NBAHS Over 80s Harvest Dinner to be Held October 14

The public is invited to the New Brighton Area Historical Society’s (NBAHS) Sixteenth Annual “Over 80s” Harvest Dinner which will be held Sunday, October 14, at 1:00 PM at the Eagles Club, 563 Old Highway 8 in New Brighton. The Society will honor residents aged eighty years and over in the 55112 zip code area with a turkey dinner (price: $5) catered by the New Brighton Eagles Auxiliary. The price of the dinner for the public and other residents under the age of 80 will be $8. City officials and the New Brighton Ambassadors Royal Family have been invited. Entertainment will be provided by Jack Canfield and his “4 Plus” Band. Reservations are necessary. Please call before October 6 at 651-633-4070 for reservations.

Photos in this newsletter provided by Bonny and David Fleming.
The 2012 NBAHS button, to the right, recreates one of the first buttons used during Stockyard Days in the 1980s. This is the Stockyards Cattlemen’s/Exchange Hotel, which was on the northern end of 5th Avenue, the main street of New Brighton, the first village in Mounds View Township. New Brighton was platted and named by the Stockyards Corporation in 1887.

Built to accommodate 150 guests, the hotel was constructed at a cost of $30,000. The building housed a hotel, dining room, bank, land company, railroad offices, stock commission offices, telegraph office, newspaper presses, barber shop, saloon, and gaming rooms. It eventually became a canning factory and finally the original Beisswenger’s Hardware. The building was razed in October 1988.

A crude driveway, the Alley, ran westward from the hotel to provide access to packing plants, water pumps on Long Lake, and a small railroad depot at the Belt Line Tracks. That depot was later sold to the Hipp family who used it as a heated shelter to grow Winter Rhubarb, a delicacy then. The Hipp family’s access to their property, just north of the stockyards, was by way of a bridge across the narrows of Long Lake at about 16th Street, westward over to Long Lake Road. Dirt roads were common then and may have worked their way south through to the stockyards area before 1902.

Around 1902, St. Anthony businessmen wanted a “cut-off” to Forest Lake. It started with New Brighton Road from St. Anthony to County Road D, Long Lake Road to 5th Avenue, then a new road turning to the east of the Cattlemen’s Hotel and over to what should have been an extension of Cleveland Avenue (1st Avenue at St. John’s), northward to about County Road J, then northeastward along Lake Drive through Lexington to Lexington Avenue, then on to Forest Lake. The new cut-off road on the east side of the hotel became Highway 8 around 1906.
Major Renovations Needed at NBAHS New Brighton History Center Depot

The NBAHS has determined that we have some urgent building issues with our depot museum. There is hail damage to our depot museum roof, in addition to rotting of existing gable ends on the building. Our insurance will cover a large portion of the shingles, labor and materials of the roofing, but not the rebuilding of the existing gable ends. We have a $1000 deductible policy and anticipate that other accrued costs could amount to an additional $5000. Other repairs outlined below are estimated to be about $2500.

In addition to the roof and gable situation, the exterior of the depot needs repainting; the deck needs restaining; and the caboose needs window repairs. All of these jobs also require much prep work, including repair, paint prime, replacement of some deck boards, and window frame reconstruction.

When the Society started this depot museum project in 1990, we were able to obtain a Celebrate 1990 grant from the State of Minnesota for $25,000, which required matching funds in the form of donated work and equipment and volunteer labor. Many of those volunteers are still active in the Society, but since this project began twenty-two years ago, we are no longer physically able to provide the manpower needed to do these projects today.

Therefore we need to look for younger volunteers and/or contracting businesses who will donate or reduce the costs of their labor. If you know of some individual or business who would be able to help with depot repainting, deck restaining, and caboose renovation, please fill out the information below. You may also contact me at 651-633-4070.

Now we come to our membership to ask you to make a donation to help us cover these costs. Any donation would be appreciated and would be designated for roof and gable repair, repainting, restaining, and caboose repair.

Because this building was built in 1887, and is thus 125 years old, it is the oldest commercial building still standing in New Brighton. It is our mission that the Society continue its preservation and keep repairs up to date. We thank you in advance for your financial help.

Peg Joyce, President of NBAHS, and its Board of Directors

Your tax-deductible contribution can be sent to NBAHS, PO Box 120624, New Brighton, MN 55112.

Name_______________________________________________ Phone Number _______________________________

Address _____________________________________________ Email address _______________________________

Enclosed is my donation to the NBAHS $___________

___________ I am able to volunteer to help in the depot renovation projects. Please contact me.

______________________________________________________________ The name & phone number of a business or individual who might also be willing to assist in the above projects.
NBAHS 15TH ANNUAL RHUBARB FEST RECAP

New Brighton Area Historical Society celebrated its 15th annual Rhubarb Fest on Sunday, June 3, at which about 250 guests were served rhubarb desserts with ice cream. The Society also sold rhubarb jam, plants, cookbooks, and stalks. The Society thanks Joe and Dave Nathe of Riverside Farms for again allowing us to pull rhubarb, and Jeanne Hunn of Keys Restaurant and NBAHS Board members for providing delicious rhubarb desserts.

NBAHS Treasurer Jerry Bensing with photo of Lexington Keys Jeanne Hunn. Jerry has worked with Jeanne for 26 years on this rhubarb project.

2011-12 New Brighton Ambassadors helped at the Rhubarb Fest.

Rhubarb Fest guests enjoying the beautiful day and delicious desserts.

Rhubarb Fest volunteer extraordinaire Jerry Blanski, left, and President Peg Joyce’s family who helped out.
NBAHS board member Louise Hipp ran the NBAHS counter where items are sold. Louise also made and donated the rhubarb sauce for the desserts.

New Brighton Mayor Dave Jacobson and NBAHS Board member Dave Hoel

Rhubarb Fest guests enjoying the beautiful day and delicious desserts.

Restored Gang Cart at New Brighton History Center

NBAHS Board member Wayne Searles and his neighbor, Jeff Frismanis, have put in over two hundred hours restoring the Society’s gang cart on the siding in front of the depot. Eighty-eight board feet of new white oak was needed due to deterioration since the last renovation done by Frank Ziegler in 1998 for his Eagle Scout project. Wayne & Jeff donated the lumber, paint, primer, carriage bolts and other supplies for the project. Thanks are due to Wayne, Jeff, Jim Neumann at Beisswengers for paint, and Commercial Truck Repair for steam cleaning the wheels and axles on the gang cart. It looks brand new!