New Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

46th Annual Meeting Sunday, April 26, 3:30 PM
"The History of History Organizations in Minnesota"
By Todd Mahon, Minnesota Historical Society

The public is invited to join the New Brighton Area Historical Society on **Sunday, April 26, at 3:30 PM,** at the New Brighton Community Center, 400 10th St. NW, for its 46th Annual Meeting.



A very special presentation will be given by Todd Mahon, Minnesota Historical Society State History Services Manager. Todd will explore how Minnesota's many historical organizations came to be, highlighting their diverse structures, missions, and the systems they use to preserve and share local stories across the state. The title of his presentation is "The History of History Organizations in Minnesota."

An election of officers will precede the presentation. This event will be held in Room 220 at the Community Center. Refreshments will be served. Questions can be addressed to (651) 633-4070 or nbahs@me.com. Please join us for an interesting presentation by the Minnesota Historical Society.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minnesota Historical Society Sites



NBAHS Calendar of Events

April 26: Annual Meeting - 3:30 PM
May 16: Depot Spring Cleanup Day 9:00 AM
June 7: 25th Rhubarb Fest & Museum Opens 1-4 PM for Summer Weekends
August 7-9: Stockyard Days
September 27: Depot closes for season

New Brighton History Center Spring Cleanup Day - Saturday, May 16 - 9:00 - Noon

Volunteer Help Requested

Each spring the New Brighton Area Historical Society does an annual clean-up to prepare the depot museum for its opening for the season. We are looking for volunteers to assist with this clean-up. We welcome older students who need volunteer hours for their classes, older Scout Troops, or any other group that is willing to give a few hours to assist the society.



Pictured here are local Scout troops helping out with raking last year.

Duties needed to be completed include: wash interior & exterior windows, clean shutters & sills, dust displays, vacuum floors, clean bathroom, weed rhubarb patch and flower bed, plant perennials or annuals, sweep deck & outside stairs, and rake and cleanup of depot yards. Materials, coffee, water & doughnuts provided. Please considering helping us for a few hours. (651) 633-4070 for more info.

Wayne Searles,
NBAHS Board Treasurer Resigns



Our ever-faithful board member Wayne Searles has announced that he is resigning from the job as treasurer after many years as serving in that capacity. Wayne has provided a detailed account of all the Society's financial actions each month.

He managed all of our bill-playing and dealt with finding the best bank and CDs for our needs. He kept track of all incoming funds for special events such as Rhubarb Fest, Stockyard Days and all sales at the museum during the summer months. He was the go-to person for our insurance, utilities, and museum maintenance needs. He also presented several annual meeting programs on the history of New Brighton, because HE is the great-grandson of New Brighton founder Franklin Searles.

He will indeed be missed in that role, but Wayne will continue to serve on the board as a director. Thank you, Wayne, for all of your years of service!!

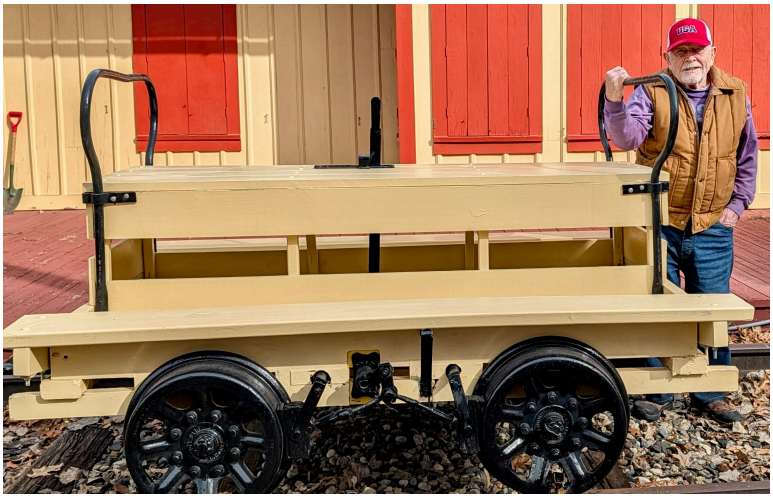
NBAHS Board of Directors

The NBAHS Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 26th at 3:30 PM at the New Brighton Community Center. Election of officers takes place at this short meeting held before the Todd Mahon program on the Minnesota Historical Society.

All officers and one director will be voted upon. Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the meeting. We encourage your participation. If you need more information, call (651) 633-4070 or email nbahs@me.com.

2025-26 NBAHS Board of Directors, left to right: Vice-President Fred Behrens, Director Peg Joyce, Director Lori Nebel, President Jim Nebel, Secretary Joyce Kloncz, Director Ron Cota, Director Art Oglesby, Director-at-Large David Peterson, Treasurer Wayne Searles, and Director Mary Burg.





Here is the completed view of the speeder car which sits on our railroad spur in front of the caboose and has been refurbished by Wayne Searles, who has been actively involved in maintaining and refurbishing NBAHS artifacts for many years, inside and outside the museum.



NBAHS friends and supporters:

Congratulations—you survived another winter, and now it's time for some historic fun! You are personally invited to reconnect with the past by being present at our future events!

From June through September, we've got a great lineup of community activities where you can learn a little history, meet new people, and enjoy time together. At NBAHS, we're proud to keep our local stories alive—and it's even better when we can share them with you. Mark your calendar and join us—bring a friend or two along!

We kick things off on Sunday, April 26, at the New Brighton Community Center with our **Annual Meeting** at 3:30. We'll start with a short board meeting, followed by a special guest speaker, Todd Mahon, History Services Manager from the Minnesota Historical Society. It's a great chance to catch up, learn more about what we've been working on, and connect with fellow history lovers. Plus, we'll have coffee and cookies—so come relax and enjoy the afternoon!

Next up is our big annual fundraiser, the **26th Annual Rhubarb Fest** on Sunday, June 7, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the New Brighton History Center in Long Lake Park. This crowd favorite features sample plates of tasty rhubarb desserts from Keys Cafe & Bakery, paired with Culver's frozen custard. We'll also have free coffee and fresh popcorn. Bring your friends, family, and your cash!

Throughout the summer and into the fall (June through September), we'll offer **free weekend tours** of our History Center, which includes an 1887 train depot full of interesting memorabilia, plus a fully restored 1950 Great Northern caboose that's a favorite with kids. Tours run from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Come explore the museum, learn something new, and experience a bit of local history up close.

Be sure to stop by during the **Stockyard Days** and the **Antique Car Run** festivals on August 7-9. It's three days of family fun with great food, games, craft vendors, a karaoke contest, live entertainment, and, of course, fireworks! Our museum will be open both Saturday and Sunday during the weekend.

And while you're at the History Center, look at our merchandise for sale, such as our books on local history, T-shirts, trinkets for kids, homemade rhubarb jam and ice cream topping, coffee, bottled water, and treats.

Finally, anytime you're in Long Lake Park, stop by and browse our **Little Free Library**, a replica of our 1887 train depot, or hunt the grounds for our hidden **Geocache** (instructions and clues are inside this Library).

You can help us keep history alive through **volunteering**. If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. Thanks so much for your continued support—we can't wait to see you at the depot.

Jim Nebel, NBAHS President



Our NBAHS speeder was refurbished by Wayne Searles this past summer. It was part of the Kermit Hedman donations in 1994, and has been refurbished three times now, twice by Eagle Scouts.



A speeder (also known as a section car, railway motor car, putt-putt, track-maintenance car, crew car, jigger, trike, quad, personnel carrier, trolley, inspection car, or draisine) is a small railcar used around the world by track inspectors and work crews to move quickly to and from work sites.

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 - Yearly memberships run April-April.

_____ 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.**

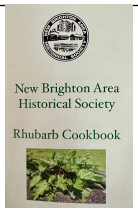
Each hardbound book, including tax **$25; Snippets $15** - Packaging & Mailing (per book) $6.00

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

Name _____ Total Enclosed: _____

Address _____City _____State ____Zip_____



Rhubarb cookbooks are for sale for $5 at the New Brighton History Center during summer and fall months. Rhubarb was an important crop during the era of Joe Hipp's Lakeside Berry Farm at Long Lake Park. Many of New Brighton's young men and women worked the rhubarb fields. With this recipe book, we honor the Hipp Family and those young folks for their hours of toiling in the fields. Great-grandfather Peter Hipp began farming the land in the 1880s. His son, Frank, and eventually his grandson, Joe, continued the farm. Four generations of Hipps lived on the property. These recipes were given by society members and others who love rhubarb.

26th Annual Rhubarb Fest - June 7

Please join the Society for its 26th Annual Rhubarb Fest on Sunday, June 7, from 1:00 - 4:00 PM at the New Brighton History Center. This event is an important fundraiser for the Society.



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 39th year that the NBAHS has provided rhubarb for Keys Restaurants.



One hundred-fifty pounds of rhubarb stalks goes to Keys Restaurant who bake large rhubarb desserts for the Fest. An additional 850 pounds are pulled for stock sales sold at the festival. We also sell our homemade rhubarb jam, made by Mary Burg, and our Rhubarb Cookbook, edited by Joyce Kloncz. For more info, call (651) 633-4070.

Exchange Hotel Bricks Available

Decoupaged bricks from the old Exchange Hotel are available for sale at the New Brighton History Center and Beisswenger's Hometown ACE Hardware. 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 gift which also supports your historical society.



Propane Gas Donation

One of the big expenses incurred by the New Brighton Area Historical Society each year is propane gas. Although we keep the heat as low as 45° in the winter, we tend to go through one tank of propane a year.



But who steps up is former New Brighton resident Dave Rybak, who owns and operates Rybak Companies, a company who does everything from utilities, maintenance-of-way, derailment services, transfer services, specialized transportation, auguring, rotary dumps, and much more throughout the state of Minnesota and beyond.

In July of this year the company will be 100-years old since his Great-Grandfather William (Valentine) Rybak signed the first contract moving dirt with teams of horses for Hennepin County. (Another familiar name in New Brighton history.) That contract will be on display at their Grand Opening of Rybak Companies' new building and 100- year anniversary celebration in Columbus, MN.

Dave has agreed to donate the $1000 annual fee for propane, and the Society is eternally grateful for this.



This all started when Dave appeared at Stockyard Days last year. Dave is a former student of Joyce Kloncz at New Brighton Elementary. After a tour of the depot and its grounds, Dave asked how he could help.

And there you go! Thanks, Dave!

Here Dave is shown with Past President Fred Behrens, above, and Secretary Joyce Kloncz, left, at Stockyard Days 2025.



K9 Sniff-n-Go Guests at New Brighton History Center

Thanks to a friend of NBAHS, we hosted a private fundraiser at the depot last October called K9 Sniff-n-Go with canine trainer Jenifer Waters. Board members Peg Joyce, Wayne Searles, and Lori and Jim Nebel had a great time watching about 40 dogs and their handlers search the depot and caboose for hidden scents. They even hid a scent in our dynamite proof safe!

It was really hard not to sneak in a few hugs with these good-looking dogs but they were all focused on the job, and since it was a timed event, they meant business!



After expenses, we brought in nearly $1,700, plus several handlers bought some of Mary Burg's famous rhubarb jam. All in all, it was a fun and successful way to wrap up the season and give our finances a much appreciated boost.

Do you have an idea for a fundraiser event? Reach out to us if you do!

New Textile Display at New Brighton History Center



A new display of donated textiles, including athletic shirts, women's wear, and New Brighton Ambassadors clothing has been set up in the bedroom of our museum.

Attached to these items are detail sheets about each of the items.

The above baseball jersey for the Corner Bar in New Brighton was donated by Ron Graff, who played for that team. Stop in and see this display during History Center opening hours on weekends starting June 7.


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CORNER BAR

Historical photo of the week

IN LATER YEARS the old Transit House building housed Eddie's Corner Bar and George Seaberg's Furniture Store on the ground level and apartments above. The Transit House, one of the earliest buildings to spring up in 1889 to welcome New Brighton's stockyards industry boom, was built and operated by John Davies, a Welshman who was New Brighton's first Mayor, then termed President. Located at Front Street (today's 14th Street N.W.) and 5th Avenue, the Transit House fronted on Front Street in the direction of the New Brighton stockyards. In 1981 the building was razed to make way for redevelopment. This historic photo series is prepared by the New Brighton Area Historical Society. For further information or photos, contact Rosina Boryczka at 633-2386.

NEW BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Above is a New Brighton Bulletin clipping showing the Corner Bar.

Deck Repairs on the Horizon

The NBAHS is contemplating doing a major overhaul of the deck boards. Although it was stained in 2024, much of that stain has chipped off, leaving a splotched surface. In addition many of the boards have suffered weathering damage. Some boards need to be replaced and re-routed. We thank Ron Cota for his years of routing and to Mary Burg who has taken on this strenuous job. A sub-committee has been set up to study this process.



