

Depot Report for August 2025

Whew! The driveway has been cleared – about 5-6 dump truck loads of access rock and dirt was hauled off. The trench across the drive is scheduled to be paved, so we can be ready for Depot Days this weekend. The rock retaining walls are complete, but we still need to have a concrete pad laid. As soon as Avista extends their service and sets a new transformer, work to run power to the basement can proceed. All the new breakers and panels are in the basement. Even with added expenses for unforeseen trenching problems (unbreakable rock), we should remain on budget.

The Steering Committee looked at several possible projects on the horizon, including removing the old steel and concrete curbing (compromised during trenching), restoring the sidewalk and portico base, and adding more retaining wall toward Kamiaken Street. These projects will be discussed at the next Restoration Committee meeting. Estimates are being gathered and potential donors investigated.

We are set for Depot Days – first hosting the Chamber's Walk of Fame induction on Friday evening and then the start of a fun run Saturday morning, followed by open house in the freight room from 11 AM until 4 PM. Local grains and the train car restoration will be featured.

Fundraising efforts to support the train car project began in earnest. The wooden “tent” structure surrounding the cars is very visible and sparking interest. So far about a dozen donors have sent in \$1000 checks to pay for a window. Although over \$100,000 has been raised, we still have nearly \$100,000 more needed, so we will be exploring options with the Port of Whitman. Possible major donors are being contacted.

We are no longer holding our breath about the USDA grant for the train project – no news seems to portend nothing good. We did submit a new Avista grant application.



Palouse Museum - August

Summer is a fun and busy time at the museum. Several folks have expressed interest in letterpress printing classes. Tony Sittner, our master printer, has returned on a limited basis and is training two of our new volunteers, who can then teach others (for a fee). We hosted a class reunion recently, which was great to introduce some who had not had occasion to visit before. Palouse Day is Sept. 13 which is always a big day for us. Some Chamber volunteers are working

on a History of Palouse Day display, and we'll have a simple entry in the Parade for the first time. More volunteers have made many things happen!

Director's report

The contractors started the Perkins House project right on time. They are sealing all the cracks and fixing all the broken spindles on the roof and balconies. We matched the paint colors the best that we could with the old colors. We looked everywhere in the office and couldn't find the name or numbers of the paint used. We even went to the Grange to see if they had record, no luck. Lots of gifts have come in for the Depot project and the Lost apple project continues to sell trees.

Perkins House update: Nancy Rothwell

There are 2 outstanding issues you need to know about:

1. **Glazing putty around the windows** - although they knew that was an issue, they didn't realize how extensive the loose glazing putty problem was. We really **MUST** deal with it before they start painting the windows. They propose doing some removal of the worst failures and then doing a "**patching glazing**" which will help with longevity (doing a **total** new glazing job would be WAY too expensive and time consuming we both decided). So this is a nice compromise. It will be an additional cost: 30 hours of labor at standard rate of \$80/hour to equal \$2400. **Can you get approvals for this extra expense?** They need to know as soon as possible because they have their lift onsite and they need to paint after the glazing done.

2. **Honey bee issue** - They had no idea the bees were so extensive and they are making life difficult for the painters. (One young man has been stung 9 times in 4 days of work!). It is clear they need to purchase or rent bee protection outfits for his painters who are doing front of building. He said "I must keep my workers safe". He also said "I want to keep the bees safe too for the environment and would never hurt them". I agreed with him of course. He is going to get a cost estimate for this gear and has access to a bee expert person for advice. I would be most willing to assume this cost privately, since it is so important. I'll know more next week.

Archive Report

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

Archives have been experiencing an average of one to three visitations per week and Email requests at four to six per week this past month. I guess everyone is staying indoors due to the heat, so they get on the computers and make requests from others.

July 9th, Lynsey and I removed the old oil furnace from the Steptoe Grange building and hauled most of the exterior Sheet Metal to the transfer site near Pullman. The heavier boiler box still needs to be removed from its current location on the side of the Grange building.

July 12th, Carol Larson with assistance from husband Jim, mowed, pressured washed the front, sidewalk and steps of the Grange building. Really made a difference, the building looks loved.

July 13th, nine of us got together and moved the Archives Artifacts from the Colfax Mercantile Building upstairs to the Steptoe Grange building in Steptoe in two hours.

August 8th, Lynsey and I went shopping for materials that we could put together for a door to help secure one of the new storage locations. We still need some lumber, Fasteners and a little labor to finish.

The Gladish community center is having money issues, and we've now found they are attempting to sell.

Nicole, of the Gladish business office gave notice and quit while handling our new lease of one year ending July 31, 2026, previous lease (5 year) ended July 31, 2025. Val, Director and Jon, Treasure accomplish the negotiating, and signing of the new one-year lease at the same rate as last year's.