

## **WCHS Monthly Report**

**January 2023**

### **Presidents Report**

I hope everyone is having a great 2023 so far. The Executive Committee met to discuss funding options to help with administrative costs. We will go over them with you at our meeting. I am working on a letter to put in the February newsletter. The weather looks ok for Wednesday's meeting at the Archives. If there is ever a time when the weather looks iffy we will move to a Zoom meeting. See everyone on Wednesday.

### **Roy Chatters Newspaper & Printing Museum**

Work continues! Don Myott and Alex Otero work every Saturday on their indexing project of Colfax and Palouse newspapers. The completed work will be invaluable for researchers!

### **Directors Report**

We had lots of gifts come in at the end of the year. I processed donations 2 times the last week of the month to make sure we got all of the gifts in before year end and got the tax letters out to the donors. I have completed drafts of items that were assigned to me at the retreat. (volunteer manual, fund development plan and process, organizational working plan, volunteer job description). Working with the Perkins House to get a plan together for a fundraiser. We are not sure if the speeders are coming back this year. But we already know that the Perkins family is coming to town on Father's Day. We have to have something planned. Worked with the Lost Apple project to create an online check out when people purchase trees. It seems to be working well. Assisted Greg with information for sponsorship application for the state line project. And coordinated donation with Gary Libey for the statue project. Nancy Rothwell and Jim Fitzgerald are working with Kim Nygen on taking down the decals on the Rose theater windows. Jim paid to have them put up in the windows to promote the Perkins House. Now Kim wants them down. She tried to blame the decals for a crack in her window, but it was clearly done by a rock. Jim will pay to have them removed. Going forward, we will not have a partnership with her. I also created ads for the Historical Society for the Neighbors business and service guide and the annual visitors guide that are distributed all over the state through visitor centers and Chambers of Commerce. Visited with Kathy about the newsletter and sent her documents that she needed. We have been receiving an increase in clock repair requests for Jim Martin. But people don't seem to be donating after the repairs are complete. I know we can't make them donate, but Jim explains that all he asks is for them to donate back to the Cashup

Davis project as payment. I will try to come up with a better plan to see if we can get a better return on donations.

We got two larger donations for St. Ignatius. Jon made sure funds got transferred to the project. He is working directly with Austin Storm to get expense reports from the project.

Created and distributed monthly square reports and giving reports to each location that received donations.

A huge thank you to Kathy Meyer and Debbie Sherman for taking on the newsletter project.

### **Lost Apple Project Update**

Since opening our pre-sale of grafting wood (scions) and tree sales on January 1st, we have pre-sold 300 scions and over \$3,000 in apple trees of mostly once lost varieties. We collect the scion wood in February and mail them in early March. We have ordered rootstock and we will graft over 100 apple trees in mid and late March.

We will have a minimum of one lost apple tree recovery to announce this spring. Depending on DNA testing currently being done at WSU, we may have several more additional recoveries.

### **Perkins House, December 2022**

The month started off with the main event of the winter with the participation in Winterfest and the Perkins House Christmas Open House. With one official weekend of open house, the hours were extended and we welcomed guests from 10-4. A regular flow of people arrived throughout those hours. Volunteers brought cookies and dressed in period clothing.

Snow prevented the opening of the house for several weekends following this event and so there were not too many other visitors for December. We received news of the snow removal bill, which is a very high number and something that cannot be maintained moving forward. Alternative options are being looked into.

The house is closed January-February. Plans for the time are for Christmas takedown and planning for 2023 events and fundraisers.

### **Archive, January 2023:**

Open to Public, regular posted hours Wednesdays, 9:00 AM through 12:00 PM.

Staff have been present throughout working the following:

Although weather has limited volunteer attendance this past month,

Collating and cataloging donated collections and entering data into PastPerfect.

Dealing with selections of collection that has nothing to do with Whitman County or its people, to be deaccessioned and moved from collection.

Accomplishing online requests, research, and responses, consistently have several requests made by us each month. Unusually heavy request load recently.

Donations from Whitman County Library on December 28, 2022, to WCHS Archives:

1/2 box of misc. files from Whitman County Library marked "Vertical Files - to be thrown out" six year ago

Containing: Misc. files about Whitman County.

Last two weeks, Sargent Greg Umbright, Retired Chief Ted Weatherly and another retiree from Pullman Police spent several hours going through files in researching information for a historical description on the Pullman Police department's history. They've verbally committed to sharing final results with the Archives.

The past month has presented Internet problems, stemming from old wiring and attempts to update by the Gladish subcontractors, turns out that they caused our down situation and they corrected it for us. They also gave a statement that our router was difficult to work with and not responding consistently. Later we discovered an issue with our printer not working, could not get network connection to work so I attempted a work around with USB cables, but was not successful. Finally hiring Shivelight Computer Service to troubleshoot, got us up quickly with the USB cable work around. I mentioned the Grumpy Printer has been very difficult for the last three years of my involvement. Shivelight stated that we should be on a network connection, but our old router is not functioning properly and does not see printer network mode. This fix is temporary, Shivelight recommends that we update by "clean up wiring, install a new (modern) router with more connections than current, tie in the big Sharp printer / copier in front room so computers in back room". I'm working on preparing the layout and dimensions for Shivelight to provide an estimate of labor and materials, to submit to the board for approval.

### **Depot Report**

- Hosted a successful Holiday Bazaar in the passenger car during three Saturdays in December – netting \$450 through the sale of donated crafts and gift baskets.
- Welcomed a new WSU intern to the freight room who will be helping each Saturday.
- Working to clear out one of the interior offices we have used as storage, so that it could become a potential rental space.

- Beginning plans for train car improvements particularly aimed at an application for a Pullman Chamber of Commerce grant.
- Continue to work on grant reimbursement submissions.
- Formalizing the text and 2022 donor list for inclusion in the Annual Report which will be sent to over 380 people. It focuses on recognizing donors, highlighting the year's activities, and explaining how donor funds are being used.
- Beginning plans for an April Vintage Quilt Show.
- Meeting via Zoom with other recipients of the 2023-25 Heritage Capital Projects grants to coordinate efforts to inform and lobby legislators about the importance of supporting the \$10M amount for preservation projects in the governor's budget.
- Marketing Committee is sending out a monthly online newsletter with current news to all folks who have indicated s desire to receive it.