

New Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter



44th Annual Meeting Thursday, April 25, 6:00 PM
 New Brighton: Traveling Through Time
 Way Back When: 1940s to Present

The public is invited to join the New Brighton Area Historical Society on **Thursday, April 25, at 6:00 PM**, at the New Brighton Community Center, 400 10th St. NW, for its 44th Annual Meeting.

The Society will present a slide show titled "New Brighton: Traveling Through Time . . . Way Back When: 1940s to Present," showing how the City of New Brighton developed from then to now. Wayne Searles & Fred Behrens will be presenting the program.

Wayne & Fred will be highlighting special events in New Brighton, especially Old Timers Night and Stockyard Days. Photos from these events will bring back lots of memories for those in attendance.

Wayne is the great-grandson of early New Brighton founders, Frank & Sadie Searles, who came to New Brighton in 1889. Fred is the son of the second fire chief in New Brighton (1963-1967), Herman Behrens. Both have great memories of growing up in New Brighton.

New Brighton Mayor, City Council, City Staff, and New Brighton Ambassadors have been invited to attend.

Refreshments will be served. Questions can be addressed to (651) 633-4070 or nbahs@me.com.



Old Timers Night parade featuring Grand Marshals Bill & Stella Rybak seated in front of wagon. Grill Restaurant & Joe's Service Station shown. No date available.

NBAHS Calendar of Events

April 25: Annual Meeting - 6:00 PM
 May 18: Depot Spring Cleanup Day 9:00 AM
 June 1: Rhubarb Pull - 9:00 AM
 June 2: Rhubarb Fest & Museum Opens 1-4 PM
 for Summer Weekends
 August 9-11: Stockyard Days
 September 29: Depot closes for season

A Message From the President



With the arrival of Spring 2024, the NBAHS will be marking its 44th year; in fact, next year we will be celebrating our 30th year since the opening of the New Brighton History Center at Long Lake Regional Park in New Brighton.

Most that have visited our Depot have remarked at the quality and breadth of our historical displays. It should be noted that our primary objective is not to be a “*railroad museum*” per se; however, we are frequently visited by many railroad aficionados who often remark that we possess one of the most impressive and extensive collections of train-related artifacts in the area. (This is due largely to the donation made by Kermit and Eileen Hedman in 1994.)

Maintaining a facility that is over 137-years old requires constant maintenance, notwithstanding that the building was essentially “rebuilt” by the Society upon moving to its current site in 1990. This spring, for example, we intend to resurface and repaint the entire perimeter deck surrounding the Depot. (It is important to note that it is only through financial contributions from local groups and citizens that we can fund major maintenance projects on our Depot and adjacent 1950’s-era Great Northern caboos. In particular, the New Brighton Lions Club has led the way with donations, along with several other generous donors.)

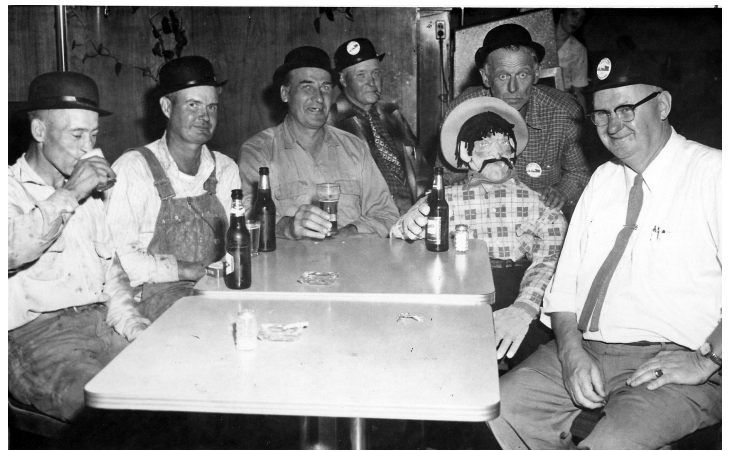
It should also be noted that our deck is unique in that the individual planks are engraved with 668 names of many former and current New Brighton-area residents. It is indeed an impressive sight. (If you or your family have not already done so, we welcome you to consider an engraved plank, which the Society will gladly do for a fee of \$50.)

In closing, it is important to stress that the Society is truly blessed to have a diverse and talented 10-member Board (along with several volunteers)—they just get things done! We look forward to seeing you at the Rhubarb Festival on June 2 and throughout the summer! See you at the Depot.

Fred Behrens, President, NBAHS



Old Timers Night Queen Barbara Coleman on float, sponsored by Bel Air Corporation. No date.



Old Timers Night patrons at the Powerhouse (Muni) with dummy Dangerous Sam. Bill Speiser, bartender, far right. No date. Rest unidentified.

Rhubarb Pull & Rhubarb Fest



Please join the Society for its 24th Annual Rhubarb Fest on Sunday, June 2, from 1:00 - 4:00 PM at the New Brighton History Center. This event is an important fundraiser for the Society. But it all starts on Saturday, June 1, at 8:00 AM, when the annual Rhubarb Pull is held.

Rhubarb stock from Long Lake Park's Hipp Farm is made available to NBAHS by Dave Nathe's Riverside Farm in Elk River. This is also the 37th year that the NBAHS has provided rhubarb for Keys Restaurants.

The society volunteers pull and donate hundreds of pounds of rhubarb, 150 pounds of which goes to Keys who bake large rhubarb desserts for the Fest. An additional 300 to 350 pounds are pulled for stock sales and plants sold at the festival. If you can help pull rhubarb on Saturday, June 1, at 8:00 AM, please call 651-270-3623.

From The Minnesota Digital Library



The Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) contains digitized content from Minnesota's cultural heritage organizations, including the

New Brighton Area Historical Society. Search or browse the collections on our website at mndigital.org.

New Brighton-area highlights include historic photographs of businesses, railroads, lumber workers, brickyards, and stockyards, aerial photographs, and images of other significant people, places, and events.

MDL staff have also curated several online resources for students, teachers, and the public to use. Our primary source sets, maps, timelines, and online exhibits provide the stories behind these historic materials. We are so pleased to be able to offer access to these wonderful examples of local history, and we hope you enjoy digging deeper into the past through MDL!

Rhubarb Fest Photos



Left, packing up the trucks to take to the depot for bagging and to take to Keys Restaurant.



Left, volunteers bagging the rhubarb for sale the next day.

Special guests for the 24th Annual Rhubarb Fest will be Dan Kuch, from the Mill City Six band, shown here with his daughter and her friend playing extraordinary blues and swing music for our guests during Stockyard Days 2023. For more info about the 2024 Rhubarb Fest, call (651) 633-4070.





Earl C. Leatherbe...

Great Northern Railway No. X265
Minnesota, New Brighton (4,560)

The caboose was built for the Great Northern Railway in 1950 and is on display at the New Brighton Area Historical Society Museum at Long Lake Regional park in Brighton, Minnesota. Before coming to museum in 1994, the caboose was in Minneapolis as a break room for the V&A Company.

Jon Pittman • It's a Minnesota thing

January 30 at 10:22 AM · 🌐

Sharing some sun from yesterday! This is a very cool scene in the city of New Brighton.
#jpdronesolutions #aerialphotography #trains #trainstation #newbrighton #Minnesota #winter2024 #historic

These photos of our museum and caboose were found on the Facebook page, "It's a Minnesota Thing."

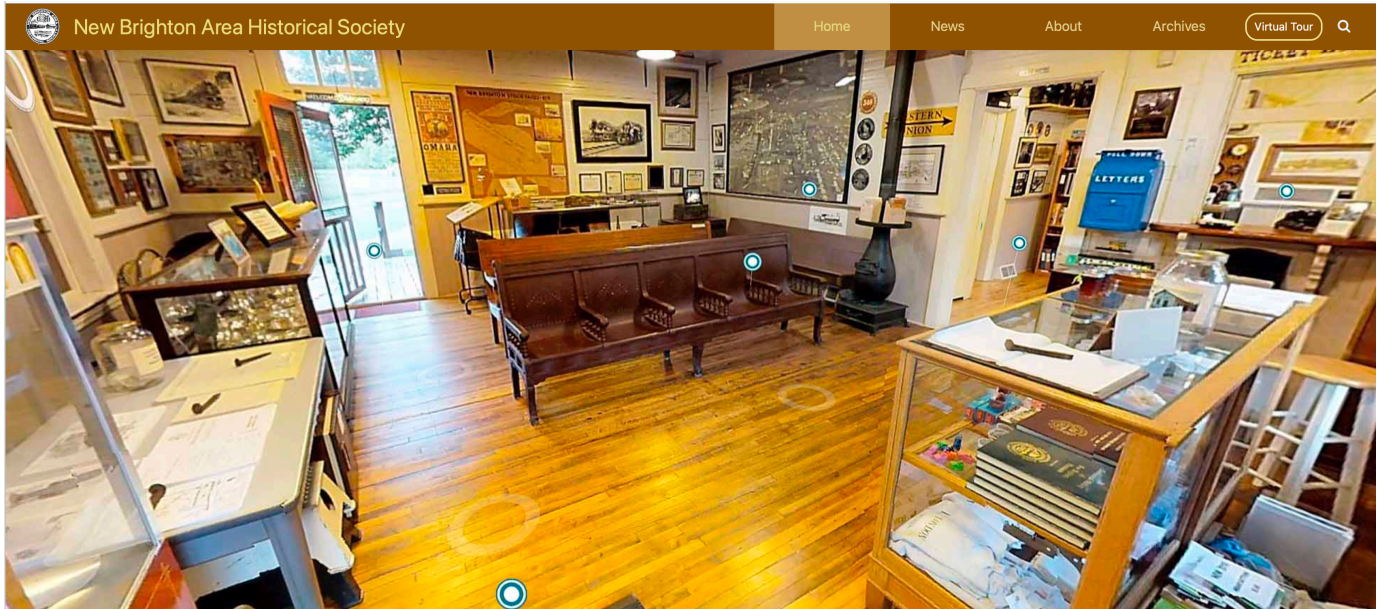


NBAHS Board of Directors

The NBAHS Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25th at 6:00 PM at the New Brighton Community Center.

All current officers have agreed to continue serving. Nominations are also being accepted for the expiring board seats currently held by Ron Cota and Lori Nebel. Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the meeting. We encourage your participation in this important event.

Left to right: Joyce Kloncz, Secretary, Director Mary Burg, Director Peg Joyce, Director Ron Cota, President Fred Behrens, Director Art Oglesby, Treasurer Wayne Searles, Director David Peterson, Vice-President Jim Nebel, Director Lori Nebel.



This photo from inside the New Brighton History Center shows the beginning of our virtual tour, which is available at newbrightonhistory.com. The Society will be updating our tour as our exhibits have changed. The vendor for this project, entitled Matterport Virtual Tour, is Jeremy Nienow, Nienow Cultural Consultants LLC.