Business, School, Sports). The photos provide visual evidence of the region’s rich history. Also, research binders for local organizations have been created and made accessible at no charge.
- Upon request the FVHS will assist in genealogical and historical research. It has assisted visitors from Canada and nearly a dozen U.S. states in addition to written requests from Australia and the Netherlands.
- The Society is always looking for volunteers to assist with collecting and organizing historical materials: please contact Debbie Vraninin at vraninin@aol.com or call (724) 947-5441.
- The Fort Vance Historical Society welcomes new members and donations (both monetary and collections). Individual membership is \$10 per year and family memberships are \$15. Their online “General Store” offers a nice sampling of materials, including reproductions of historic maps of Burgettstown.



W.S. Bradley flag.

All photos courtesy of the Fort Vance Historical Society.





Young baseball players, Bulger, Pa.

- Visitors are welcome from noon to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays or by appointment. To learn more, please call (724) 947-5441, visit www.fortvance.org, or follow them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Fort-Vance-Historical-Society-149632268571519>.
- The History Center Affiliates Program, HCAP, is a membership-based network that allows local and regional historical societies, museums, educational institutions, libraries, and history-minded organizations access to museum professionals and best practice standards through the Senator John Heinz History Center.

To find out more about HCAP or to apply for membership for your organization, please contact Robert O. Stakeley, History Center Affiliates Program (HCAP) Manager, at rostakeley@heinzhistorycenter.org or (412) 454-6359.



Avella women march in front of the Washington Court House in protest of poor-quality water, 1964.