
Germantown Historical Society
Newsletter



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Hello Everyone,

Thanks for taking the time to check in with us again. We are heading for what could be a very big year for our society. We hope to have the installation of the final storm windows on the Christ Church Museum completed this spring. On the East side of the church we plan to add some more color to the fern area by adding some flowers. The thought is to plant something that will have nice color during Oktoberfest. With a little more sprucing up, that area will look great. On the other side of Maple Road we are planning to erect some fencing to discourage vehicle traffic on the walking path. I am working with the Village to come up with a plan that works for everybody.

In the Wolf Haus, it would be nice to freshen up the displays (in the church, too). All ideas will be considered. We will leave the genealogy area to the experts. The garage/summer kitchen is in need of some TLC. repairs, cleaning, painting and maybe some ventilation. In the food court area, the pancake wagon needs new doors, counters and outside trim. It's not far from needing a roof too. We also hope to add storage to the "blacksmith" shop and clean that area up.

Now for the big news (I hope), we have financial backing from the Village of Germantown for \$150,000 to build the Festhalle! I am in the process of nailing down other sources of financing to make this happen. With some luck we could have a brand new pavilion for this year's 25th annual event. In reality we will more than likely break ground this fall and have it ready for 2020. No matter what, we are much closer to having this than we were a few weeks ago. Thanks to all for helping.

If you have any ideas for us please share them at 262-628-3170.

Thank you,
Jeff Dhein
President

We are very pleased to announce our Museum Director for 2018, Shane O'Neil will be staying on with us for 2019. See notes from him further in this newsletter.

Welcome

to our Newest Member - Debbie Tucker

Save the Date....2019 Annual Meeting: Tuesday, April 16th....invitation enclosed.

Board of Directors:

Jeff Dhein - President (2017-2020)
Peggy Bast - Treasurer & Secretary (2018-2021)

Judy Bast (2018-2021)
Sandi Dhein (2016-2019)
Marge Miller (2018-2021)
Oliver Schowalter (2017-2020)

THANK YOU! To our 2018 Oktoberfest Sponsors, we couldn't do it without them! Please keep them in mind for future needs...

- Al's Locksmith
- Aldo's
- APQ
- Armour Coatings
- Arrowhead
- Autotech Slinger
- Better Brands
- Bubs
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- Edward Jones
- Go Riteway
- Happy Hounds Doggie Daycare
- Homers
- Jim Murray
- Midwest Dachshund Rescue
- Midwest Gutter Guard
- Premier Flooring
- PRP Wine
- Robert's Frozen Custard
- Shorewest—Kevin Nash
- Sports Corner
- Village of Germantown
- Wetterau Homestead
- Window Solutions
- Window World
- Wisconsin Fried Cheese

Notes from our Museum Director:

Visitors enjoyed the Bast Bell, Wolf Haus and Church museums last summer. Open as usual June through October, guests found themselves fascinated by the pioneering story of Dheinsville Settlement and the blossoming of Germantown and the surrounding area.

Every visitor seemed to be an interesting guest in one way or another. On one occasion a retired music professor from Arizona State University and her elderly mother from Grafton--both pianists--offered a mini-concert on the 1903 Bast family organ in the church. Another time, grandparents and their five year old grandson from Stevens Point toured the Bell Museum. The boy had become captivated by bells, after seeing and hearing Big Ben in London on television a few years earlier.

A few suggestions to enhance the museum experience that we will be reviewing: Explore a "hands-on" experience for children with the bells at the museum; Additional signage explaining the use of bells in history; Better lighting and signage for the tools and devices warehoused in the back entrance of the Church Museum; Featuring the cemetery more prominently in any tours as many visitors were interested in the cemetery as an important part of Settlement history.

Finally, a few volunteers would be helpful for accomplishing any suggestions and improvements, and for setting up our museum tour mailing list with mail merge capability.

Shane O'Neil