NBAHS 20th Annual Harvest Dinner to be Held October 9

The public is invited to the New Brighton Area Historical Society’s (NBAHS) 20th Annual Harvest Dinner which will be held Sunday, October 9, 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 3rd for reservations.

Harvest Dinner and Rhubarb Fest photos provided by Bonny and David Fleming

Royalty and Guests at 2015 Harvest Dinner
A Message from Our President
by Dave Peterson

This is an exciting time for the future of history in New Brighton!

We just concluded another wonderful New Brighton Stockyard Days celebration. Many of you know we raise funds with delicious ice cream from Culvers at our Stockyard Days booth each year in Long Lake Regional Park. We’re happy to have served up hundreds of dishes of vanilla and chocolate ice cream and root beer floats!

Many of you also know that other members of the New Brighton Area Historical Society Board were instrumental in getting Stockyard Days started. Each year is like returning to our roots. We appreciate your support so very much, and are excited to be a fixture of the city’s celebration.

Thinking of Stockyard Days brings to mind the history of celebrations in New Brighton. Our annual meeting this past April featured a presentation on Good Times in New Brighton by NBAHS Board Members Fred Behrens and Wayne Searles. Interestingly enough, that’s led to a new NBAHS undertaking, links to films that will be available through our web page.

A member of the community has offered footage of the antique car run from several years ago to show whole or in part on our web page, and we recently converted some Super 8 footage of the 1959 Old Timers Night parade donated to us by Tom Petersen. This should be available through links on our web page by the time you read this.

Complimenting these forays into digital history is our updated virtual exhibit of the New Brighton History Center depot museum, which allows you to move through the virtual environment of our history center (including the caboose) with arrow keys on your computer keyboard, a mouse, or a touch screen (even on a smart phone).

If you haven’t already, please check it out. In the near future we’ll add tags with information about what you’re seeing as you navigate through the exhibit. See more info on page 4.

We aren’t neglecting our physical museum either. We’re wrapping up a facilities assessment and long-term planning project with the Midwest Arts Conservation Center (MACC), funded by MN Historical and Cultural Legacy Funds grant from the MN Historical Society, and considering ways to branch out with exciting new offerings in the City of New Brighton. We’ll keep you posted as those plans develop.

Thanks for your generous support, and ensuring there’s a future for history in the New Brighton area!

Ron Cota Engraving Planks

Ron has been our faithful plank engraver for many years now. You can see what he needs to go through to make your lettering just perfect. We thank him for his expertise and for making this project a very important component of the NBAHS.
Caboose Restoration Complete  
by Wayne Searles

After being closed for two years we opened our caboose on June 5, 2016, during our Rhubarb Fest.

We demolished the entire inside, fixed the leaks, sanitized, re-insulated and installed car siding. We refinshed the floor, rebuilt and installed new windows, rebuilt the furnishings and painted.

All the labor was donated by the board members, NBAHS members and volunteers. This is the only caboose of this model that we have discovered that has been refurbished.

The entire project was financed by the generous donations of:

- BNSF RAILWAY FOUNDATION - (Burlington Northern Santa Fe)
- GREAT NORTHERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- NEW BRIGHTON LIONS
- NEW BRIGHTON/MOUNDS VIEW ROTARY
- NEW BRIGHTON SPORTSMEN
- AND VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS

We greatly appreciate the time, talents and treasures that have been donated and hope this will be enjoyed by all of our visitors for many years to come. Pictured right: President Dave Peterson accepting a check from Rotary member Dave Hoel.

NBAHS thanks Wayne Searles and his crew of volunteers for the masterful work done with the caboose renovation.
Virtual Tour of New Brighton History Center Now Available for Viewing!

Our virtual tour of the New Brighton History Center and our 1950 Great Northern caboose is now up and running at https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=mjrk4a5nEMM. Or you can go to our website at www.newbrightonhistory.com and view it on one of our tabs. The virtual tour was done by Jeremy Nienow of 3D Building Technologies. We intend to tag some items in the near future so you can get a clearer picture of our museum and its artifacts.

With a mouse, keyboard arrows, or finger (touchpad), you can move through the rooms or turn from side to side to see all that we have in our history center. You can also get a “dollhouse” view, showing the building as if the roof were removed and a “floor plan” view.

This virtual tour allows the public a chance to visit our museum via the magic of technology. Many of our supporters are not able to visit the museum as much as they would like, so a virtual tour allows them the ability to look around inside an 1887 Soo Line depot building originally situated near the pole yards in New Brighton and our 1950 Great Northern caboose. Enjoy the tour!
New Brighton Area Historical Society celebrated its 19th Annual Rhubarb Fest on Sunday, June 5, 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, for providing delicious rhubarb desserts.
Another Historical Tidbit: Lizzie Schafman, a New Brighton resident, was named a Gold Star Mother when her son, Walter Schafman, died in World War I, and for whom VFW Post #724 is named. She and other Gold Star mothers were invited in 1930 to view the cemetery in France where their sons were buried. Left to right, top to bottom, Lizzie’s invitation from US government, her passport, identity card, a photo of the mothers going to France, the cemetery site, and the telegram telling Lizzie of her son’s death.