

BIG ARM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER November, December 2008

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Treasurer's Report: Earle Schafer has stepped down as Treasurer, Lester Johnson will take his place and will serve with Luella Gomke. Earle will still be active in the Association. School fund balance= \$1820 paid: historic photo processing. General fund balance= \$502.00 paid: checks, newsletter, supplies, web page, etc. Received an insurance refund. **Thank you Ethel Diettert for your generous donation.**

Historic School Update An Architect will be visiting the school on December 11th and hopefully he will give us more information on what steps are necessary to preserve this unique building. Lee Engbretson and Dave Waterman have volunteered to head a committee to research a wide variety of sources to help fund this project. If anyone has experience in this area please offer to help Lee & Dave.

Historic Photographs and Stories are still needed for the history wall in the Big Arm School. Please call us with information on how to contact relatives of the early residents of Big Arm. We are very interested in hearing from members of Salish & Kootenai Tribes so we can share your history and stories of this area. Although the school will represent the years of 1915 to 1952 we would also like to have prior years represented and more recent special events depicted.

Recently a Highway 93 and Route 35 truck traffic focus group was held by DOT in Kalispell with members of local trucking companies, residents from Route 35 and Highway 93 attending. They reviewed comments from the general public, watched a power point presentation similar to the one given in the public meetings and then were shown a movie of several trucks driving Route 35 abiding by speed limits. I think most of the attendees were somewhat reassured that a good truck driver could indeed travel that road very safely. There was a discussion of extra signage, more frequent highway patrols, possibility of widening some shoulders and curves, pull out zones, and passing areas. I had to leave before the end of the meeting but I understand there will be another public meeting that DOT will put forward their suggested solutions to the problem.....Alison

Polson Armed Forces Memorial Bridge repairs will start next year. The resurfacing of the bridge will be done in two sections with one lane open at all times except for when equipment is being moved. One half of the project is expected to start in April and if the weather is favorable will be finished by the end of May. The second side will start in September. This construction will cause many delays and of the most concern is the

response time for the emergency vehicles from Polson to this area. There will be extra signage, reduced speed zones, bridge traffic lights and flaggers to ease congestion. No left turn signs will be used on side streets. For more information call Duane Keilly MDOT 406-523-5802.

Donations of Aluminum cans are still being accepted at the back entrance of the fire hall. Please do not include aluminum foil or baking trays as these have been attracting wild animals and dogs. We really appreciate these cans and hope we will soon have enough credit to buy a few more chairs or a new table. A very special thank you to Ron and Marilyn Roberts for organizing this recycling.

Special get well greetings to Arlene Tompkins who hopefully will be dancing again soon with her new bionic knee. Continued best wishes go to Carol Grende as she battles Leukemia.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the Sisler family for their recent loss. May you find comfort in the many memories you'll carry in your heart forever.

Still time to order Big Arm T-shirts, Sweatshirts and Baseball Caps before Christmas: Please place your order by the December 12th, thanks. We could use some new designs and ideas so we can have a new look for our shirts next year. Please forward your artistic creations!

Christmas Wreaths are being created by Amy Edwards with 20% of the proceeds going into the Historic School Fund. Please call her at 849-5209 for more information.

Exercise Class is still being held Every Wednesday at 9:30am for one hour and is held at the fire hall. This class is a wonderful way to keep fit as Amy puts us through warm up stretches, low impact aerobics followed by cool down exercises and stretches.

Line Dancing class is held Every Monday at 6:30pm at the fire hall. A fun way to exercise your body and mind. Beginners are very welcome as Amy teaching new dances. Every week.

The Next Community Coffee Morning is December 11th at 10:30am at the fire hall. This is a wonderful informal way to meet new neighbors and to catch up with old friends.

Does anyone have an old riddle book? We were including a riddle for the kids in our newsletters but we are unable to find a good book so we can continue. Please help us locate more riddles, thanks.

WISHING YOU ALL THE
JOYS OF CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPINESS THROUGHOUT
THE NEW YEAR