

BIG ARM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCT 2009 www.BigArmAssociation.org

PO Box 11, Big Arm, MT 59910. 849-6628 Alison, Deb 5391, Amy 5209.

COFFEE HOUR
SECOND THURSDAY 10:30am

At the Fire Hall, Join Us!
Informal and Fun



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE
AND SAFE TRAVELS**



POTLUCK
FRIDAY NOV 20, 6PM
**WE WILL PROVIDE THE PULLED
PORK PLEASE BRING DISHES TO
COMPLIMENT OR A DESSERT**
**We will have a delightful group of
Barber Shop Musicians**

Group is called Flathead Valleyaires of Columbia Falls, Leader is Richard Lienesch. Anyone interested in Barbershopping welcome anytime--even Friday night. Thanks go to Trish Freiz for organizing the music and thanks to Lee & Sonya for organizing the pulled pork.

At our October Potluck Gil Mangels the Founder of the Miracle of America Museum presented the movie "Smoke on the Waters" a fascinating glimpse into the history of Flathead Lake steamboats. Thank you Gil for a delightful introduction and for bringing many antique nautical props to help tell the story. We have had many requests for a second viewing and have arranged with Gil to come back next summer.

Please Help this Newsletter by forwarding local news, historic stories, favorite recipes, interesting places, helpful tips, safety issues, achievements, or anything else that might interest your neighbors. We need your input to make this a "real" community newsletter

Historic School: We have been busy! The storage shed (designed to compliment the school) is mostly finished. The tents, extra tables, signs etc. have been moved from the fire hall storage room to the shed. The storage room has been converted into an office for the Big Arm Fire Company. We thank Western Building Supply for selling the Shingles needed to finish the gable ends at half price and to Ron Roberts for contributing to the cost.

The fund raising committee wrote an application for a CTEP grant and will be presenting the application on December 2nd. This grant, if successful, will build an addition for bathrooms, kitchen etc.

George Bailey and Alison Meslin along with help from Lee, Dave, Paul, Ross, Doug just finished writing a very lengthy MT Department of Commerce grant for historical preservation funds. If successful the grant will pay for weatherizing and stabilizing the outside of the historic building. A very special thanks to Jim McDonald, Ann Hogan and crew of A & E Architects who wrote the analysis and costs of the preservation work and helped pull together all of the information in a very professional book format and provided a digital copy. We should hear if we are successful within the next few weeks so please keep your fingers crossed for us!

Included in the application were many letters of support and we thank everyone for their kind words. Jenny Buddenborg of the National Trust for Historic Preservation wrote "The Association is comprised of a dedicated and productive group of volunteers with a proven track record of project success" and Chere Juisto of the Montana Preservation Alliance wrote "We have found that (Big Arm) community involvement is outstanding." Thank you to the Lake County Commissioners for their continued support and to Allen Sloan of the Salish & Kootenai Housing Authority for his commendation for our service and dedication to the community of Big Arm. Thanks to Polson Flathead and the Miracle of America Mu-

seum for their support and help with historic artifacts. Thanks to Gale Decker the County Superintendent of Schools, and to Joyce Decker Wegner President of the Flathead Reservation Area Historical Society for their continued belief in our cause. A very special thanks for the support of the Big Arm School students Dorla-Jean (Huntley) Scott, Ross Hoyt, George Vinson, Hazel (Montgomery) Lenoir and a "dear editor" letter from Grace (Larson) Forsyth. These students memories breathe life into the old school's walls.

RAFFLE: A Wonderful Gift Basket of Gourmet Treats was donated by Jerry & Lynda Zero (value approx \$100). This will be raffled off on Nov 20th, our next potluck, to raise money for the Association. The tickets are \$1 each and if you can't attend the potluck call Alison at 849-6628 as you don't have to be present to win.

READ! As progress on the Schoolhouse marches on, let us not forget the **Book Club Idea!** Meanwhile, feast your need to read on Bob Brown's books. I read Nathan's Valley and give it a "Both Thumbs Up." His book of short stories, Bittersweet Revenge, made this English teacher's heart sing. As one reviewer noted, Bob's style is a cross between Louis L'Amour and Will Rogers. Read and be enchanted. You can get more info by contacting River City Books: www.inventwrite.com/novel/htm. You can also contact Bob by e-mail : buffalobob@centurytel.net. Trish Friez

Yard Sale: Please save all of your unwanted treasures for next spring's community yard sale. Thank you to Tim and Joyce Bruner for storing the donated items.

BIG ARM FIRE COMPANY desperately needs more volunteers. There are many jobs to be done, not everyone has to be on the front line fighting the fire. There is equipment to be manned, trucks to be driven, traffic to control and numerous other jobs we need help with. The Company needs at least 12 personnel to adequately man the equipment, safely fight fires, protect our homes and families at all times and keep our fire insurance low. With enough people at the fire within the first fifteen minutes, there is more chance your home can be saved from major damage. We are very fortunate to have the Polson Fire Company responding to all of our calls but Polson is over 12 miles away from most of us. Volunteers can be male or female or any age over 18. Responsibilities will depend on your abilities, just be willing to help your neighbors. Please call Ron Friez at 849-5323.

Treasurer's Report: The School fund balance is \$4,500 which is set aside for the inside restoration work. The operational fund balance is \$194 after paying recent bills. Please consider helping to support either the school restoration or the Association by sending a donation or putting a few dollars in the donation box when you visit the fire hall for our next potluck. Thank you Barbara May for your generous donation.

The Snow Birds have either left or are about to leave, we wish all of you safe travels . We shall miss you so hurry back! As many of the Association's Leaders/Directors have also flown from the Association's nest to travel to warmer regions, we would like to encourage those who are left to brave the Montana winter to help the Association by coming to the monthly organizational meetings and sharing ideas. Please call Alison 849-6628.

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