



Whispers from the Woodbine



Newsletter of the Wheat Ridge Historical Society

Vol. 5, No. 4, Fall 2024

November's membership meeting promises bylaw discussion, board election

Although this November's WRHS election to seat three board members is important, it's the amendments to the bylaws that are bound to stimulate discussion.

The proposed amendments range from housekeeping items to significant director/committee and meeting changes, including:

- The proposed addition of **three** new (or reinstated) standing committees and director positions, including Outreach, Membership & Volunteer coordination and Finance.

Why add these board positions?

Bylaw committees for the last two years have deleted director positions and committees when there was no one to fill them. This "whittling down" of unfilled positions has set a dangerous precedent; continued whittling may leave the Society unable to offer popular programs and activities; whereas, leaving them in the bylaws enables the executive team to appoint new volunteers to serve until they are elected instead of waiting until the next year.

- A proposed reorganization of the monthly meeting schedule, which would change the Annual Meeting of the Membership from the November meeting to April and switch the board and officer elections to spring.

Why switch the meeting schedule, bylaw vote and elections to spring?

The biggest reason is that the holiday season, which starts in late October and extends through December, is an incredibly busy time. It's hard to attract members to the annual meeting when their minds are rightfully elsewhere. It's also hard for committees to plan enough time to analyze the bylaws and research and interview potential board members.

Other organizations hold elections in the spring when schedules are more flexible.

See further information on the bylaw changes on page 2 of this newsletter.

You bring
The apples,
Take home
Fresh CIDER!

All Things Apple

Saturday, Oct. 12, 10:00 - 2:00
at the Historical Park, 4610 Robb St.

SAUCES • CANNING **LIVE MUSIC**
PEELING • ART PROJECTS **LAWN GAMES**
RECIPES • SAMPLES **FOOD TRUCKS**

The old apple press sits in the implement shed, its red hopper and legs practically calling out to be used.

Alas, it was replaced several years ago because broken or missing parts could no longer be found. It's a wonderful artifact; Henry Lee's 1904 farm equipment catalog featured one very similar.

Though it's been relegated to artifact status now, its replacement will get a workout Saturday as neighbors and area residents visit the Historical Park and line up with their containers and bags of apples to take their turn at dumping the fruit in the hopper, watching as they turn the wheel to see their apples crushed, then pressed.

What satisfaction to see the cider juice run down the spout and into their clean bottles and jugs. The aroma is

intoxicating, the fresh cider lip-smackin' delicious, whether served chilled or warmed.

Ahh, but apple pressing is not the end of the offerings Saturday. When we say "All things apple," we mean it.

We've got old fashioned peeling technology demonstrations, along with sauce-making, apple-baking and drying; we even have apple art.

All this as you stroll around the Historical Park to the music of Golden Strings. When you get hungry, stop by the Soddy for some corn bread cooked on the Soddy wood stove or visit the Mile High Smoker's food truck for some BBQ.

Museums in the park are open for tours and FREE, so join us for a pleasant trip back through time when life was simpler and cider was fresh.

News to amuse — and use!

Bridge over Brown-Baugh ditch gets much needed repairs before Cider Fest

Whoa! When returning to my car from a photo session at the Historical Park in late September, I happened to put my hand on the rail on the east side of the bridge over the Brown-Baugh ditch at the south entrance to the park.

To my surprise the entire rail moved out about eight inches; I moved it back in place, then wiggled it back and forth a few times in amazement.

With the Cider Fest rapidly approaching, the repair request to the parks crew got fast-tracked. Friend to the WRHS and Parks and Rec. Department employee Karif Esmail spent the first week of October dismantling the bridge, digging deeper holes and replacing the bridge's foundation due to water damage and posts that had been eaten away at the base by years of weed whacking. Several planks were also replaced.

The next step is to stain and seal the wood, Esmail reports. The bridge will be functional and sturdy by the Cider Fest.

—Marta Hedde



Clockwise from top:
1. Historical Park bridge has been closed. 2. Board member Marta Hedde pushes on the loose rail. 3. Rotted wood foundation.



November meeting

Director elections scheduled next month, along with bylaw amendment decisions

The election of new board of directors members and the adoption of new amendments to the bylaws is scheduled for the Annual All-member meeting, November 12.

There are many and varied proposals to amend the bylaws. The bylaw committee reports that it took an initial marathon meeting of six hours to draft the content and refine the wording, then several subsequent rounds to finalize content.

High on the list of proposed housekeeping amendments is a revision of the method of information dissemination to the membership. Because the White Family Home is now staged as a typical home of the 1920s-30s, the WRHS can no longer display anything, including, specifically, information about meetings or deadlines; the thought is that any evidence of modern-day activity or items would disrupt the visitors' total immersion experience.

Upon passage of this bylaw amendment, members will instead be contacted by email, phone or USPS. The WRHS will absorb the cost of sending notifications needed for

various meetings and yearly bylaw amendment proposals to members without emails at a cost upwards of \$15 per mailing. Meeting and other announcements will be conducted in similar fashion. It's so far undecided how park visitors will have access to books, brochures and other information about the Society.

Other major changes to the bylaws, rearranging the meeting schedule to allow elections in the spring and the addition of three standing committee positions, are explained on page one of this newsletter.

Because some of the proposed bylaw amendments are significant and complex, rather than forcing an "all or nothing" adoption method, voting concerning the issues discussed in this newsletter will be broken down into individual votes.

Members in attendance at the November meeting can vote to adopt all proposals, or they can vote individually to adopt or not adopt the three major issues discussed here and the housekeeping changes.

Knit group works for 'Warm Hearts, Warm Babies'

Many remember Jean Decker, who, before she passed away earlier this year, regularly attended Second Saturdays at the Baugh House. She sat in a rocker and crocheted or knitted tiny, tiny baby hats, seemingly sized to fit dolls.

Turns out she was supplying hats for babies in area hospital NICUs, so the tiny beings would have warm hats to wear home when released. She had been a NICU baby herself.

The organization she volunteered for is "Warm Hearts, Warm Babies," a group the WRHS Knit One, Crafts Too contributes to. Go to www.warmheartwarmbabies.org to find out more, and/or attend the knit group fourth Saturdays, 10:00-noon.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Wheat Ridge Historical Society is run by a group of massively dedicated volunteers. Everything the Society does is powered by these volunteers.

We are in constant need of volunteers to help set up, tear down, organize and clean up after events. We need help in documentation of artifacts and our archival collections.

If you are interested in helping out or running for a board position, please send an email with VOLUNTEER in the subject line to wghistorical@gmail.com, and we will keep your contact information for future events. Thanks a lot!

Best in collection of 60+

Saturday visitors name top three quilts

Visitors who attended the last two Second Saturday Socials at the Baugh House, August's Heritage Day and September's Dogs on Paw-rade, took a close look at the display of most of the Historical Society's collection numbering 60-plus quilts and then voted for their favorites.

The top vote getter was the Yo-yo quilt pictured below. Created **in the 1930s** by Julia Young, whose son Clyde was an early WRHS member, it is made up of a series of two-inch circles (which started as four-inch squares pulled tightly into circles) with edges sewn together in concentric



First place: Yo-yo quilt

squares; the design is called "Around the World".

Quilts from the collection are always displayed in August for Heritage Day, a day celebrating the month James Baugh gained the deed to his 160-acre homestead. Quilts were an important part of pioneer life.

The various pieces range from the around 1843 to 1980, according to quilt curator Jane Harvey.

When she began to set out this year's selections, volunteer helper Carol Visalpatara suggested they create a "Favorite Quilt" contest and have people cast votes as part of the 50-year anniversary. The contest lasted through two monthly Saturday socials with ballots being accepted at any time during the events.

Visitors walked through various displays in every room of the Baugh House, a process which also introduced them to Baugh's original 1859 cabin inside on the east end of the early 1900s Late Victorian farmhouse.



Second place: Beautiful Star



Third place: Log Cabin

First moving picture theater

Early Elitch theater served dual purpose

What? The grand old Elitch Theatre on 38th Avenue, where many famous actors cut their professional teeth (including Mary Pickford, Helen Hays and Robert Redford, among dozens of others), served as Denver's first movie theater?

When Mary Elitch originally opened the theater in the early 1890s, it featured live vaudeville shows, same as other theaters in Denver. There were no movie theaters because moving pictures hadn't been invented yet.

That changed very suddenly when Thomas Edison, searching for a location "out West" to introduce his newest invention, the Vitascope, wrote a letter to his friend in Colorado. He suggested a show using his Vitascope be staged at Elitch's theater.

On August 15, 1896, the first moving pictures in Colorado were shown at Elitch's Theatre. After the initial shock of seeing moving - but not live - people dancing around on stage, the new entertainment form eventually caught on.

By August of 1896 Wheat Ridge was a thriving farming community. Henry Lee ran a successful farm implement and seed business. James Baugh had subdivided his farm and moved to Longmont, married and died in 1891. Bert and Etta White had purchased 15 acres of Baugh's rich farm land, were living in the Soddy with their two sons and growing various crops.

One has to wonder if they ever hitched up the wagon, loaded up the kids and took the Prospect road (now 38th Avenue) into Denver to see the movin' picture show! Or would they have walked a mile to the trolley stop on Prospect and taken it?




Winter Clothing Drive



Time to clean out those closets and recycle unneeded items!!!

<p>Items needed by Jeffco Action Center:</p> <p>Winter coats, hats, gloves</p> <p>Blankets</p> <p>Sleeping bags</p>	<p>Drop off items at Apple Cider Festival</p> <p>Saturday, October 12th</p> <p>10am-2pm</p> <p>4610 N. Robb Street</p>
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*****Please make sure items are washed and clean, free of rips, stains or tears*****

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is the official newsletter of the Wheat Ridge Historical Society, a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization. It is published five times a year and sent electronically to members. Article ideas, contributions and letters to the editor are welcome! Submit them at the email address listed

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WRHS 2022 Board of Directors:

- Janet Bradford, President
- Don Wood, Vice President
- Barbara Bankovich, Secretary (Volunteer Records)
- Bonnie Botham, Treasurer (Events Chair)
- Kassandra Rumbaugh, Member-at-Large
- Dave Curtis, Maintenance Chair
- Linda Grantham, Archive Collections Chair
- Marta Hedde, Publications Chair
- Idella Lewis, Information Chair
- Lillian Stone, Displays Chair
- Kassandra Rumbaugh/Barbara Bankovich, Sustainability Artifact Collections Chair, open

Contact information:

Email: WRHistorical@gmail.com

Website: Wheatridgehistoricalsociety.org

Facebook: Wheat Ridge Historical Society
Historical Park

4610 Robb Street, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

Phone: 303-421-9111

Open: Fridays 10:00-3:00, Saturdays 10-2





Tours available: \$5pp/\$2 kids; groups, please call ahead.

Hostesses: Jane Harvey & Janet Bradford, and various volunteers


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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday / Sunday
Home of the Wheat Ridge Historical Society, the Historical Park is located at 4610 Robb Street. The Baugh House is two blocks south at 11361 44 th Ave.			3	4 Historical Park & Museums Open Fri's 10-3	5/ Historical Park & Museums Open Sat's 10-2 
7	8 Board of Directors Mtg 6:30 In-person/Zoom format	9	10	11 See the Century-long Story	Second Saturday Social Apple Cider Festival Hist. Park, 10-2
14	15	16	17	18 take shape in five different museums.	19/20
21		23 	24	25 Tours: \$5.00pp Groups call 303-421-9111	26/27 4th Saturday WORKDAY (Call office Friday for project details) 
28		30	31 	Tours available other days by appointment	

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