



Dakota City Party Line

DAKOTA CITY HERITAGE VILLAGE

2011 CALENDAR

Dakota County Fair

August 8-14

Harvest Moon Festival

October 21-22

Christmas in the Village

Dec. 3-4

Dec. 10-11

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Dakota County Fair coming soon

Plans are underway for the Dakota County Fair, the 152nd one to be exact, scheduled Aug. 8-14. Special entertainment and events are planned in Dakota City Heritage Village throughout the fair.

Entertainment will be provided by wandering musicians and offered in the performance tent on the green south of Ahlberg Hall. Groups and individuals performing will include Bakers Fan, Marv Gohman, Ron E. Cash, Summer Pops Band, Eelpout Singers, Still

Tickin,' Dakota Brass Quintet, Sonny Bryant, and Karen Cohen and cloggers. Special events will include talent shows, the All American Lumberjack Show, square dancing, the Prime Time Players, a Bank Raid, Michael Bateson portraying Mark Twain, and Dayna Railton and the Children's Theatre presenting "Schoolhouse Rock Live, Jr." For times and dates of performances, please see the Village's web site at dakotacity.org.

All buildings will be staffed by costumed inter-

preters to help visitors understand life in the 1900-era village. New displays will be unveiled in the Ahlberg Heritage Museum, including a display to be entered in State Fair competition and a "Perfectly Suited for the Occasion" display.

The usual tractor parade through the village will take place at 1 p.m. each day with many tractors on display on the village green. Threshing will take place north of the fire barn at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

Every day visitors can watch cooking in the Harris House and smithing in the Blacksmith Shop. The Drugstore will offer hot and cold food, root beer floats and ice cream inside with lemonade and sweet corn sold outside. Handcrafted items will be available in the Gift Shop. Daily features will include a storyteller, painters, demonstrators, artists and skits

For details about volunteering, see box at left.

Volunteers needed for Fair

Individuals, families and youth are needed to fill 900 time shifts during the Fair. The Village needs costumed interpreters, food service workers and museum hosts. Those who volunteer will be asked to enter at the Dakota County Extension Office parking lot. Names will be checked off a list for free admission and parking. Check in at the Village office for discounted meal tickets. Costumes are available.

Shifts will be scheduled as follows --

Monday, Aug. 8 - 3:30 to 6:15 p.m., 6 to 9:15 p.m.

Tuesday- Saturday -- 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 1 to 5 p.m., 4:30 to 9:15 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 14 -- 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. & 1:30 to 6:15 p.m.

Please call the office (651-460-8050) if you wish to volunteer. It is often difficult for our phone volunteers to catch you at home so your call will be appreciated.

Notes from the Board

Grant funds sought for museum repair

Dakota City is applying to the Minnesota Historical Society for funds to make some much needed repairs at the Ahlberg Museum and to improve collections care. Funds will be used to purchase and install a new air conditioner in the archive room; the current unit is not functioning.

We also hope to purchase and install three units that will

clean and circulate the air in the museum, helping to better control humidity and eliminate a majority of contaminants in the air.

These two factors have significant potential to damage artifacts and implements in the museum. We hope that with granted funds we will be able to rectify this situation as soon as possible.

Mission/Vision statements revised

The Dakota City Board of Directors recently approved a revised Mission Statement/Vision Statement for Dakota City Heritage Village, Inc.

The Mission Statement reads as follows:

Dakota City Heritage Village connects through education and interpretation current generations to life and agricultural heritage of early twentieth century rural Dakota County.

The Vision Statement reads:

Dakota City Heritage Village is to be the best representation of early twentieth century agricultural heritage and life in Dakota County.

Have you renewed your membership?

Enclosed in this newsletter is a membership form. If you haven't already sent in your membership for 2011, please fill out the information and send the form with your check to Dakota City Heritage Village, P.O. Box 73, Farmington, MN 55024. Your membership fee will help support Dakota City's mission and programs. All members are invited to attend the next Annual Meeting. Look in the next newsletter for date, time and place.

The Village's 'Wish List'

A variety of period-appropriate items are needed in the Village. Please call 651-460-8050 if you can donate.

Dehumidifiers; router

Electric drill with cord; electric hand jigsaw

Shelf brackets (adjustable hangers) with shelves

Pine boards (almost any size) for
woodworking projects

Garden tools -- hoe, rake, spade, shovel

Dakota City completes StEPs grant evaluation

During the past five months, Dakota City has engaged in the StEPs (Standards of Excellence) Assessment Program created by the American Association for state and Local History (AASLLH). This process was fully funded by a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society with appropriations from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

The Board of Directors and selected volunteers welcomed cultural consultant Heather Koop to guide the group through the process. With more than 20 years in the historical management industry, she is a former program manager and director of historical sites for southern

Minnesota at the Minnesota Historical Society.

The six topics of discussion and assessment were:

Mission, Vision and Governance; Audience; Interpretation; Stewardship of Collections; Stewardship of Historical Structures and Landscapes; and Management.

There are several outcomes for Dakota City taken from this process. First, it was an opportunity for Dakota City to explore its mission and, more specifically, the wording of the mission. At the May Board meeting, a newly revised mission for Dakota City Heritage Village was adopted.

This process increased credibility for funders, the community and other stake-

holders. This also provided a valuable opportunity for Board members to become fully engaged in the process and direction of the organization. Next, this served as a meaningful process to identify and better articulate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges of Dakota City.

The final outcome of the process was a prioritized listing of areas to further discuss along with possible changes to improve the organization as a whole. Areas identified were fundraising, volunteers and training, program goals and membership. Subcommittees and the full board will be further exploring these areas in the coming months.

Dakota City Officers

Pearl Shirley, President
Mary Hendricks, Vice Pres.
Roberta Schafer, Secretary
Leonard Storlie, Treasurer

Board of Directors

Jon Boorum
Dennis Danich
Jim Hollenbeck
Greg Kaslow
Mike McMenemy
Kathy Neil
Gary Smith

Education Coordinator

Alisa Peterson

To contact any of the above, please call Dakota City at 651-460-8050.

We will return your call and listen to your comments, questions or concerns.

Harris House gets a coat of paint, courtesy of family

The Harris House, donated to Dakota City in 1998, continues to be close to the hearts of the Harris family. Ever since the move, they have handled scheduling of family as volunteer interpreters during events. They also have volunteered to clean the house whenever needed.

Not only that, but the family recently paid for lead abatement on the outside of the house prior to covering the cost of having the exterior professionally painted.

Great-grandparents Monroe and Orinda Harris likely would be proud that their descendants are taking care of the family home. The original Harrises were married on July 7, 1874, and moved to the 80-acre farm that Monroe had purchased

in 1867 for \$15.00 an acre. The three-bedroom Harris House was built in 1892. Monroe and Orinda raised eight children in the small home. Two children had died in infancy.

Harris families farmed the land and lived on the farm for most of 131 years. In 1998, the family donated the original home to Dakota City and covered the cost of moving it.

Today, the farm is occupied by a development that is fittingly named "Harris Acres." It is located between Pilot Knob Rd. and Flagstaff Ave. along 170th St. in northeast Lakeville.

At Dakota City, the farmhouse has been furnished to look much as would have in the late 1800s and early 1900s. It is one of



The Harris House has a new coat of cream-colored paint, courtesy of the Harris Family.

the most popular buildings in the Village.

A cast iron wood-burning stove warms the parlor during Christmas in the Village. During events,

visitors are drawn to the wood-burning cookstove in the kitchen by the mouth-watering smells of bacon and eggs, beef stew, fresh bread and apple pie.

Spring cleaning spruces up museum

Steady progress is being made with a thorough spring cleaning of the museum's exhibits, thanks to faithful volunteers. They include Corey Forstrom, Lynn Stegmaier, Don Holz, Bernice and Don Tutewohl, Pat Peters, Betty Steege and Jim Hollenbeck.

Their many hands really lighten the workload and we truly appreciate their efforts every Tuesday. We're quite pleased with Facilities Committee's investigation and equipment trial of several air scrubbers in use throughout the

museum space. The scrubbers are provided by Environmental Assurance of Lakeville.

Also, Volunteer Curator Forstrom is hard at work on a new exhibit titled "Perfectly Suited for the Occasion." The display is featured in the Archive Room windows.

She also is researching material for the exhibit that will travel to the Minnesota State Fair. It will compare farms of the 1800s with current Century Farms of Dakota County.

Interested in adopting a building?

The Harris family did not have to consider adoption for the family home. But for others who might have a special interest in helping Dakota City maintain a specific building, please consider the Adopt-A-Building program.

Individuals, families,

businesses and organizations are invited to participate in the program. Responsibilities include decorating for events, assisting with obtaining volunteer interpreters and cleaning after events.

For information, call 651-460-8050.

Need to contact us?

The office is staffed from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Stop in or call 651-460-8050. If the phone is not answered immediately, please leave a message and someone will return your call. The coffeepot is always on.

Photos in this issue, unless otherwise noted, were contributed by Lea Guenther.

Tours, camps bring youth to the Village



Families were invited to youth camp on the final day. These ladies demonstrate in the Print Shop.

Dakota City was alive with youngsters during the spring months. A total of 1,330 students from 13 public and private schools along with five home school groups participated in various tours of the village. Tours were offered on 22 days. The addition of home school tours was new this year.

TOURS	
Schools	13
Home Schools	5
Tour days	22
Total students	1,330

Summer programs are now underway with "1900 Apprentice," the youth day camps offered three times in June and once in July. In addition, summer tours will begin in August.

New to the day camp program this year was the

teen volunteer camp. Although only four girls attended the camp, that turned out to be a good number to work with closely.

Two of the girls came back to volunteer with the first week of apprentice campers (elementary-aged youth) and the other two will volunteer with the July day camp. All indicated they will volunteer during the Dakota County Fair.

These programs needed many volunteers who acted as teachers, tour guides and demonstrators. They devote many hours to help teach children about 1900-era life.



Education Coordinator Alisa Peterson adjusts a costume.



Lads armed with a billy club and a script man the jail.



Youth are ready to ring up a purchase in the General Store (above) and sell tickets in the Depot (below).



This druggist is followed by his younger brother.



Blacksmithing is a hot job (at left).



The banker points out the coin counter (above).



These gals offer a shave and a haircut for two bits.



The Village is fortunate to have its own library.



Another druggist poses in his costume (at right).

World War II event provides education despite rain



A re-enactor w a n n a b e t r u d g e s through the village, armed only with Mom's bright red umbrella.



Onlookers ready their cameras as the mock battle begins at the World War II Re-enactment event at Dakota City.



Whatcha got in there? This young lass takes a close look inside a tent.

The second annual World War II Re-enactment event was held Saturday, May 21, and Sunday, May 22. More than 20 living history organizations portrayed American, British, Canadian, Russian and German soldiers.

Although the weather did not cooperate, providing too much rain and too little sunshine, those who attended were both educated and entertained. Chairperson Jon Boorum, assisted by Ray Rygula, organized the WWII event.



When the rain stopped, two ladies in 1940s dress stopped by.

Victorian Tea is a success



Lady Jane and the spectators cheer for their favorite horses as the Kentucky Derby begins.

The 2011 Victorian Tea was held Saturday, May 7, at the Crystal Lake Golf Club. Held on the same day as the Kentucky Derby, the theme was "A Day at the Races, with emphasis on the Kentucky Derby."

A total of 198 ladies had reserved a spot for the luncheon. Jennifer Merhar as Lady Jane was again the gracious hostess for the event.

A string quartet provided music along with Lady Jane. Many of the guests, along with



Hats and Victorian garb were prevalent at the tea.

the hostesses, were dressed in 1900-era costumes. Many wore elaborate hats of varied sizes and color.

A five-course luncheon was served, with mint juleps (sans alcohol) as a palate re-

freshener. Tea was replenished by costumed servers.

Next year's tea will be held on Saturday, May 5, at the Crystal Lake Golf Club.

These photos courtesy of Jessica@Tea-Friends.net.

Village now boasts two horseless carriages

A horseless carriage with a fringe on top has been donated to Dakota City Heritage Village. The vehicle was designed and handcrafted by Eugene “Dutch” Drescher, a long-time Dakota City volunteer and a member of the Machinery Men.

After Dutch’s death the past spring, his children generously donated the vehicle (photo at left) to Dakota City. He used a lawn mower engine as the power source. The horseless carriage has levers for steering and pedals to control direction. Dutch usually drove the vehicle



in the daily Tractor Parade during the Dakota County Fair.

Several years ago Vern Jensen designed and built a horseless carriage (shown at right) and donated it to Dakota City. Vern and his brother, Bob, worked on the vehicle during the summer of 2004. They used a John Deere 317 lawn tractor and motorcycle wheels.

Because the vehicle is slow moving, it is ideal for use in the Village. It also appears in area parades to promote Dakota City and the Dakota County Fair.

Quilt donated for raffle fundraiser

A hand-embroidered quilt and pillowtop have been donated by Judy Storlie to be raffled off during the Dakota County Fair. The quilt, which was machine quilted, has a white background with blue embroidery. Tickets will be available for \$1.00 throughout the fair, with the drawing held Sunday, Aug. 14.

Dakota County Agricultural Society
Dakota City Heritage Village
P.O. Box 73, Farmington MN 55024
Contact: info@dakotacity.org or call 651-460-8050.

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