

Post Falls Historical Society Newsletter

FALL 2023

Post Falls Museum is now open!

Mold remediated; public welcome to visit through October



Members of the River City Leadership Academy were the first official visitors to the Post Falls Museum for the 2023 season as part of their History Day field trips Sept. 13. They also visited Treaty Rock and heard a presentation about local history from Kim Brown. The museum will remain open until late October.

Photo by Joe Butler

After volunteer **Pam Rodkey** discovered a significant amount of mold in the museum's basement this spring, the Post Falls Historical Society took action to make sure that our volunteers and our visitors remained safe.

We also didn't want anything potentially harmful to contaminate our historic items or spread significantly beyond the basement.

Based on recommendations from the City of Post Falls and area environmental firms, we made the decision to stay closed for much of the season while we learned more about the mold problem and created a plan to get rid of it.

Burke's Restoration was hired in late summer, and remediation recently took place in the basement. The process

involved cleaning and sanitizing the area and removing the majority of the items in the basement. (Some fixtures are permanent.)

Then, there was the process of putting everything back together and cleaning the main level of the museum. The good news is that the museum is now open for visitors – a few months later than usual.

The museum will now be open to the public Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., until Oct. 28. Come by to say hello and look around!

We are also still available for private tours or research needs, and are working on plans to be part of Winterfest.

If you've been wanting to come down and check out the museum all year, this is your chance!

The society wants to thank our members and the Post Falls community for being patient while we dealt with this problem.

We also want to give big kudos to board members **Cindy Mead, Carol Yost, and Ed Adamchak** for going above and beyond to take care of this situation, including requesting estimates, meeting with contractors, and interacting with city staff. **Carol and Cindy**, as well as board members **Ted Fredekind and Sara Pence**, also deserve additional kudos for helping with preparation and cleaning. Thanks also to the **Royal Neighbors of America Post Falls chapter** for their assistance.

Happy fall!!! Learn all about our activities at postfallsmuseum.weebly.com/ or on our Facebook page!

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Learn more about our mold



The mold saga began when Pam Rodkey went into the basement and took several photos. The remediation process also required temporarily covering or moving some of the items in the Veterans Room so the contaminated air could vent outside. (Carol Yost photos) Contaminated items were also removed, and many were disposed of. The basement is now considered off-limits. (Joe Butler photo).

Historical Society still needs help cleaning contaminated items

We're still assessing some of the items that were pulled from the basement. Some of the obviously contaminated items have already been disposed of, such as cardboard boxes and paper binders. But there are other items that we still have to decide whether to trash, give away, photograph and then trash, or try to restore. We also need temporary or permanent homes for some items like Christmas decorations (after a thorough cleaning, of course!) Other items range from Oktoberfest mugs to photo albums. Volunteers are welcome to help with this triaging and cleaning process!

- We always need help at the museum! Many people stepped up willing to work a few shifts to keep the doors open this fall, but we welcome more help! Learn all about how things work and get a head start on volunteering in 2024!
- We need board members! It's a good way to learn about local history, meet cool people, be part of what goes on behind the scenes, and get involved in valuable community activities. If you have creative ideas or helpful contacts for events, outreach, or fund-raising, we'd love to hear from you!
- Who has architectural, engineering, or environmental knowledge? Although the current mold has been removed, the society and the city want to make sure it doesn't come back, which means looking closer at the structure as well as the surrounding grounds. Some degree of moisture is expected in a 100-year-old brick building, but we want to take proper steps to keep everything safe and prevent future damage! We have been having discussions with representatives from the Idaho Heritage Trust, which has expertise in maintaining and preserving older buildings.

Community attends 100-year celebration for Chapin Building



Kim Brown, above, welcomed more than 40 members of the Post Falls community to the centennial birthday party for the Chapin building. Mayor Ron Jacobsen invited guests to join in him toasting the building's past, present, and future.

Photos courtesy Charley Mixon/Chazz Creations

Although the 'guest of honor' was closed to the public in late June, the Post Falls community still was able to come together to celebrate and congratulate the Chapin Building for turning 100 years old.

The building, which now houses the Post Falls Museum, was temporarily shut down for mold contamination at the time. But it didn't stop plenty of well-wishers from gathering in the City Hall Courtyard.

Mayor Ron Jacobsen delivered a friendly toast, and council members Kerri

Thoreson and Josh Walker also offered words of wisdom.

Keelan Dickson from Rosemary Manor Winery also shared his memories of growing up in Post Falls.

Special thanks goes to Avista, which helped with some of the costs of the event, and the Post Falls Chamber for ongoing support.

The Kootenai County Historic Preservation Committee also helped with invitations, a banner, and other expenses.



The 100-year celebration included a chance for the community to learn more about Rosemary Manor, a new local winery owned by Keelan and Cara Dickson. Keelan traces his Post Falls roots back five generations, and named the winery after his grandmother Rosemary Dickson.

The Rosemary Manor boutique winery and vineyard already has several impressive selections, including a Cabernet Sauvignon, a Syrah, a sweet and dry rose, and a Sauvignon Blanc. Some bottles include historic photos like the Cabernet, which shows the Chapin building, the current home of the Post Falls Museum.

To learn more, visit rosemarymanor.com.

Historical Society represented at Millworx

Millworx is an exciting new development in Post Falls.

The former Idaho Veneer mill site is now a 50-acre luxury housing community that, when complete, will include condos, restaurants, shops and more amenities.

One of the people behind this project is Robert Jacobs, a residential Realtor with Coldwell Schneidmiller Realty. Robert has strong ties to the city. He is one of the grandchildren of Bob Templin, a business owner, and active promoter of Post Falls, Post Falls Historical Society, and Idaho tourism in general.

The facility recently held a block party and a grand opening, with live music, food trucks, raffles, kids' activities, a movie, and more.

Visitors were also able to see more than 45 historical pictures and other interesting items from the mill and from Post Falls. Some of these were on



loan from the Post Falls Historical Society and from the Museum of North Idaho. Some came from Robert's family collection.

We wish this project well and welcome new residents to our community.

(Cindy Mead photos)

The Post Falls Historical Society is a 501(c)3 volunteer non-profit organization sharing and preserving local history since 1988.

Post Falls Historical Society Board of Directors

The board meets at 6 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome and remote attendance is also available via Zoom.

Officers:

President: Judy Cowan

Vice President:

Sara Pence

Secretary: Joe Butler

Treasurer: Cindy Mead

Board Members:

Ed Adamchak

Catherine McClintick

Carol Yost

Ted Fredekind

(Emeritus)

Kim Brown

(1 position currently open)

Welcome new members! (and renewals!)

Ed & Julie Adamchak

Ron & Sally Barnett

Courtney Beebe *

Pat Bentley

Donna Rae Bradley

Lew & Kim Brown

Joe Butler

Fay Carpenter

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 *

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

**New members!*

Cowboy Breakfast

November 11, 2023, 8 to 11 A.M.

18724 W Riverview Drive, Post Falls

All You Can Eat!

Biscuits & Gravy / Scrambled Eggs,

Honey Butter & Jam, Coffee, Cocoa & Juice

\$10 Per Person/Family Rates Available



Proceeds
benefit the
Pleasantview
School Renovation
and Maintenance
Fund

Above: When we
started.

Right: The historic
schoolhouse today



Prost in the Park!

Get excited for Post Falls Rotary's new celebration of beer, music, and good times on Saturday, Sept. 30 at Q'emiln Park.

Stop by the historical society's table between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to say hi and take part in enjoyable activities for kids.

We'll also host a classic cakewalk! (\$5 donation per person.)

The museum will be also open for visitors that day so stop by there too!

Join our board!

The Post Falls Historical Society currently has two 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 be 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.

No particular skills or background is 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!

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

2023 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

pfhistorical@roadrunner.com

postfallsmuseum.weebly.com/