

Jewell Historical Society

Newsletter

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The Year in Review



During this past year, the Jewell Historical Society, and the Jewell History Museum, have completed a number of projects and have been involved in a number of events. So, once again, we take this end-of-year opportunity to thank our many supporters, and to wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season. Here is a brief recap of a few of the projects and activities from the past twelve months.



First Quarter

The year began with a business meeting of the JHS Board of Directors, at which time two expiring Board positions were filled, and two additional board members were added, raising the number of members to seven. After filling of these seats, officers were elected. Officers for 2024 were Bruce Johnson (President), Dick Steffen (Vice President), Jackie Frederick (Secretary) and Donna Busch (Treasurer).



Current JHS Board

Seated, l – r: Dick Steffen, Jackie Frederick, Donna Busch, Karen Culpepper. Standing, l – r: Alan Spohnheimer, Bruce Johnson. Not pictured: Kenn Outzen

Second Quarter

During the spring, infrastructure improvements were begun in the museum's lower level. These included the installation of a new chair lift on the stairway down from the ground-floor entry, allowing easier access to programs at the museum, many of which will be presented there owing to there being more space.



Third Quarter

Infrastructure improvements continued through the summer, including the installation of a new A-V system, and several programs were presented there on the theme of "Jewell Folks Travel." During this process the JHS hosted a successful season of regular open hours, which came to a close on Labor Day. Numerous patrons visited and took the opportunity to view, enjoy and learn from the many artifacts important to Jewell's history and heritage.



Reorganized Lower Level: Note seats along the left wall, recently acquired through the efforts of JHS board member Kenn Outzen. These seats are from the old Strand Theater, which was located on the north end of Jewell's Main Street.

Fourth Quarter

In addition to improvements begun in the lower level during the spring, efforts have recently begun to extend these improvements to the main level of the museum. These are ongoing.



The JHS Board thanks Layne, Matt and Lyndon for helping with the early stages of these improvements.

During the summer, JHS board members were contacted by Pam and Rob Rushia, of Charlottesville VA. Rob's grandfather owned a business on the north end of Main Street in the early 1900s, just south of the current location of the Van Diest Clinic, and Rob's father grew up and attended school in Jewell, before attending college, medical school and moving to Florida. Rob and Pam were planning a visit to our area in order to connect with Rob's past. In October, they were in town and met with Board members Bruce Johnson and Dick Steffen at the Jewell History Museum.



Pam and Rob Rushia talking with museum curator Dick Steffen



Special JHS Board thanks to our young friend Brant, who kept the Museum's lawn mowed all summer!



As reported in the 2nd quarter newsletter of 2022, the Museum partnered with the South Hamilton 5th Grade Class in May of that year to install labels with QR codes on more than 50 of the Museum exhibits. These codes allowed patrons to download explanations of the exhibits which had been verbally recorded by the 5th graders

Unfortunately, the company that provided the technology went bankrupt, quit service in September of this year and from our latest inquiry the voice recordings by the students are, sadly, no longer retrievable. However, the scripts the students used have been saved so the information is still available. Stay tuned. If you have any ideas or suggestions on a friendly, user friendly QR system, please send your information to the Jewell Historical Society, P.O. Box 2, Jewell, IA. 50130. In the meantime, museum staff will continue trying to find a long-term solution.

**Happy Holidays to All
From the JHS Board!**



Membership Time!!

The Jewell Historical Society is working to catalog, preserve and display items important to the history and heritage of Jewell Junction, Iowa. Please help the mission of your Society and of the Jewell History Museum by volunteering and/or becoming a member at one of the levels indicated. Any new or renewal memberships purchased before the end of this year will be good through the end of 2025. Your membership helps to maintain the operation of the Jewell History Museum. (Note: The "Utility Membership" will support the Museum's utility bills for a month.)

Members will continue to receive copies of this Newsletter which will help to keep them up to date on JHS activities.

Annual Memberships

___ Individual	\$ 25.00
___ Family	\$ 45.00
___ Patron	\$ 100.00
___ Utility	\$ 250.00

Lifetime Membership

___ Lifetime \$1,000.00

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please return to:

Jewell Historical Society

PO Box 2

Jewell IA 50130

And please consider volunteering your time to help with the Museum and its operation. Volunteers are the life blood of any community organization. You can help organize displays, help with housekeeping or maintenance, serve as a volunteer docent during open hours, work on any of our committees and/or volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors when openings occur. Contact Dick Steffen at (515) 310-0413 for more information.

The museum project has been partially funded by grants and donations from:

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The IMT Group

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Jewell Lions

Walmart® Community Grants Program

Hamilton County Tourism

and

The Enhance Hamilton County Foundation

