New Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

October NBAHS Meeting on October 12, 2025 to feature "Hey, Look at This Town!" A Program of Area History

The public is invited to join the New Brighton Area Historical Society on **Sunday, October 12, at 3:00 PM,** at the New Brighton Community Center, 400 10th St. NW, for its Fall Meeting.

Joyce Kloncz will be presenting a slide show entitled "Hey, Take a Look at This Town," which will highlight historical events in our community's colorful history, from the early years of the stockyards and packing houses, the pole yards, brick yards, iron works, and other businesses, saloons, churches, schools, and continuing on to our vibrant history as the New Brighton Area Historical Society.

This event will be held in the lower level large banquet hall at the Community Center. Refreshments will be served. Questions can be addressed to (651) 633-4070 or nbahs@me.com.



Pictured above is the cast from the 1991 NBAHS play entitled "Ties, Tales & Tallow," an original script and songs written by the Society and History Theater representatives. 1991 was the 100th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the City of New Brighton. The play had five sell-outs at the New Brighton Community Center. This play is viewable on our website: www:newbrightonhistory.com. Many New Brighton-ites were in the plays. Below is the cast singing our original song, "Hey, Take a Look at This Town." The show was also produced in 1987, in commemoration of the first platting in the Village of New Brighton.



The Best Kept Secret In Town!



I heard that rumor from someone in New Brighton soon after my wife Lori and I joined the NBAHS board and truer words were never spoken. We had never stepped foot in the 1887 train depot and museum until 4 years ago which is odd since Lori works at NBCC and we both served on the Stockyard Days committee. We must have driven past the depot a hundred times yet never went inside. *How did we miss it?*

Four years later I'm happy to report, **the secret is out** and here are some of the ways NBAHS has helped spread the rumor: February 21st we shared our secret with 1000's when we were featured on the KSTP TV show "Twin Cities Live." April 27th we held our annual meeting at NBCC with the theme, "History of Scouting In New Brighton" with dozens of scouts attending. June 1st we welcomed a few hundred of you at our annual Rhubarb Festival kicking off our Summer schedule of depot tours every weekend June-September, 1-4pm. August 9-11th we had the opportunity to showcase our History Center to thousands on their way to celebrate Stockyard Days in Long Lake Park. On September 3rd, 450 folks walked by our booth at our NB Farmers Market. On September 5th, we thanked the NB Public Works Department with lunch and a depot tour; many had never seen the depot even though they work here. On September 23rd we told our secret to 250 seniors at the NBCC Thrive event. We'll return to NBCC on Sunday, October 12th, for our annual Fall meeting (please join us). On top of all that, we completely restored the exterior of our red caboose and yellow hand cart plus added new signage throughout the park to help attract new visitors. We have one final private event at our depot in late October called NBAHS Sniff-n-Go which is a K-9 scent training event, giving K-9 teams the rare opportunity to search for items in our 138-year old train depot.

All of the above happened because we have a very dedicated board of directors and this year a few members deserve mention for their above and beyond efforts: Besides being our Treasurer, Wayne Searles stays on top of our maintenance and he even found time to rebuild the yellow hand cart on our spur track. Director Mary Burg makes all that tasty rhubarb jam we sell at the depot plus she coordinated all the NB Public Works services. Director Art Oglesby is not only our go-to technical guy and webmaster, he has opened up and closed our depot more weekends than all the other members combined. And finally our founder and secretary Joyce Kloncz, who curates and catalogs all the items you see in the depot, puts together these newsletters, and planned and coordinated the exterior restoration of our 75-year old caboose. We also want to thank our new depot volunteers this year: Josh, Rose, Jessica, and the Scouts from Troop 412 that helped us with clean up chores around the depot.

Finally a big thank you to those that have helped us meet our goals including: The NB Lions Club for generous donations, City of New Brighton for new signage, sidewalks and use of the community center, Headwaters Painting, and Sherwin-Williams, caboose graphics painter Mike Alfveby, all mentioned later in this newsletter, Elk River Farms and Dave Nathe for 1000 lbs. of rhubarb hand-pulled and delivered, Keys Restaurant, Culvers of St. Anthony, Cub Foods, Cowboy Jacks, Jimmy Johns, and Val Johnson for her ongoing dedication to the NBAHS mission.

Our inside is closed October-May but you're always welcome to visit the depot year-round to see our newly painted 1950 caboose, search the deck planks for a familiar name, borrow books from our Little Free Library or to just hang out and enjoy the surroundings. And remember to tell your friends, family and neighbors about "The Best Kept Secret In Town."

Jim Nebel, President, NBAHS

The NBAHS hosted a picnic lunch for New Brighton Public Works employees on September 5. Public Works Superintendent Eric Volk, and other city employees are providing our new sign in front of the History Center. We also thanked them for removing old dangerous curbs, installing new curbs, and pulling out tree roots. Lunch was catered by Cowboy Jacks & Jimmy Johns with ice cream and brownies donated by Cub Foods in New Brighton. Ice cream was smothered by our rhubarb sauce made by our own NBAHS Director Mary Burg. Joyce Kloncz gave the tour to guests. Mary & Eric are shown center below.







Registration Form
New Brighton Area Historical Society
For new and renewing members. All memberships run from April to April.
Mail to: NBAHS, Box 120624, New Brighton, MN 55112

The New Brighton Area Historical Society preserves our history and operates our New Brighton History Center, located in Long Lake Regional Park. Your membership supports our all-volunteer organization and allows us to showcase our history and honor our heritage for years to come. Help us preserve and share the fascinating history of the New Brighton area by becoming a member today and/or making a donation to our cause!
Our Society's Future Depends on Your Support. We Thank You!

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Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____

State and Zip _____ Phone _____ Email Address _____

Membership Options (Check One)
_____ Single $10.00 _____ Family $15.00 _____ Business/Club $100.00

_____ **Please consider an extra donation for museum maintenance**

• A Great Gift Idea for Your Family •
Four NBAHS Historical Books

A CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF NEW BRIGHTON, MINNESOTA (1987)
A PICTORIAL HISTORY: NEW BRIGHTON AREA, MINNESOTA, FROM THE 1880s - 1950s (2002)
A PICTORIAL HISTORY: NEW BRIGHTON AREA, MINNESOTA, FROM THE 1950s - 2000s (2005)
HISTORICAL SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

Available at: • New Brighton Community Center • City Hall • Beisswenger's Hardware
• New Brighton History Center (summers) or by mail
Mail form below to: **New Brighton Area Historical Society, PO Box 120624, New Brighton, MN 55112**
Payable to: **New Brighton Area Historical Society.**

Each hardbound book, including tax **$25; Snippets $15** - Packaging & Mailing (per book) $6.00

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Book(s) and number(s) requested: Snippets _____ 2005 _____ 2002 _____ 1987 _____

Name _____ Total Enclosed: _____

Address _____City _____State ____Zip_____



Exchange Hotel Bricks Available

Decoupaged bricks from the old Exchange Hotel are available for sale at the New Brighton History Center. When the former Beisswenger's Hardware (formerly the Exchange Hotel) was razed in 1988, the NBAHS saved about 100 bricks for this project. Bricks are great for bookends or door stops. Price is $10 per brick. This is a nice holiday gift which also supports your historical society.

Here are some of the before, during and after photos of the Headwaters Painting project of painting our 1950 Great Northern #271 caboose.
What a spectacular gift from them and from Sherwin-Williams for the paint!
Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Left, Headwaters Painting crew looking over prep work with owner Danie Turrey on roof. Right, decals have been sanded off. Below, primer applied and the red painting starts.





















Headquarters Painting owner Danie Turrey with Sherwin-Williams Paint reps Dan Osiecki & Ryan Russell

Meet Mike Alfveby, Our Logo Painter

Mike Alfveby, below, is a volunteer at the Minnesota Transtransportation Museum, who does the logo painting on their railroad stock. The Society commissioned Mike to paint the Great Northern logos on our 1950 caboose. Here Mike is conferring with the board regarding his plans, and doing some tracing of the old logos. Mike spent many hours researching the correct logos and the correct placement of those logos before he began his meticulous work. Many, many thanks to Mike! The Great Northern Railway Historical Society also provided research for Mike.









Mike begins the logo painting and even worked after dark to finish some before rains came. We also thank the Great Northern Railway Historical Society for their $1500 grant to go toward the funding of the logo painting.





Our Little Free Library guests.





NBAHS Board members Mary Burg and Peg Joyce appeared at the New Brighton Farmers Market on September 3 at the Community Center. They brought along samples of our books, bricks, and brochures to publicize our organization.



