The New Brighton Area Historical Society’s (NBAHS) Thirty-sixth Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, April 28, 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.

The topic for our annual meeting presentation is “Good Times in New Brighton: A Century Worth of Celebrations,” given by Wayne Searles & Fred Behrens. Wayne & Fred will take us down memory lane: Old Timers Night, Squash Show, Stockyard Days, 4th of July, Ice Fishing Contest & more. This program is co-sponsored by Ramsey County Library and funded by Minnesota’s Art & Cultural Fund.

Free admission. The public is invited. Please join us! Refreshments will be served. For more information, see our poster on page three.

Visit our New Brighton History Center in the summer starting on June 5. Hours are 1:00 - 4:00 PM on Saturdays & Sundays until the end of September.

Our historic 1950 Great Northern caboose is undergoing interior renovation and will be open for viewing when the project is completed later. But there’s still plenty to see inside our 1887 Bulwer Junction depot. Join us!

Photo by Douglas Anderson.
WE NEED HELP!

The following offices for the New Brighton Area Historical Society, 2016-2017, will be voted on at the April 28 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 Joyce at 651-633-4070 if you're interested in becoming one of our directors or officers.

19th Annual Rhubarb Fest
June 5: 1:00 - 4:00 PM
New Brighton History Center

The 19th 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 4, from 9:00 AM to noon. We can use help. Contact Jerry Bensing for details, 651-633-6275.

Photo Collection Update

Did you know that the New Brighton Area Historical Society now has 4659 photos in its collections, and that 4274 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. Digital copies are $10 per copy.
Join us for an interesting program at our Annual Meeting on April 28, 2016, at the New Brighton Community Center. The topic will be “Good Times in New Brighton: A Century’s Worth of Community Celebrations.” All of the City of New Brighton and NBAHS events will be covered in a slide show with many photos of the events.

Pictured above are some of the locals having fun at the City of New Brighton’s Old Timers Night parade in 1963. NBAHS photo donated by Jerry Laumeyer #130.08.
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<th>NBAHS Receives Legacy Grant</th>
<th>History Museum in Long Lake Regional Park. In addition to tours, special events, and providing space for our Board meetings, the museum serves as our curation facility.</th>
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<td>In January, the New Brighton Area Historical Society received a state Legacy Fund grant of $5474 for a General Preservation Assessment, and to create a Long Range Conservation Plan for the New Brighton Area Historical Society. This project will identify issues and prioritize goals to conserve and preserve our current collection of archival, audiovisual, photographic, and digital materials as well as physical objects. We will also develop strategies for meeting these goals to professional standards, while maintaining normal public access to the museum and our collections. This project is essential to our mission. We are a registered state 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the chief function of the discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the history of the area in and about New Brighton. We are celebrating the 36th year since the society’s incorporation in 1980. The New Brighton History Museum is housed in the Bulwer Junction Depot building, the 1887 wood frame railroad depot that is the oldest and most significant surviving representation of the important role that railroads and stockyards played in the early history and development of New Brighton. We received a Celebrate MN 1990 grant to renovate the depot, and with major renovations completed, it was opened to the public in 1995 as the New Brighton</td>
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<td>History Museum in Long Lake Regional Park. In addition to tours, special events, and providing space for our Board meetings, the museum serves as our curation facility.</td>
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<td>Last spring, our Board of Directors received input from the Ramsey County Historical Society and consulted with the Midwest Art Conservation Center in developing a proposal to the Minnesota Historical Society to initiate long-term conservation and preservation of our collection, the Bulwer Junction Depot, and our newly renovated Great Northern caboose. We are hiring the non-profit Midwest Art Conservation Center (MACC) in Minneapolis to conduct the General Preservation Assessment Survey. The comprehensive survey involves an on-site visit for two days this spring, and preparation of a detailed report to aid in future planning, including future grants to improve care of our collections and facilities. Once the survey is completed, a conservator from MACC will meet with our staff for discussion and input. Then MACC will complete a written Long Range Conservation Plan. The project will be completed during the summer. As a fellow non-profit member organization of MACC, we will also receive future assistance for grant writing at no charge and other services as needed to complete the projects that MACC recommends for us in the plan.</td>
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Caboose Interior Renovation Progress

Pre-demolition damage assessment of caboose interior revealed:
- Leaking roof
- Rotted windows and frames
- Mildew from leaking windows
- Damaged floorboards

Restoration started September 4, 2014. We repaired roof leaks and coated the entire roof with sealant. Then the entire interior was removed, walls sanitized and window openings reworked to prevent further leaking. The rotted wood framing was replaced, new insulation was installed, and new windows were framed and installed with bulletproof glass. Car siding was installed on ceilings and walls and was painted Great Northern green with white trim. The floor was repaired and refinished.

We are currently building and installing furnishings for the interior to replicate the original car. This is all due to the generosity of many civic groups, businesses, and individuals, and over 700 volunteer hours from our loyal crew. Grants from Great Northern Railway Historical Society & Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) also enriched the funding for this project.
**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.

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

We continue to see an increase in users to our website. On February 19, 2015 there were 1830 hits. As of March 28, 2016, there were 4344 hits. Go to our site for lots of interesting information and photos concerning the history of the New Brighton area.

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**New Brighton Area Historical Society is on Facebook!**

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 330 “likes;“ and reaching over 1000 people.

We have added new information and photos on the history of early businesses in New Brighton and the development of Lake Johanna beach by the Perry Family.

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

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**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 at the New Brighton History Center, (summers only).

To date we have sold all but 62 of the green book by Gene Skiba. We have sold 641 of the red book, 1880s-1950s, and 450 of the blue book, 1950s-2000s. You can download our book flyer at: www.newbrightonhistory.com > NBAHS History Books.