

SHERIDAN MUSEUM OF HISTORY

MAKING HISTORY MATTER



APRIL 2024 ISSUE

Welcome to the newest edition of our newsletter!

What's Happening at the Museum

PAST EVENTS • CURRENT EVENTS

Museum Kitchen: The museum's kitchen area has recently undergone a significant transformation. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of John Hebert and Travis Dow, we now have a modern counter and ample storage space, replacing the outdated stove. This renovation is a testament to the commitment of our volunteers who consistently work to maintain and improve our facilities.

Plaque Replacement Project: We are actively working on a project to replace the missing plaques in our historic buildings. We initiated this community effort in 2015, but unfortunately, we didn't anticipate the loss of plaques due to building sales or business transitions. We are focusing on placing the plaques on the exterior of the buildings whenever possible. We are grateful for the \$1,000 grant from 99 GAL friends of Yamhill County and the \$500 grant from the City of Sheridan, both will help us in this endeavor.

Air Conditioning Upgrade: The heating system will get an air conditioning upgrade. We have been working on getting funds to accomplish this significant project, which will cost \$10,476. We received a \$2,000 grant from First Federal and have raised \$1,500 from community donations. We have also applied for additional grants but are waiting for their outcomes. This critical air conditioning project will comfort our visitors and help protect our artifacts during the hot summer months.

The Museum Gift Shop is getting an overhaul to accommodate new items.

Hometown Days Celebration June 14 and 15: Longtime museum volunteer Donna Hulett has been selected as grand marshal for the Saturday, June 15, Hometown Days Parade. The parade will begin at 5 p.m. Also, as part of the Hometown Days activities, Donna will present a bed turning on Friday, June 14, at 2 p.m. Attendees will learn about the museum's quilt collection, such as how they were made, the patterns used, and how the museum came to possess each quilt. Sheridan City Park will host a children's walking parade on Friday. Duck races and other events are also planned for Friday. The museum will be open on both Friday and Saturday. The museum will host the all-class reunion on Saturday, offering a time to reconnect with old classmates and look through yearbooks and newspapers with articles about classes of days gone by.



Welcome New Volunteers

Liz Hawk-Spencer, a retired school librarian, has agreed to help organize the research area.

Kim Bushbaum, a retired first grade teacher, has agreed to help organize the research area and help with the elementary school visits in the spring.



Welcome New Members

- Eleanor Fuhrer, McMinnville
- Cindy Lee, Anchorage, AK
- Barb Hoskins, Sheridan
- Jan LaRocca, Portland

New Items Gifted to the Museum:

An upholstery repair kit
from Barb Hoskins

Two McCoy vases
belonging to Neva Huntley

Notebook of veterinary articles
from 1940s-1950s from the
Ellery Delashmutt collection

Farming tools from the
Ellery Delashmutt collection

Wooden sign from the
Delashmutt Rodeo Stock
Contractor



History of the Sheridan Fire Department

By Marguerite Alexander

The Sheridan Volunteer Fire Department began in 1893 under then-mayor J.R. Mendenhall. They met their match during the 1913 fire, which destroyed the business district on South Bridge Street. Until 1926, the only equipment the fire department had was two hose carts and a ladder truck, along with 12 volunteers.

Gone are the days when the sound of the siren alerted citizens to an emergency. On-call trained volunteers jumped into their cars and drove to the fire station. These men responded from their homes, work, or farms to man the engines, brush trucks, and water tenders. Other community members grabbed handheld stop signs to direct traffic through the major intersections.

As the demand for service has outpaced the supply of available volunteers - especially during the daytime hours - the Sheridan Fire District, like many other small fire service districts, began hiring paid staff to fill the vacant roles.

In May 2022, voters approved a five-year levy with the understanding that the fire district would increase ambulance coverage. Today, the department has accomplished this goal, and two ambulances are currently staffed 24/7.

In 2023, the Sheridan Fire Department responded to 1,850 calls, representing an annual increase of about 10 percent. There are 12 full-time staff, two administrative staff, and several part-time staff. Where there was once a strong pool of volunteers responding from substations in Ballston, Buell, and Sheridan, there are just 10 volunteers today. It is the district's goal to rebuild this valuable volunteer base.

The fire district is also working with the Sheridan School District to develop a fire service training program through the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Center. This partnership will facilitate technical training for high school students and potentially attract new volunteers.

The Sheridan Fire District takes its responsibility of serving the taxpayers seriously and will continue to do everything possible to improve service and decrease response times.

Thank you, Connie Plowman, For Narrating Our Milestones

Since March of 2022, Connie has engaged museum members near and far through the publication of the museum's quarterly newsletter.

We thank Connie for recognizing our volunteers, tracking museum projects, welcoming new members and volunteers, expressing our thanks for donations, and sharing a little hometown history through feature stories and historic photos - all in a beautiful and organized newsletter of which we can all be proud. Thanks, Connie, for a job very well done.

Consider the Sheridan Museum For Your Next Group Meeting

Several groups host their meetings at the museum, including morning coffee groups, Sheridan Chamber of Commerce, class reunions, City and County subcommittees, and others.

In addition, some groups include a tour of the museum as part of their meeting agenda. Consider bringing your group to the museum. It's free, although donations are welcomed. Contact the museum to discuss your meeting details. Call (503) 843-2417 or (917) 237-8528, or email: sheridanmuseumofhistory@gmail.com.

Sheridan Museum Wins 2024 Chamber Award

The Sheridan Chamber of Commerce held its annual awards gala on April 6 at the West Valley Community Campus in Willamina.

The Sheridan Museum of History received the Presidential Award for endless giving and drive to better the community.

Museum members were very flattered and appreciated the recognition. Alyssa Green, museum secretary, accepted the award.

Sheridan Museum of History
Location: 142 Bridge Street, Sheridan, OR
Mail: P.O. Box 652, Sheridan, OR 97378

Phone: (503) 843-2417 or (917) 237-8528
Email: sheridanmuseumofhistory@gmail.com
EIN# 32-0399394