



Dakota City Party Line

DAKOTA CITY HERITAGE VILLAGE

Victorian Tea to feature Kentucky Derby

2011

CALENDAR

Victorian Tea
May 7

**WW II Historical
Reenactment**
May 21-22

Youth Camps
June & July

**Dakota County
Fair**
August 8-14

**Harvest Moon
Festival**
October 20-21

**Christmas
in the Village**
Dec. 3-4
Dec. 10-11

Dakota City --
where the past
is present.

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The annual Lady Jane's Victorian Tea will be held at noon on Saturday, May 7, at the Crystal Lake Golf Club. The theme will be "A Day at the Races," featuring the Kentucky Derby.

Jennifer Merhar will again portray Lady Jane, serving as the hostess for the event. She will provide comments and stories about the derby, along with music for her guests.

Attendees are invited to wear hats and gloves with their spring attire.

A luncheon will be served by the Crystal Lake Golf Club staff. Tickets cost \$30 each and must be purchased in advance. Send a check with the names of guests to Dakota City Heritage Village, Inc., P.O. Box 73, Farmington, MN, 55024. Tickets will be mailed after April 15th.

Organizing the event are Barbara Carson, chair; Jennifer Merhar, Iris Briesacher, Karen Hendren, Kay Bennett, Lynn Nordine and Noreen Nielsen.

World War II event planned May 21 & 22

Dakota City's second annual World War II Historical Re-enactment will take place May 21 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More than 20 living history organizations will portray American, British, Canadian, Russian and German soldiers. Participants will come from South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Ohio. They represent infantry, airborne, aviation, medical, engineering, reconnaissance, signal, photographic, military police and other units.

Events will include a battle, firing demon-

strations, military vehicles and many hands-on demonstrations plus a dance. New this year will be a 1940s Fashion Show and home front displays by the Lakeville and Rosemount Historical Societies. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

A symposium will feature several speakers, including Liz Stohfus, one of 1,200 WASP pilots, and Yogi Punsh, who served with a German artillery unit. The speakers will relate personal stories, said Co-Chairs Ray Rygula and Jon Boorum.

They added that this is the perfect opportunity to bond with one's family, especially if there is a WWII veteran in the family. These veterans are becoming a vanishing breed, they said, so take the time to thank them.

They expressed thanks to the WWII Historical Re-enactment Society, Inc., especially the 12th SS Panzer Unit, for without their support this event would not take place.

Also, Dakota City is looking for volunteers to assist with fundraising efforts for next year.

A message from the Board

... 'We need you'

I'm writing this on a Sunday, watching my two granddaughters outside enjoying a new snowfall. I remember this type of scene when I was growing up on our farm. Then I was the one outside playing in the snow before we did chores.

I could also see the one-room country school on the corner of our property about two blocks away. My brothers and I, my Dad and my Grandfather were all a part of the history of District 47. For my mother, it was the second one-room school at which she had taught. It's where she met my father and, as they say, the rest is history.

As a young child and teenager, I was involved in our family farm. We used horses

much of the time when haying, planting corn and harvesting grain.

After my brothers and I started school, our mother returned to teaching in the Lakeville school district. When she retired from full-time teaching she became a substitute teacher and was involved with the development of Dakota City Heritage Village. She started the One-Room Country School program that continues today under the direction of Alisa Peterson.

Back when Dakota City was being developed, an annual membership meeting was held at an area high school. A full meal was served to the large number of people that attended, including members

and volunteers. It seemed as if everyone wanted to be involved with getting Dakota City up and running.

Now we are at the point where we want to keep Dakota City Heritage Village going in the direction that was but a vision of the "early settlers," i.e. developers. I remember the recruiting poster of Uncle Sam during World War II that said, "We need you."

That's where Dakota City Heritage Village is now. "We need you."

Anyone 18 and older can become a voting member for only \$10.00 per year.

Anyone fourteen and older can become a volunteer.

Anyone can become a contributor or donor.

Anyone can share with us new ideas on how Dakota City can be the most important place to see in Dakota County.

Anyone 18 and older can volunteer to become a Board member.

Remember, at Dakota City Heritage Village, "WE NEED YOU."

We invite you to contact any Board Member, call the Dakota City office or visit the village's web site at www.dakotacity.org. We will be more than happy to respond and answer any question you might have.

Written by:

**Leonard Storlie, Treasurer,
Dakota City Heritage Village**

Dakota City holds annual meeting, elects board, officers

Dakota City Heritage Village, Inc., annual meeting was held Nov. 20, 2010, in the Drug Store. Approximately 40 attended. Reports were given regarding 2010 events and programs and a forecast of the coming year was provided.

Elected to the Board of Directors were Jon Boorum, Gary Smith, Pearl Shirley, Mary Hendricks, Don Hayes, Jr., and Greg Kaslow. Continuing as Board members were Jim Hollenbeck, Mike McMenomy, Kathy Neil, Ray Rygula and Lynn Stegmaier.

At the regular Board of Directors meeting the following week, Pearl Shirley was elected president; Mary Hendricks, vice president; Leonard Storlie, treasurer; and Roberta Schafer, secretary. They assumed these offices at the January 2011 meeting.

Did you know?

New brochure ready to hand out

Alisa Peterson, Education Coordinator, has designed a new brochure for Dakota City Heritage Village. The three-fold brochure is printed on both sides with colored photographs of activities and events along with information about the village.

These brochures will be given to school children and others as they visit Dakota City. Also, they were distributed at the Farmington Expo in January, at the Hands-On Twin Cities Volunteer Expo in February and at the Eagan Expo in March.

Spring fieldwork is planned May 7

The Dakota City Machinery Men will be doing their spring field work on Saturday, May 7, weather permitting. The public is invited and no admission will be charged.

Teams of horses will do some plowing. Machinery from approximately the 1940s will be used to plow, till and plant corn and grain.

A special request

Individuals, families, businesses and organizations are invited to participate in the Adopt-A-Building program. For info, call 651-460-8050.

Volunteers promote Dakota City at expos

Volunteers have been busy getting the word out about Dakota City Heritage Village and recruiting volunteers for annual programs and events. They attended a business expo in Farmington, a volunteer expo at the Mall of America and expos in Eagan and New Prague. Office staff handed out flyers and information and gathered information from people interested in volunteering.

Anyone who would like copy of the brochure for their family, friends or co-workers can stop at the office. Call 651-460-80650 to make sure the office is open before visiting.

Helpers needed for school programs

The spring school tours will begin in mid-April and continue until the school year ends. Schools are registering now for these field trips.

Alisa Peterson, Education Coordinator, said there is a great need for costumed guides, demonstrators and school teachers.

Peterson said, "Gather some of your friends and have fun while helping to inform the children about the 1900s way of life."

Orientation, training and costumes will be provided. For information or to volunteer, please call Peterson at 651-460-8050.

State awards grant to the Village

The Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage Grant (a StEPs grant) through the Minnesota Historical Society has been awarded to Dakota City Heritage Village. The grant program is designed for small- and medium-sized history organizations to clearly identify and document organizational strengths and identify areas needing improvement.

Heather Koop, a professional facilitator, is directing workshops planned for four Saturdays through May. Discussion areas will include mission, vision and governance; audience and interpretation; collection stewardship and structure stewardship and management

Carriage Festival set for the Fairgrounds

The MN Whips and Wheels organization will be gathering at the Fairgrounds Saturday, May 7, and Sunday, May 8, for its Prairie Home Carriage Festival. The group will show carriages and sleighs, provide educational displays and demonstrations, and participate in a parade.

The group held its event in Dakota City the past two years but will not do so this spring. Village buildings will not be open.

Those attending should enter at the Fairgrounds gate. For information, call Kathy Johnson, Whips and Wheels spokesperson, at 612-270-4750.

The Village's 'Wish List'

A variety of items are needed for Village projects. Please call the Dakota City office at 651-460-8050 if you can donate any of these items or would like to donate funds toward their purchase. Thank you.

Small straw hats for rag dolls

Very narrow ribbons in variety of colors

Brooches that would enhance 1900s costumes

Metal clothing hangers for Blacksmith Shop projects

Adjustable shelving with brackets

Moveable metal clothing rack with 36- to 40-inch rod, for hanging clothing used for education

Tools for restoration/maintenance, i.e. drill bits, screwdrivers, band saw, old rasp files

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 call back.



Volunteer Mark Digre tinkers with the linotype machine in the Print Shop. Last fall a traveling machinist repaired a broken part and oiled the machine. It still needs a variety of adjustments before it can cast lead slugs for printing.

Harvest Moon Festival draws over 2,100



Volunteer teens help kids try out the apple peeler on the porch of the Harris House.

The Harvest Moon Festival offered last October far exceeded expectations. More than 2,100 paid admissions were recorded for the two-day event offered during the fall school break. Volunteers and guests under age three were admitted free.

The event included a variety of hands-on 1900s-era crafts and games and added several new attractions. Kids were encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and participate in a parade. Hours were extended past dark to accommodate a haunted hayride complete with scary stops and eerie happenings.



The Village Sheriff (Tom Fritz, Sr.) asks a visitor to identify the desperado in the photo.



At left, volunteer Anna Baudinger helps a young girl with candle dipping. At right, visitors concentrate on making Halloween door hangers to take home. At bottom left, they discover that rope-making takes strong muscles. Below right, kids in costume line up for the Halloween parade.



Christmas in the Village has one successful weekend; blizzard cancels second weekend



Above, children are welcomed to the Harris House by volunteer Sue Strese. They admired the holiday tree and sampled Christmas cookies. Below, Marv Gohman and fellow musicians entertain in the Village Church.

The first weekend of Christmas in the Village boasted crisp temperatures and enough snow to show off the Village's lighted buildings. More than 700 paying guests came through the gates Dec. 4 and 5, enjoying a variety of activities and entertainment. The following weekend more than 15 inches of snow fell, cancelling the festivities. A makeup day offered Dec. 18 drew 220 people.



Above, a volunteer helps children with a Christmas craft. At left, Virginia Windschitl wears a warm cap to ward off the chill as she knits in the Millinery Shop.



At right, volunteer Chase Guenther demonstrates the proof press in the Print Shop.



Above, two boys string popcorn for their Christmas tree. At right, visitors of all ages move in close to watch apprentice smithies Sammy Guenther and Billy Peterson volunteering in the Blacksmith Shop.



Summer Day Camp dates set; includes a teen camp

Summer Youth Day Camp will be taking place again. Three weeks of “1900 Apprentice Camp” for youth ages 6 through 12 will be offered Monday through Thursday June 20-23, June 27-30 and July 25-29. New this year is a Teen Volunteer Camp for youth ages 13 and older scheduled for June 13-16.

Campers will experience what life was like for children in 1900 by helping with chores, having a country school day, participating in hands-on activities and making crafts. They will learn about farming and the environment and take a wagon ride to the prairie. Additional activi-

ties are being planned. Each week will be limited to 24 participants.

New this summer will be a Teen Volunteer Camp for 13-year-olds and older youth who would like to volunteer in Dakota City. The camp will focus on training youth to help with the apprentice day camps and staff buildings during the Dakota County Fair, the Harvest Moon Festival and Christmas in the Village. This camp will be limited to 30 participants.

Hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. The cost for each session will be \$125.

For all day camps, families must furnish their own



Youth camp attendees role play on the last day of Youth Camp. These ladies are ready to issue train tickets to travellers at the Depot window.

transportation to and from Dakota City. Each day, youth are expected to bring their own bag lunches and a beverage.

For more information and a registration form, visit the website www.dakotacity.org or call 651-460-8050.

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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