

# Post Falls Historical Society Newsletter

## WINTER 2024

### Attend our annual meeting Jan. 24!

Post Falls Historical Society members and anyone interested in being a member in the future are encouraged to attend the society's 2024 annual meeting, which is 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at the Post Falls Library.

The annual meeting is an enjoyable opportunity for all members and any guests to learn what society activities and outreach efforts have taken place in the last year and what's ahead in 2024 and beyond. It's also a fun opportunity to mingle with other members.

It includes the election of board members and officers for the year ahead as well. As always, we'll be on the lookout for volunteers interested in helping with certain specific projects but who may not want to be on the board.

Members can also vote on the official ballot of officers for next year along with proposed changes to the society by-laws.

It is also an opportunity for guests to ask any questions and approve the society's annual budget.

Membership forms will be available for newcomers. Some members also enjoy renewing their annual membership at this meeting.

If you can't attend but would still like to be part of society activities, just email a board member or send a note to [postfallshistorysociety@gmail.com](mailto:postfallshistorysociety@gmail.com).

We also allow proxy voting – if you are unable to make the meeting but do want a say in new officers or other topics that will be brought to a vote, you can designate someone willing to cast a vote on your behalf.

Light refreshments will be provided.

#### Join the board!

The Post Falls Historical Society currently has positions open on our volunteer board of directors. The board's duties include creating programs and activities to help our community preserve its past and make sure there is information available about our area for future generations.

Along with maintaining the Post Falls Museum, members can get involved in other outreach projects such as working with area schools and government, arranging donations, and coordinating with other community groups and organizations to ensure "history" is well-represented.

Members also can be considered for officer positions or other leadership positions.

No particular skills or background are required to be a board member – each member can bring their own expertise to the table. Members are asked to attend monthly meetings and be active in board/community activities.

Please let us know if you would like more info or come to the annual meeting! There will be a period where nominations for board positions can be shared from the floor.

### Vote for the historical society!

Want to help the Post Falls Historical Society earn extra money?

This year, Findlay Post Falls plans to award 12 local charities \$1,000 apiece, one each month. Because there are so many great non-profits and organizations

that help others in our community, the auto dealership is allowing the community to vote on their favorites.

Visitors to **[postfallschryslerjeepdodgeram.com/](http://postfallschryslerjeepdodgeram.com/)** can see a list of charities that have been nominated for the upcoming month.

Then, visitors can either vote for their favorite or add another organization to the list.

The society has been nominated for January.

Organizations can be nominated multiple months but can only win once.

# Historical Society contributes to first-ever Prost!

The Post Falls Historical Society was proud to partner with the Post Falls Rotary and other area organizations to present the first-ever Prost! last fall.

We offered a table of fall crafts for kids, plus the opportunity for guests to learn about the society and consider joining. Plus we brought back the Cake Walk, a longtime favorite community event.

Newcomers may not know that the Post Falls Historical Society used to organize the area's Oktoberfest for more than a decade – including the Cake Walk. But a combination of lower turnout and fewer number of volunteers led to us having to put the event on hold.

But we were more than happy to join with other organizations in order to bring back a fun fall festival!

We do want to offer special thanks to Pam Houser, who arranged a donation of lovely pies from Birdies Pie Shop, and Pyramid Printing, which bought spaces for the cakewalk to make sure everyone who wanted to could be part of the fun.



Left, a variety of cakes and pies were baked or donated by society members and supporters. Top, Prost! guests enjoyed the Cake Walk. Bottom, board member Sara Pence helps guests of all ages create Oktoberfest crafts. (Photos by Joe Butler)

## Post Falls Historical Society Board of Directors

### **Officers:**

*President:* Judy Cowan  
*Vice President:* Sara Pence  
*Secretary:* Joe Butler  
*Treasurer:* Cindy Mead

### **Board Members:**

Ed Adamchak  
Catherine McClintick  
Carol Yost  
Kim Brown  
Ted Fredekind (Emeritus)

# Post Falls continues to be part of state reciprocal program

In 2020, the Idaho State Historical Society asked historical groups and museums around the state if they thought their members would be interested in taking part in some sort of reciprocal program, where membership at one place would provide benefits at other locations.

Turns out there was, and a dozen historical organizations, including Post Falls, were part of this new program that allows active members from any of these groups to visit any participating location around the state for free. Members also receive discounts at ISHS-affiliated gift shops, as well as youth and family activities at ISHS sites.

Today, the program is still going and growing stronger. Recent additions have included the Gem County Historical Society in Emmett as well as the Nez Perce Historical Society and Museum in Lewiston.



Our new membership card allows free admission to 11 other museums around the state as well as discounts at certain gift stores and activities.

In our area, Region 1, the participating organizations are ourselves and Museum of North Idaho. This means that active members of the Post Falls Historical Society can visit the Museum in Coeur d'Alene for free. (We offer membership cards you can show off anywhere you visit!)

Even if we don't charge for admission, we like to keep track of where visitors are coming from and if they're part

of any other historical group, so make sure to note this in the guest book.

The ISHS is also discussing ways to encourage more visits to different museums throughout the state, and may create a passport/stamp program that can be collected at all the different participating locations.

For more info, visit <https://history.idaho.gov/membership/>

Besides Post Falls, other organizations taking part in the Idaho State Historical Society reciprocal program include:

- Idaho State Museum (Boise)
- Old Idaho Penitentiary (Boise)
- Latah County Historical Society (Moscow)
- Bannock County Historical Museum (Pocatello)
- Museum of North Idaho (Coeur d'Alene)
- Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum (Twin Falls)
- White Spring Ranch Museum (Genesee)
- Hagerman Valley Historical Society Museum (Hagerman)
- Bingham County Historical Society (Blackfoot)
- Gem County Historical Society (Emmett)
- Nez Perce Historical Society and Museum (Lewiston)



Board member and immediate past president Kim Brown recently provided a tour of the Post Falls Museum to two guests from the Idaho State Historical Society's Historical Preservation Office. They included Dan Everhart, center, Outreach Historian, and Jason Tippeconic Fox, Ph.D., Architectural Historian. The ISHS is happy to provide guidance on maintaining buildings along with materials in them.



# Society, city plan to meet in 2024

Having to remain closed for most of our 2023 season due to mold issues wasn't fun for anyone, but there have been some positive benefits from the experience.

One big plus was a closer relationship and improved communication between elected officials, city staff, and historical society members.

Although there's always been great support between both groups, some of the stronger supporters and advocates for local history in the earlier days of the society are no longer around or as active as they once were. This is at the society level and the city level.

Not everyone knows a lot of the society's history too, especially the many months of meetings in

the 2010s that finally resulted in Mayor Larkin and others generously offering the society use of the Chapin building for a museum.

Previously, the city had offered the use of a modular trailer on different parts of the city campus.

When trying to assess the mold situation, society members talked with the city on several occasions about maintenance issues and overall upkeep. We learned that the basement had water problems dating back decades, even before the city acquired the building.

Once the mold was successfully cleaned up, both groups wanted to continue these discussions, including figuring out ways to make sure there weren't further

drainage problems in the future, and any internal or external maintenance problems were addressed quickly.

These discussions are also a good opportunity to look closer at the licensing agreement signed more than a decade ago to see if it needs any fine-tuning.

Society board members Carol Yost, Cindy Mead, Joe Butler, and Kim Brown attended a city council study session in October.

The city also plans to hold quarterly meetings with representatives from the society board, starting in February.

The society is excited about these meetings, since they can be good check-ins for current and future building needs and generally help overall communication.

Welcome new members!  
(and renewals!)

## 2023 renewals

Ed & Julie Adamchak  
Ron & Sally Barnett  
Courtney Beebe \*  
Pat Bentley  
Donna Rae Bradley  
Lew & Kim Brown  
Joe Butler  
Fay Carpenter  
Judy Cowan  
Joe & Cindy Doellefeld  
Wayne, Sherri & Billie Dust  
Skip & Vickie Eagle  
Margret Evenson  
Fairway Floor  
Ed & Nancy Frazey  
Ted Fredekind  
Dave & Linda Gibson  
Bob & Eileen Ickes  
Robert Jacobs II  
Kristy Reed Johnson  
Gregory & Cindy Lucas \*  
Joslyn Mack  
Cindy Mead  
Warren & Dana Merritt  
Gary & Jo Miller  
John & Nancy Nation  
Richard Nordstrom  
Fred & Mary Ostermeyer,  
Managed Resources  
Marvin Patzer  
Louise Paulson  
Jeanie Cooper Peery, Chief Seltice  
Mobile Park  
Sara Pence  
Post Falls Kiwanis Club \*  
Debra Raymer  
Rachel Reichenberg \*  
John & Teresa Reynolds  
Jane Robertson  
Dorothy Rodkey  
Pam Rodkey  
Royal Neighbors of America Post  
Falls Chapter  
Shelley Ruff  
Dorothy Satchwell  
Suzanne Schmidt  
Chuck Smith  
Gene Soper  
Kristen Storey-Smrekar  
Super 1 Foods  
Frank Volz  
Rhonda Wilks  
Robert & Sheila Wood  
Carol Yost

## 2024 renewals

Bill & Sharon Alexander  
Lew & Kim Brown  
Fay Carpenter  
Judy Cowan  
Margret Evenson, Annie Evenson  
Mader, Louise Shepherd  
Fairway Floor Inc  
Jim Guy  
Joslyn Mack  
Warren & Dana Merritt  
John & Nancy Nation  
Brian Watkins \*  
Susie Mead Williams

\*New members!

## Idaho Heritage Trust awards grant for gutters

An ongoing maintenance need at the Chapin Building is getting closer to being addressed.

The Idaho Heritage Trust, an organization that provides financial and technical assistance for preserving buildings around the state, recently approved a grant to help pay for repairs to the damaged gutters outside of the 100-year-old building.

Over the years including several heavy snowfalls, at least one of the gutters have become damaged and bent to the point where it no longer function well. This likely has contributed to moisture problems in and around the building.

The grant will provide up to \$1,000 for repairs and improvements but this must be matched.

Society member Kim Brown wrote the grant along with advising the city, since Post Falls owns the building.

The next step is to coordinate with the city and begin the search for a contractor to perform the work. The grant expires at the end of 2026.

If anyone is interested in donating to this effort, please contact the museum at (208) 262-9642.

## *Our Historical Society Mission*

WE collect photographs, stories, memories, oral video histories, veterans' information, and artifacts.

WE preserve our information in files, in our Past Perfect museum software (a work in progress), in historic signage, and in our newsletter publications.

WE share our history at the Post Falls Museum with students, visitors, and newcomers.

We share history with online researchers, in historic presentations, and in writing.

Our VOLUNTEERS work to achieve all of the above.

Please join us in supporting this important work.

## Rosemary Manor continues to pledge support



Rosemary Winery Cabernet Sauvignon, featuring the Chapin Building. (*Photos courtesy Charley Mixon/Chazz Creations*)

When shopping for fine local wine in 2024, be sure to consider Rosemary Manor!

Owners Keelan and Cara Dixon not only have created enjoyable wine but have also produced a special line featuring the historic Chapin Building on the label. The building is the home of the Post Falls Museum.

The Dixons have also have pledged some funds from the sale of this special edition

batch to go to the Post Falls Historical Society.

Keelan Dickson traces his Post Falls roots back five generations. He and Cara named the winery after his grandmother Rosemary Dickson.

He remembers her teaching him how to make cherry wine in the family kitchen.

The couple runs the Rosemary Manor boutique winery and vineyard and has already creat-

ed several impressive wines, including a Cabernet Sauvignon, a Syrah, a sweet and dry rose, and a Sauvignon Blanc.

At the 100-year celebration of the Chapin building this summer, Keelan shared memories growing up here.

He and Cara also invited guests to sample some of its wines or purchase some to bring home. Their wine was also available for purchase at Winterfest.

## Volunteer service hours available

If you're a student who needs volunteer service hours, the Post Falls Historical Society can help!

We always have plenty on our to-do list, from help at the museum to needing extra sets of hands at community events throughout the year.

Don't worry if you're only in middle school or high school or don't know anything about museums!

Some tasks, like scanning photos, organizing files, or taking pictures of exhibits can be easy and fun!

We also welcome help documenting and presenting our collections so we are able to better connect with more community members, such as increasing our social media channels or recording someone's oral history.

(We'll even welcome your oral history or family members if you want to share what you experienced growing up in Post Falls.)

Helping out can also give you a head start on hours for National Honor Society, Scouts, Key Club or other service-focused organizations.

We also always welcome adult volunteers, whether you've been around for a long time or have recently moved to the area and want to learn more about history and heritage.

To learn more, please contact the society.

### ***Would you like to join the Historical Society?***

Support from our members allows us to keep the Post Falls Museum open and educate the community.

Members also receive free admission to several other museums statewide, plus a great newsletter.

Join or renew today!

# ***Join the Post Falls Historical Society Today!***

Membership in our society allows us to keep our museum open and available to the community.

*Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join as well!*

**Together we can preserve our past for the future.**

Make membership/renewal checks payable to:

**Post Falls Historical Society**

Mail to:

Post Falls Historical Society

PO Box 57

Post Falls ID 83877

## **2024 Membership:**

☐ **Renewal** - *Thank you!*

☐ **New Member** - *Welcome!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level: (Check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ Family \$30

\_\_\_\_\_ Business/Contributor \$100

I'm interested in helping!

\_\_\_\_\_ Board Member

\_\_\_\_\_ Education

\_\_\_\_\_ Events and Activities

\_\_\_\_\_ Museum Host

\_\_\_\_\_ Other:

***Visit the Post Falls Historical Society Museum at 101 E 4th Ave, Post Falls***

***Contact Information: Museum: (208) 262-9642***

***(NEW email address:) postfallshistoricalsociety@gmail.com***

***postfallsmuseum.weebly.com/***