The New Brighton Area Historical Society’s (NBAHS) Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, April 23, at 1:00 PM at the New Brighton Community Center, 400 10th St. NW, New Brighton. The Annual Meeting will begin at 1:00, with the program beginning at 2:00 PM. There will be refreshments & a prize drawings to follow.

The topic for our annual meeting presentation is “History of New Brighton: 1940-2015,” given by Wayne Searles & Fred Behrens. This program is co-sponsored by Ramsey County Library and funded by Minnesota’s Art & Cultural Fund.

Free admission. The public is invited as well. Please join us! For more information, see our poster on page 6.
New Brighton Area Historical Society 2015 Calendar of Events

**April 23:** NBAHS Annual Meeting
Community Center, 1:00 PM

**May 16:** Spring Clean-up
History Center, 9AM - 12 PM

**June 6:** Rhubarb Pull
Contact Jerry @ 651-633-6275 to help

**June 7:** Rhubarb Fest
History Center, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Museum Opens for the Season
1:00 - 4:00 PM, Saturdays & Sundays

**August 8, 9:** Stockyard Days
History Center open extended hours:
Saturday: noon - 8PM
Sunday: 10AM - 4PM

**September 27:** Depot Closes for Season

**October 11:** Over 80s Dinner

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**18th Annual Rhubarb Fest**
**June 7: 1:00 - 4:00 PM**
**New Brighton History Center**

The 16th Annual Rhubarb Fest, sponsored by the New Brighton Area Historical Society, continues to honor the Hipp Family and those who worked 40 acres of rhubarb on Joe Hipp’s Lakeside Berry Farm. Come and enjoy homemade rhubarb desserts or purchase homemade rhubarb jam, rhubarb stalks, plants, and cookbooks.

The Rhubarb Pull will be at Nathe’s farm on Saturday, June 6, from 9:00 AM to noon. We can use help. Contact Jerry Bensing for details, 651-633-6275.

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**WE NEED HELP!**

The following offices for the New Brighton Area Historical Society, 2015-2016, will be voted on at the April 23 Annual Meeting: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors. We are gathering names now for our slate of officers, which will be presented that afternoon. Please contact Peg at 651-633-4070 if you’re interested in becoming one of our directors or officers.

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**Photo Collection Update**

Did you know that the New Brighton Area Historical Society has 4069 photos in its collections, and that 3664 have been digitally scanned, and that we now have 181 donors who either donated or loaned us photos for copying? A listing of our photos is found at our website, www.newbrightonhistory.com > Downloadable Files > Photo Database. If you find a photo there of which you’d like a copy, email us at nbahs@me.com
Twin Cities Arsenal Photos

The NBAHS has, with member Doug Anderson’s help, scanned some 175 photos from our arsenal archives. The arsenal, known originally as Twin City Ordnance Plant (TCOP), offered some photos to our Society before the buildings were razed. Photos include aerial views of the property, exterior and interior views of buildings, newspaper clippings, and copies of the newsletter Twin Cities Ordnance News.

Construction began on August 28, 1941, to produce small caliber ammunition for the US Army. The first shipment was produced in February 1942. In 1943 there were 21,200 employed at TCOP. In 1946 production lines were placed on standby and the facility was redesignated Twin Cities Arsenal (TCA). In August 1950, TCA was reactivated to support the Korean conflict, with 9306 employed in 1952. In 1958, production lines were placed on standby. Later that year Honeywell began production at TCA. November 1961 saw TCA redesignated to TCOP, and July 1963 saw it redesignated to Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP).

In 1965 TCAAP was reactivated to support the Southeast Asia conflict. In 1969 there were 6661 employed at TCAAP. In 1974 all small caliber ammunition produced was placed on standby. In June 1981, groundwater contamination was discovered, with TCAAP listed on the EPA national priorities list for Superfund. In October 1987 the Boundary Groundwater Recovery System began pumping. In 1990 Alliant Techsystems was created from Honeywell’s Defense & Marine Systems business. August 1991 saw TCAAP’s 50th anniversary.
In the search area on Facebook, type New Brighton Area Historical Society. Since we began our page in September, 2014, we soon had 87 “likes;” today we have 173 “likes,” and reaching 603 people.

We have added new information and photos on the history of schools and churches in New Brighton area, plus photos of “old” New Brighton, the arsenal, and other photos.

Please consider going to Facebook and “liking” our page.

NBAHS Plank Sales

The NBAHS has sold 648 planks to date for its decking surrounding the depot. And we still have planks available for future engraving! If you’re interested, you may send your requests to our address on page one. You can also download our plank flyer at www.newbrightonhistory.com > Downloadable Forms > 2015 Plank Flyer. The price is $50 for up to 25 letters and/or characters, with $2 for each additional letter and/or character. Board member Ron Cota has so ably been routing our planks for the last few years, and we thank him for his service.

New Brighton Area Historical Society Website: www.newbrightonhistory.com

We continue to see an increase in users to our website. On February 19, there were 1830 hits. As of April 1, there were 2155 hits. Go to our site for lots of interesting information and photos concerning the history of the New Brighton area.

Depot Updates

Boy Scouts from Troop #93, from St. John the Baptist Church, have kept the deck and sidewalks at the history center shoveled all winter for the Society. Thanks, scouts!

A new security camera has been installed on the exterior of the depot.

Wayne Searles made and installed a magazine rack for the kitchen.

NBAHS Book Sales Continue

Are we still selling our books? Of course, and here’s where: New Brighton City Hall and Community Center, Beisswenger’s Hardware and, summers only, at the New Brighton History Center.

To date we have sold all but 75 of the green book by Gene Skiba. We have sold 613 of the red book, 1880s-1950s, and 435 of the blue book, 1950s-2000s. You can download our book flyer at: www.newbrightonhistory.com > NBAHS History Books.
Crowd funding to Save the Caboose

Last October we began GiveMN and gofundme crowd funding campaigns to help pay for the restoration of New Brighton’s historic 1950 Great Northern caboose. So far we have raised $455 with gofundme & GiveMN, most recently with a generous donation from Scott Reed. Other donors include Janet Peterson, Dale Wyttenbach, Linda Rostand, and, all the way from Forestiville, CA, Catherine Yronwode. We’ve also raised $321 through our membership appeal.

As most or all of you know, the caboose is one of our most popular exhibits, but it’s suffered from a leaky roof and related problems. Repairs and upgrades are needed before we can safely reopen it to the public. The costs are estimated at $8000. So far we have been able to raise only 5% of our goal. We hoped to reopen the caboose in 2015, but unless we reach our goal we will have to continue to work on it slowly as volunteer time and funds permit.

This is expensive. So far progress with the restoration has been through the generous donation of labor and knowhow from members of our Board of Directors and their friends. Not everyone can give $200, but in the end even small donations of a few dollars or more will make the difference.

Please give what you can, and let your friends and family know about this important opportunity. It’s easy to share the campaign if you go to the New Brighton Area Historical Society page on Facebook, and share the postings you’ll find there about our GiveMN and gofundme efforts. We are giving away incentives for donations while supplies last, including coffee mugs, shirts, and hardcover copies of the history of New Brighton. Go to the New Brighton Area Historical Society’s Facebook page for more information.

READYING THE DEPOT FOR WINTER

Do you know how much work it is to get our depot museum ready for winter? Here’s what our loyal crew of helpers does every fall:

- Close main water valve & drain all faucets; close values to outside and faucets
- RV antifreeze in drains & toilet
- Plug bottom of doors to prevent drafts
- Install winter curtains (thanks, Dave Fleming for your donation of thermal panels over all the windows)
- Turn off water heater breaker
- Remove screen doors
- Remove inside curtains to prevent motion detection
- Turn on furnace & set thermostat to 40˚ - replace battery if blinking
- Check vent pipes for obstructions
- Check carbon monoxide detector battery
- Secure shutters

Then reverse all of that in the spring!
Caboose Interior Renovation Progress

Our loyal volunteers, Ron Cota, Jerry Laumeyer, and Wayne Searles have begun the renovation of the caboose interior. The interior has been gutted, necessary nailers installed, window frames made, and new windows (expertly made by Ron Cota) have been placed. They hope to soon have insulation installed, wiring completed and a vapor barrier in place as the weather warms up. Then they’ll start on the interior siding. They need to wait until warmer weather to permanently mount the windows so the caulking can dry.

Thanks to the following for their donations to make this project possible: Connie Laumeyer, Warren Wetherill, Jeanette Janecek, Don & Nancy Heinrich, and Gerald Blanksi. Other donations are indicated in the GiveMN & gofundme article, p. 5.