NBAHS Harvest Dinner to be Held October 11

The public is invited to the New Brighton Area Historical Society’s (NBAHS) Nineteenth Annual Harvest Dinner which will be held Sunday, October 11, 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 complimentary turkey dinner 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 651-633-4070 before October 4th for reservations.**
NBAHS Pursues State Legacy Fund Grant
by Dave Peterson

The New Brighton Area Historical Society and History Museum are almost strictly volunteer endeavors, and most of the work falls to our Board members. However, sometimes things are needed that cannot be covered strictly by energetic volunteers and by contributions like yours.

The Bulwer Junction Depot building that houses our museum in Long Lake Regional Park and our Great Northern caboose exhibit were donated, and much of the rehabilitation was accomplished by volunteers from the community. We have the superstructure in which to preserve and conserve our collections like the 4500 photographs dating back to the 1890s in our possession, but enhancements are needed to ensure that they are in the correct archival environment needed to preserve them for future generations, along with the papers and physical objects in our collections.

Therefore we’re preparing to submit a proposal to the State of Minnesota for a State Legacy Fund Grant to hire a credentialed preservation professional to work with us to complete a comprehensive General Preservation Assessment and to formulate a Long Range Conservation Plan. If we succeed in getting the grant, the project will include onsite inspection of our facilities and collections at the New Brighton History Museum, and compiling a report on conditions of our current museum and archival collections with recommendations for meeting current and future needs.

The final product will be a Long Range Conservation Plan for conserving and preserving our collections. The estimated cost is $5400, which is far beyond our normal operating budget, so please wish us luck with the proposal! It will be submitted in October and if successful, we will be able to start in early 2016. Watch the next newsletter for an update on our progress.

Historical Snippets from the Past
Booklet to be Published

The new NBAHS booklet, Historical Snippets from the Past, will be published in time for our Harvest Dinner on October 11. This booklet honors Gene Skiba by publishing his New Brighton Bulletin clippings of articles over the years. You’ll read his articles, such as Historical Photo of the Week, History Capsules, Remember When?, Pages from the Past, This & Data, plus general Bulletin clippings written by Gene. Each little article is a history in itself.

The soft-covered 136-page booklet will sell for $10 and will be available at the Harvest Dinner, by mail, or at the New Brighton History Center (before its closing date of September 27). By mail, send your $10 check plus $3 for postage to NBAHS, PO Box 120624, New Brighton, MN 55112.
Caboose Restoration to Date  
by Wayne Searles

On Sept 4, 2014 we started our project of caboose restoration with an entire volunteer force. The roof has been sealed and repaired.

We then removed the entire interior, and cleaned and repaired all damaged areas. New windows, expertly made by Director Ron Cota, were installed, and all insulation replaced.

Then the entire wall and ceiling area was covered with new car siding. The walls and windows were trimmed out and made ready for finishing. See photos to right.

Currently underway is sanding, priming and painting with supplies obtained at a discount from Beisswenger Hardware.

Our next project is to repair sand and refinish the floor. We will then design and build benches, desk, sink, lights and displays. Our goal is to have it ready for season opener in June 2016.

We continue to fundraise for the caboose renovation and encourage you to make a donation to this project. Please see the form on page 6. We thank you in advance for your help.

New Brighton Area Historical Society welcomes new members: Albert & Susan Madison and Mark Burger. Thanks for being a part of our organization!
Louise Hipp

The New Brighton Area Historical Society mourns the loss of Louise Hipp, long-time board member and New Brighton resident. Louise, age 91, of Cambridge passed away on August 23. She was always ready to tell a story about the Hipp family farm (Lakeside Berry Farm), where she lived with her husband Edwin Hipp and raised four children. Louise was a faithful worker for the NBAHS, always willing to lend a hand, whether it was helping to restore the depot museum, working at the museum, or bringing her rhubarb sauce yearly to our Rhubarb Festival. We will indeed miss Louise, and thank her family for “lending” her to us for many years.

Above, Louise with her son being honored as a New Brighton Pioneer Family at the 2011 NBAHS Annual Meeting.

Louise helping clean the depot interior in the 1990s.

Louise with Fred Behrens helping at the 2013 Rhubarb Fest.
NBAHS 18TH ANNUAL RHUBARB FEST RECAP

New Brighton Area Historical Society celebrated its 18th annual Rhubarb Fest on Sunday, June 7, 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 the Nathes 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.

New Brighton Area Historical Society Photo Update

We have recently added 500+ photos to our collections. Gene Skiba’s family found an additional 330 photos when going through his collections; they also donated another 50 old photos with no names indicated. We tried to identify these 50 photos, mostly of wedding, first communions and families, but have not been successful. David Kuchinski copied 150 of his photos, mostly of the Kuchinski, Bona, Moga, Kuharski, Dambeck, Rybak, Sina, Jakala, and Matushak families. Some were also unidentified. Go to our website (below) to see two pages on Who Is This? to see if you can help identify any of these photographs.

We now have 182 donors totaling 4526 photos. The majority of these photos, along with the database descriptions, are available to view at the New Brighton History Center September weekends from 1:00-4:00 PM. We thank board member David Fleming for his donation of a printer/scanner to go with the computer he donated earlier. We are now able to scan larger size photos and also print photos for those of you interested. We charge $10 per photo for printing on 8x10 photo paper, and $5 for a 4x6 printed photo.
Arsenal Contractor Celebrating 100 Years of Service

Walbridge, a construction company from Detroit, Michigan, was the general contractor for building the arsenal in 1941. In celebrating its 100 years as a company, Walbridge is erecting a large mural at their headquarters. They have requested and we have given permission to use three of our photos in our arsenal collection to display on this mural.

The NBAHS thanks the following individuals for their monetary donation toward caboose renovation: Don & Nancy Heinrich, Jeanette Janecek, Gerald Samuelson, Evelyn Reiling, Carolyn Mastenbrook, David Fleming, New Brighton/Mounds View Rotary, New Brighton Sportsmens Club, and those giving through GoFundMe and Give MN. We encourage you to support this project! You may use the form below.

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to cover caboose interior renovation.

Donations can be sent to and will be welcomed by NBAHS, PO Box 120624, New Brighton, MN 55112.

Name_____________________________ Phone Number ______________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

Email address _____________________________________________________________

Enclosed is my donation to the NBAHS $___________

____________ I am interested in volunteering to help at the New Brighton History Center. Please contact me.

Pictured left to right:
2015 NBAHS Board of Directors:

Back row: Directors Val Johnson, Wayne Searles, David Fleming, Jerry Laumeyer;
Middle row: Vice President Fred Behrens, Director David Peterson;
Front row: Treasurer Jerry Bensing, Directors Ron Cota, Jerry Blanski,
President Peg Joyce, Secretary Joyce Kloncz.