



January 2023

JOIN US FOR OUR 35th YEAR

This year the New Haven Preservation Society will celebrate its 35th Anniversary! In January 1989, the New Haven Elementary School was at risk of demolition when a group of community stakeholders stepped forward to save the building. Marie Hebbeler, then President of the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of New Haven, donated the funds to purchase the 1883 two-story brick, Italianate style school building. Alan Bell was the first President of the Society and served for 25 years. The first fundraising event was the Christmas Candlelight House Tour, an annual event that continues today.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

A new exhibit at the Old School was introduced featuring **New Haven Cubs Fast Pitch Softball** memorabilia donated by Orville and Mary Ann Benz and Penny and Jesse Smith. Former Cubs players gathered at the School for a reception on May 1, 2022.

Also in May 2022, the **Anna Bell Chapel** at 225 Selma in New Haven was deeded to the Preservation Society by the AME Church of Missouri Trustees. The Preservation Society was instrumental in placing the chapel on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. A successful fundraising campaign for the renovation of this 130-year-old church has drawn significant support from town residents, businesses, and descendants of the original church members. The Anna Bell Chapel Committee, with architect George Martin as chairman, is working with the Architectural Preservation Services Unit of the Missouri Historic Preservation Office to assure renovation plans are within State and Federal historic preservation guidelines. In the next few months, the building will be lifted to install a new foundation.

The Old Firehouse on Main Street that housed the **John Colter Museum and Visitors Center** was torn down in 2022. Preservation Society volunteers were able to rescue the artifacts, artwork, murals, books and museum displays and they are stored at the Old School. Creative ideas and resources are being sought to install a Colter exhibit in the Old School in one of the museum galleries.

COMMUNITY

Preservation Society volunteers participated in the **Spring Fling** city-wide garage sale in April, and activity coordinator Lois Orr put together an amazing team of fun loving and enthusiastic volunteers who staffed a refreshment booth at the **Balloon Glow and Race** in September. Both events were opportunities to serve the community and raise funds for preservation efforts.

The **Annual Christmas Candlelight House Tour** committee co-chaired by Cathy Hoemeyer and Tricia Reay, once again triumphed with an exciting and memorable event on the first Sunday in December. Over 200 guests enjoyed the celebration that began with a Hand Bell Concert at the

Walt Theatre, followed by refreshments and a vintage Santa display at the Old School. Seven unique homes and historic places were on the tour, showcasing a variety of architectural styles and festive holiday decorations.

All of these activities took place against the backdrop of the daily operations of the Museum at the Old School. Hospitality Manager Wanda Walkenhorst booked 31 private rentals in the banquet rooms in 2022 and space was donated to community groups for 80 different meetings. Dedicated facilities maintenance volunteers were able to keep the building safe and in good condition. Outside contractors were hired for tuckpointing, HVAC and other repairs. History buffs and student interns spent many hours in the archival room cataloging and preserving items donated by local families and groups.

At year-end, David Menke announced that after a decade in office, he would no longer serve as President, but would continue to be a historian and volunteer. The Preservation Society is indebted to David for his dedication and leadership for so many years. Long time Vice President Colleen Kuhn also retired, and nominations were accepted for new officers. Secretary Penny Smith and Treasurer Ann Schwartzkoff continue to serve. Grant writer and non-profit consultant Erin Raedeke was elected President and Carol Bell, one of the founding members, will serve as Vice President.

The Preservation Society is an all volunteer organization. Membership is open to anyone interested in historic preservation. Elected Officers and Standing Committee Chairs make up the Executive Committee that manages business operations. Proposed improvements and activities, policies and procedures are discussed and voted upon by the general membership at regularly scheduled meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Old School at 810 Maupin, New Haven. Additional members and volunteers are being sought to join in these important efforts. Whether you are available for a short project or a life-long endeavor, you are most welcome to come aboard.

Sincerely,

New Haven Preservation Society



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