

# BHS Newsletter

B L O O M I N G T O N H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y

## *Meet your New Board of Directors*

VISIT US WITHOUT LEAVING HOME!

- The Old Town Hall is closed to the public until further notice.
- We will continue to post on Facebook. 'Like' us to get our posts.
- We are updating our web site. See what's new!

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The BHS Annual Meeting, held November 3, 2019, ushered in a new era for the Bloomington Historical Society.

After decades with the organization, Executive Director Vonda Kelly and founding member Larry Granger have retired from the Board of Directors. An entirely new board, consisting of 12 members was elected and took office January 1, 2020.

**Fran Stachour** was elected President of the Board. She is interested in military history and recognizing our Bloomington veterans. She also serves on the Bloomington Veterans Memorial committee and is active with the DAR.

**Ross Johnson** was elected Vice President. His interests include archeology and the Minnesota River Valley.

**Cory Schmid** was elected Secretary of the Board. With a History degree from UofM Morris, Cory brings knowledge of museum practices, technology and cultural diversity to the organization.

**Larry Klueh** was elected Treasurer. As a member of the Pond family (by marriage) he brings that historical connection to the Board.

**Jean Bellefeuille** was appointed Curator. Her interest is in research and collections management. Jean has coordinated the History Tent at Bloomington Heritage Days the past three years.

**Ken Veness** grew up on a farm along Bush Lake, and has extensive personal knowledge of that area of our city. Ken is our Membership Chair and is a founding member of BHS.

**Jim Sorum**, Bloomington School Board member, has special knowledge about our school district and it's history.

**Joe Waldoch** has had numerous roles with Bloomington Heritage Days. Joe helps maintain the BHS display at Civic Plaza.

**Jon Oleson**, former Bloomington City Council member, brings his skills in interpersonal relations to the (continued on page 3)

*“My home  
away from  
home. It was  
warm & the  
librarians  
were  
wonderful &  
extremely  
helpful then,  
just like they  
are now!”*

Facebook comment

## *Penn Lake Library is 50!*



The Penn Lake Library celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. The Library, built at 88th and Penn Ave., is on the site of the former Edwin A. & Ida Wise home, parents of former Lincoln High School Football Coach Gene Wise.

The 1970 Sun Newspaper article announcing the grand opening was posted on the Bloomington MN Historical Society Facebook page in January. The post was shared several times, including by the Hennepin County Library. Our post reached over 11,000 people, and we had so many wonderful comments and memories shared.

## *A Turn of Events*

This newsletter was all ready to be sent out in March when our world abruptly changed. The Old Town Hall Museum was ordered to close to the public until further notice to slow the spread of a quickly approaching pandemic.

Now, two months later and having all Sheltered in Place for the good of our community, it is a bit surreal to be deleting this section on Upcoming Events. What plans we had!

Even our article encouraging Scouts and other youth groups to arrange a visit needed to be changed as we ponder how to safely conduct group tours in the future. Many of our volunteers are in that ‘over 60’ group which is considered higher risk for a serious illness from COVID-19 virus exposure.

Our bylaws were reviewed and updated in January and February. **A full membership meeting** had been planned before the sudden changes due to COVID-19. We will be exploring new ways to get input from all of our members on the proposed changes.

Jean Bellefeuille, curator



## *Cub Scouts come for a visit*

Thursday afternoon, February 13th, a Den of Bear Cubs from Cub Pack 374, their leaders and parents visited the Bloomington Old Town Hall Museum.

The boys learned about two famous Americans with Bloomington connections. Thomas Burnett, Jr., was a Jefferson High School Graduate and 9/11 hero. He was one of the passengers attempting to take back the hijacked United Flight 93.

Dred Scott, brought to Fort Snelling as a slave in 1836, bravely sued in court to win his freedom and that of his wife and daughter. The case sparked public outrage, and directly influenced the fight for emancipation in the Civil War.

The boys also learned about two historic places in Bloomington: The Pond House and the Old Town Hall.

Scouts and Youth group members are welcome to visit the museum. Our volunteers will make every effort to give a presentation which will help fulfill specific advancement requirements.



***Cub Scouts learn about the American Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance from Fran, and see our display of reproduction American flags.***

When we are able to open again you will be able to make an appointment to fit your schedule. Call 952-881-4114 or send an email request to [Bloomitarian@gmail.com](mailto:Bloomitarian@gmail.com) to schedule visits for small groups.

## *Board of Directors (from page 1)*

Board. Jon is helping with event planning and facilitating.

**Lisa Stanford** is a descendant of several Bloomington homestead families. Lisa has worked on displays for the History Tent at Heritage Days the past three years.

**Chuck Chalberg**, is retired from the Normandale College History Department.

He has a keen interest in politics and is an author. He gives presentations on college campuses around the country as an historic re-enactor.

**Pat Donnelly** has worked on displays at Heritage Days the past three years. Her interests include old Bloomington photographs of homes and businesses.



Photo by Steve Johnson

# BLOOMINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Old Town Hall Museum

Penn Avenue at Old Shakopee Road

### *Mailing address:*

1800 West Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431

*Phone:* 952-881-4114

*Email:* bloomitarian@gmail.com

*Facebook:* BloomingtonMNHistoricalSociety

Founded in 1964, the Bloomington Historical Society is dedicated to the discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the City of Bloomington.

Our mission is to collect, preserve and hold in the public trust the many artifacts, photographic images, memorabilia and life stories of the people who have lived in Bloomington.

The organization is run entirely by volunteers and we depend entirely upon your membership and donations for our operations, programs and displays. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL— 2020

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

____ Individual	\$ 25.00
____ Family	\$ 35.00
____ Contributing	\$ 100.00
____ Life	\$ 250.00
____ Patron	\$ 500.00
____ Corporate	\$ 600.00
____ Benefactor	\$1,000.00

Additional donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Bloomington Historical Society

Mail to: Bloomington Historical Society  
1800 West Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington, MN 55431

\_\_\_\_ YES, I'd love to volunteer at the Old  
Town Hall Museum. I'm available: (circle)

Tuesdays noon-4      Wednesdays noon-4

Thursdays noon-4      Saturdays noon-4

Sundays 1-5 pm      Other: \_\_\_\_\_