

HILLTOP GAZETTE



A Different Kind of Barn Raising

New Exhibit Tells the Story of 19th Century Farming in Northeast Wisconsin



Historic interpreter Deb is a regular fixture at the Belgian Farmhouse

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HERITAGE·HILL
STATE HISTORICAL PARK

The mission of Heritage Hill State Historical Park is to enrich the lives of others by sharing Northeast Wisconsin's diverse cultural and historic ties that bind our communities together.

WWW.HERITAGEHILLGB.ORG



FROM THE DIRECTOR

As winter draws to a close, we look with great anticipation at a new interpretive season at Heritage Hill. For the last five months teams have worked tirelessly on a number of projects that promise to make 2023 a remarkable year. Claire and David are finishing the final touches to an extensive exhibit addition at the Belgian farm. I will not spoil the surprise in total, but I will say that it includes the addition of a Walloon language audio component. Our friends at the Belgian Heritage Center have long been engaged in cataloging and preserving the language of their ancestors. Adding the language component to the farm interpretive plan ensures that our visitors understand the link between language and culture.

The Fort Howard Guard Fife & Drum Corps continues to hone their collective skills in hopes of providing a critical addition to our interpretation of military life at Fort Howard. These young musicians ranging in age from 10 to 21 years of age are not only learning the skills that will make them better musicians, but also the history of military field music in America. Under that capable instruction of Steve Seitz, Bruce Beuttel (drums) and Rose Van Himbergen (fifes), our fifers and drummers will ultimately provide daily duties in the fort, as well as public performances outside of Heritage Hill. They have already been invited to play in Milwaukee this October!

Preparation for the installation of the agricultural migrant cabin continues despite engineering approval delays at the state level.

We are hoping to have the engineering component signed off within the next eight weeks. Meanwhile, a team of interns from UWGB continue their work on developing an interpretive plan for the addition. The fully-funded project is tentatively slated for completion in late summer – perhaps sooner should the department of administration move with speed on the approval.

Finally, I want to briefly reflect upon why we do what we do. It's very simple but not often articulated in today's age. We do what we do because remembering those that built the civic health of this nation and our community is critical. Without a clear recognition of the past and the people who made things happen, we are in danger of losing the habits of good citizenry and the institution of republican self-government. I'll write more about the importance of preserving our history in a future issue, but for now remember that what we do is every bit as important as any other not-for-profit organization with a mission to improve the lives of others.

As always, thank you for your continued support, and remember to renew your memberships this spring! Your support makes us stronger.

Michael E. Telzrow
Executive Director



The Fort Howard Guard Fife & Drum Corps practicing for the season.



MEMBER EXCLUSIVE: NOW ANNOUNCING, THE HERITAGE GALA!



Madeleine Buccholz-Kneeland

*Director of
Development*

You members are hearing it here first! We're thrilled to announce that for the first time ever, Heritage Hill State Historical Park will be hosting a new, cornerstone fundraiser: The Heritage Gala! This truly mission-oriented event will be hosted on the top of the hill, under a sparkling tent, to bring people into the Park and engage the mission in a new, and important way.

The cocktail hour for the event will feature a round-robin at some of our park buildings, to immerse yourself in the surroundings and learn about their importance, before sitting down for a custom, historic dinner by Heirloom Kitchen Company. They've curated a menu that features native and local flavors including blackberries, sturgeon, and squash. Nature's Best Floral will be helping us immerse ourselves further with floral designs that incorporate native flora, such as aster, goldenrod, and Black-Eyed Susan.

Headlining the event will be a keynote speech from former Wisconsin Governor and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson. As Governor during the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial, and recently the University of Wisconsin System's President, Mr. Thompson is uniquely positioned to speak to the value of history and education, as it relates to our civic engagement, and how we engage within our communities!



HERITAGE HILL
STATE HISTORICAL PARK

FIRST ANNUAL

Heritage Gala



Featuring speaker
Tommy Thompson,
former
Governor of
Wisconsin

\$100 / MEMBER
\$125 / NON-MEMBER

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 14 | 5:30 - 8 PM

Join Heritage Hill for a locally curated dinner by **Heirloom Kitchen**, demonstrations by historic interpreters, and more! All proceeds support Heritage Hill's mission and educational programming.

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE, TICKETS ON SALE MAY 2!

WWW.HERITAGEHILLGB.ORG



Bringing all of these historic elements together is an incredibly exciting way to showcase the Park, our accomplishments over the last year, and the exciting ways we're continuing to innovate here at Heritage Hill- where History Moves Us!

More information on the Heritage Gala can be found on our website by scanning this QR code.

OPENING WEEKEND!

OPENING DAY!

Celebrating 150 years of Allouez!

**Tuesday, May 2
9 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

The season is here! In addition to being open with historic interpreters in select buildings from 9 am – 4 pm. In the evening, we will host folk duo Frogwater in the Moravian Church with a food truck and the Heritage Hill bar open to celebrate our first day back and the 150th birthday of the Village of Allouez.

General Admission until 4 p.m.

After 4 p.m., FREE thanks to the Village of Allouez!

May 6 | 9 am - 4 pm



May 7 | Noon - 4 pm

Reintroduce yourself to Heritage Hill for our season opening weekend!

Historic interpreters will be in select buildings. Activity will be centered in the Fort area with performances from our Fort Howard Guard Fife & Drum Corps, and the Fur Trade area with an encampment by the Redcoats in Green Bay and the Yankee Peas Mess! Lunch will be available for purchase or bring a picnic! Visit with soldiers while they practice military drills, parapet firing, street firing, and marksmanship. See foods cooked over the fire and bread baked in a clay oven. And look for the garrison tailor who might be seen finishing alterations on some of the men's new coats. Local Author Amanda Lauer will be in the education center signing books from her *Heaven Intended* book series. Last but not least, Silvergraphic Co. will be on site doing historic WET PLATE COLLODION TINTYPES - purchase a everlasting heirloom of your family!

Free for Members! General admission applies

To purchase tickets or learn more about any of our events,
please visit www.heritagehillgb.org



SEASONAL HOURS

MAY 2 - OCT 31

Tuesday - Saturday

9 am - 4 pm

Sunday

Noon - 4 pm

*All buildings open,
historic interpreters in select buildings.*

FREE for Members

General admission applies



HOW your is story MADE



MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Monday, May 29 | 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

A ceremony of remembrance honoring those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. There will be a short address on the garden patio with a performance by Heritage Hill's own Fort Howard Guard Fife & Drum Corps, followed by a musket volley and a ceremonial wreath laying at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

FREE to the public

MUSIC ON THE GREEN: SUMMER SOLSTICE

Wednesday, June 21 | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Back for one night only! Join The Dirty Martinis and Brass Differential for a rousing summer concert on our green space in the Growing Community area. A food truck will be on site and the Heritage Hill bar will be open.

\$7 for members | \$10 for non-members



FOURTH OF JULY

Tuesday, July 4 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Celebrate America's Independence Day by learning about America's past! Enjoy stepping back in time in Heritage Hill's four historic areas. Costumed historic interpreters will be available to help share stories of the past and help you get your hands on history with a variety of family-friendly activities, food and music.

FREE for Members | General admission applies

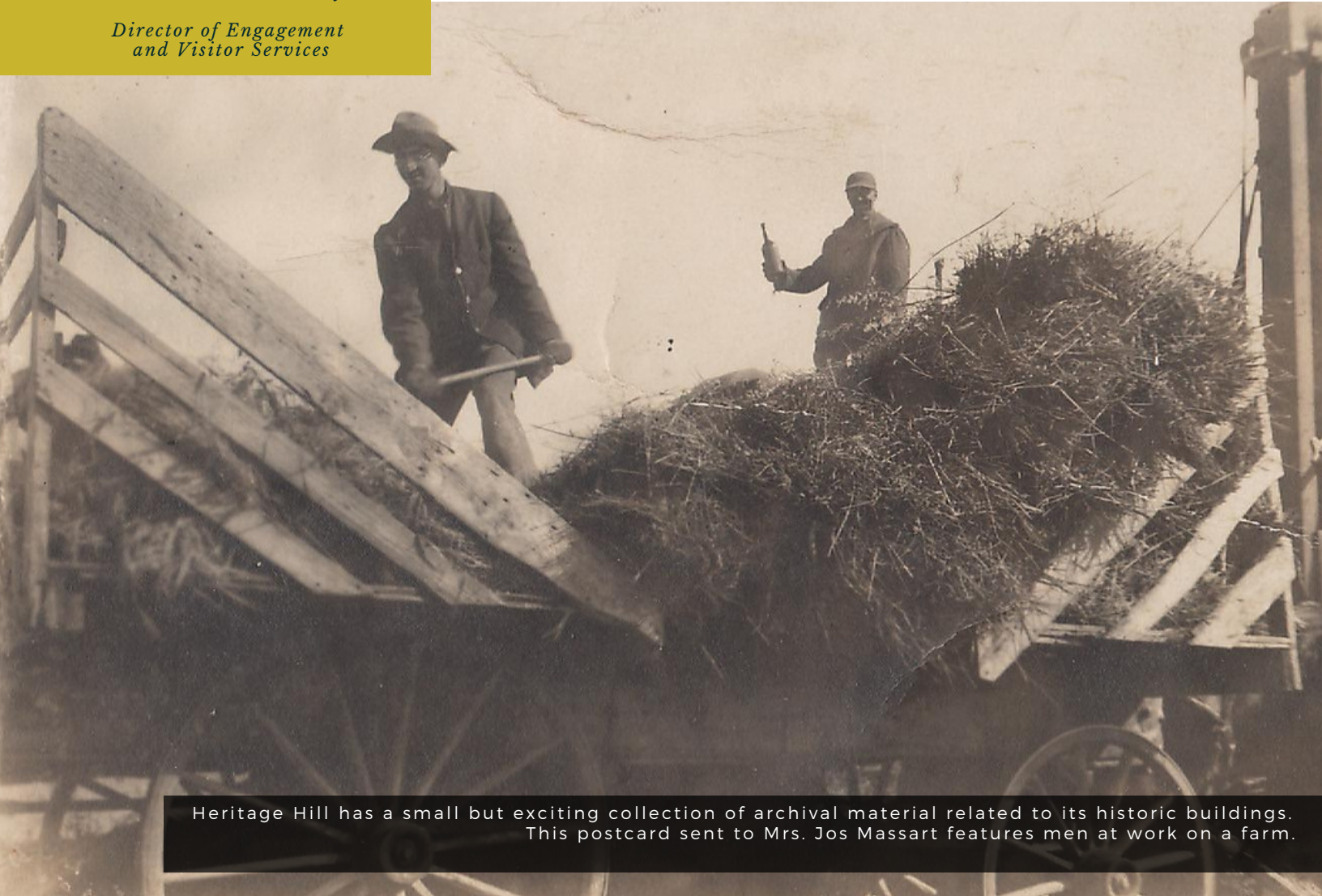


Claire E. Gwaltney

*Director of Engagement
and Visitor Services*

A DIFFERENT KIND OF BARN RAISING

New Exhibit Tells the Story of 19th Century Farming in Northeast Wisconsin



Heritage Hill has a small but exciting collection of archival material related to its historic buildings. This postcard sent to Mrs. Jos Massart features men at work on a farm.

Visiting the agricultural area of Heritage Hill State Historical Park has always been a favorite of guests. A variety of interactive activities that vary from baking to shelling corn to playing historic games provide hands-on learning for younger visitors while many older visitors find connections to their own childhood or the homes of their grandparents.

Our historic interpreters often focus on the compelling human story of the Massarts, the family who built the farmhouse, and that of their fellow Belgians who immigrated to Northeast Wisconsin in the 1800s.

In recent years a lesser focus has been on the outbuildings and the agricultural history of farming in Wisconsin in the 1800s.

A new permanent exhibit housed in the barn will change this and help round out the story of 19th century rural life.

Read on for a sneak peek at what you'll find coming soon to Heritage Hill!



FARMING IN WISCONSIN

In the mid-1800s, about 20 percent of Wisconsin land was used for farming. Wheat was the primary crop and 1860 was a banner year for wheat production when 29 million bushels were raised, approximately 1/6 of the U.S. total. This placed Wisconsin second only to Illinois in wheat production and export. However, the crop continued to worsen each year due to depleted soil quality, pests, and the harsh Wisconsin climate. The expansion of the railroad, while convenient for exporting the wheat crop to far-flung markets, continued to increase their shipping costs, and while wheat milling was a leading industry in Wisconsin, it couldn't match the investment in milling machinery that western states were making to match their expanding wheat growth. It is estimated that around 100,000 Wisconsin farmers left the state by the end of the 19th century for better wheat farming opportunities in the west. The ones who remained were forced to seek out other agricultural opportunities.

BECOMING THE NATION'S DAIRYLAND

Dairy farming, specifically cheese production, presented an alternative. But farmers initially balked at the financial outlay to get into the dairy business and struggled to adapt to the regimented seven-day-a-week, year-round schedule of cows and cheesemakers.

An important supporter of dairy farming was the University of Wisconsin who became a leader in dairy science beginning in the 1870s. Their innovations in methodology and machinery convinced Wisconsin farmers to give dairy farming a try. By 1880, Wisconsin was fourth in the nation in cheese production. By the end of the century, the state was annually producing 60 million pounds of cheese valued at \$6 million and 80 million pounds of butter valued at \$13 million. Wisconsin had become the nation's Dairyland.



Preservation carpenter and maintenance tech. David Haack, assisted by Nick Fernandez, installing signage and the restored farm equipment.



Nick Fernandez and director of operations Nick Backhaus removing historic farm equipment from the barn. Some was placed in storage for safekeeping while others, such as the seeder at right, were restored for the new exhibit.

THE ECONOMICS OF FARMING IN 1900

By the turn of the century, over 33,000 farms in Wisconsin focused on growing hay and grains. Oats were the most significant crop, with over 2.25 million acres harvested and over 70 million bushels produced.

Grain corn, used primarily to feed livestock, was the next largest cash crop, taking up over 1.5 million acres and producing over 60 million bushels. By this time, over 25,000 Wisconsin farms identified themselves as primarily dairy farms, although it was common for most family farms to keep dairy cattle that would produce milk for both home use and local sale. According to the 1900 agricultural census, cattle were valued at \$30.60 a head. With over 1.8 million in Wisconsin, the total value of cattle statewide was \$56,584,000, making cattle the third largest agricultural producer for farmers at the start of the new century.

THE TASKS AND TEAM BEHIND THE NEW EXHIBIT

As you can imagine, more goes into creating a museum exhibit than simply researching facts and figures. One of the first tasks of the Heritage Hill team was to clean the barn. Years worth of accumulated hay was removed from the lofts and the entire lower level was vacuumed to remove as much dust and debris as possible. Historic farming equipment was sorted, some going to our restoration team for repair and the rest to the basement storage area under the farmhouse.

Repairs were also done to the barn, mainly to the floor to ensure its stability and improve access for guests that complies with ADA regulations. New signage was researched, written, designed, printed, and installed alongside interactive flip panels and machinery and over 25 beautifully restored pieces of farm equipment. The entire process took about 6 months over the winter of 2022-2023 and was done entirely in-house by our staff and dedicated volunteers.

On behalf of the team here at Heritage Hill, we invite you to visit us this season to learn about 19th century farming in Northeast Wisconsin and enjoy this most recent addition to the park!



New signage for the exhibit was designed by David Haack. Here he prepares the signage with the help of senior marketing specialist Liz Jolly.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteer Anne Kamps (above) and the rest of the sewing circle have been hard at work. Above Anne displays a set of stays, a type of 1830s corset. This prototype will inform how additional sets of stays are constructed for our female historic interpreters working in Fort Howard.

Our opening day of May 2 is right around the corner! You can help Heritage Hill get ready for visitors by volunteering some of your time to help clean the buildings (dust and vacuum) prior to opening. Email claire@heritagehillgb.org to schedule a time to come and give a shine to our most precious museum artifacts – our historic buildings!

WE'RE GOING DIGITAL!

Here at Heritage Hill, we're excited to announce that in 2023, we will be launching a new feature for members- digital Heritage Hill member cards! These cards will show your name, membership level and member ID, as well as your expiration date. You'll also receive a notification when it's time to renew your membership!

This exciting new feature will be brought to you in partnership with Cuseum, a top-tier museum technology partner. Cuseum's digital membership program will help streamline our membership program internally, reduce our carbon footprint, and bring Heritage Hill right to your phone! No more losing your membership cards.

Cuseum's digital membership cards are compatible with both iOS and Android phones. Once the product is launched, you will receive an email from Cuseum with detailed instructions on how to save your new membership card to your Apple Wallet or Google Pay.

For those without access to email or without a smartphone, we will still be distributing physical membership cards by request at the park's front desk.

For any questions, please give us a call at 920-448-5150.

MEMBER REMINDER



For those that became members last spring during the membership drive, don't forget to renew!



Diana Fligelman

Director of Sales & Private Events

SPRING (AND LOVE) IS IN THE AIR!



There are countless memories that remain on the grounds and in many buildings of Heritage Hill. These continue to live on in our educational programming and interpretation offered throughout the park. With all that history, we continue to make history as well! Heritage Hill State Historical Park loves weddings! We offer both indoor and outdoor venue locations for ceremonies and receptions and there is a little something for everyone.

Heritage Hill offers four different ceremony locations: the Cotton House Grounds, Garden Patio, Moravian Church, and Victorian Gazebo, and two reception areas: the Education Center, Garden Patio. Ceremonies are reserved for three-hour rentals, and receptions for five-hour time frame. Indoor booking include tables and chairs.

All reservations include access to park grounds for photos, and free admission for guests.

MORAVIAN CHURCH CEREMONIES

The Moravian Church is one of the park's most popular ceremony locations. A three-minute walk from the Education Center, this historic building has witnessed countless couple's weddings since 1852. In the warmer months, couples often choose to open the beautiful 14-foot cathedral windows to let in a fresh breeze. The space also has heat to permit for events in the colder months and to ensure visitors enjoy the historic building year-round. The Church can hold up to 150 guests and has a simple but beautiful interior that allows the soon to be newlyweds the room to be creative and truly make the space their own without spending an excess sum on decorations.



Left A Couple takes a spring stroll by the Moravian Church
Below: The Moravian Church is beautiful in all seasons!

Left: Details of the head table for the Buchholz-Kneeland Reception in July 2022.
Right: A tent makes a completely customizable backdrop for your big day.



GARDEN PATIO RECEPTIONS

Located directly outside of the Education Center is the Garden Patio venue. With its incredible view and breathtaking sunsets, it is popular for both outdoor ceremonies and receptions. During receptions, a large tent is placed that provides cover for up to 250 guests.

Last year, our very own Director of Development, Madeline Buchholtz-Kneeland held her wedding reception with us. Guests arrived at the park for cocktail hour in the lower level of our Education Center while the newlyweds traveled around our beautiful grounds to capture photos of their special day. Madeline reserved both the Garden Patio and the Lower Level of the Education Center. Dinner, toasts, and first dances were held inside the tent on the Patio. After, the celebration moved into the lower level where the DJ helped the couple and all their friends and family dance the night away. Another loving memory was made at Heritage Hill. We hope you'll choose to start your love story with us!



Above: A bouquet toss for the ages in the lower level of the Education Center

To learn more about weddings, additional accommodation or general private events inquiries at Heritage Hill, please contact the Director of Sales & Private Events at diana@heritagehillgb.org or (920) 448-5150 ext. 105

FLUSH WITH HISTORY

The Restoration of the 1870's Massart Outhouse



Wood from the disassembled outhouse ready to be restored.

Whether called a privy, latrine, john, necessary, loo, or just an outhouse, facilities for relieving oneself have been around since the dawn of civilization. Nomadic groups had no such need for separate facilities but did often designate a specific area for relief. In 4500 B.C., the Romans constructed an intricate sub-street “sewer” system mainly used to get rid of standing water, a huge fear of the Romans. These sewers also filtered out, to a small degree, the excrement thrown into the streets. In Medieval times, castle walls often contained “garderobes” which displaced human waste directly into the moat below. When using these toilets, one would shout “gardez l’eau” meaning “watch out for the water!” “L’eau” therefore is thought to be the origin of the term “loo.”

In the space abundant New World, we start to see outhouses as we think of them today: a small separate structure away from the main home, usually with a pit style toilet.

The Massart outhouse came to Heritage Hill in 1983 with several other accessory buildings and is original to the 1870's farm. While the brick farmhouse and the stone summer kitchen were disassembled and reassembled on park grounds, the outhouse was brought in one piece to the park. Outhouses, including the Massart outhouse, were often constructed of lightweight wood, so it could be relocated when necessary. Showing long-term natural wear, loose siding affected the outhouse's structural integrity, specifically wood deterioration around the nail holes.



Nick Backhaus

*Director of Operations
and Restoration Manager*

The construction of the outhouse consists of the siding fastened directly to the interior wood stud framing. In the 1870's this was enough to hold the structure together solidly, however, the nail hole deterioration changed the rigidity and the structure became wobbly and wracked. Over the winter, volunteers carefully disassembled the outhouse, labeling each piece, transported the pieces to the Restoration Center, and begin repairs to the wall studs and bottom timber sill plates. The goal of any restoration project at Heritage Hill is to save as much of the original material as possible and replace any irreparable damage with similar historically appropriate material. With the work of the park's diligent volunteers, this project is on track to be completed in mid-summer 2023.

GENDERED BATHROOMS?

Instead of the male and female symbols, outhouse doors were usually marked with a crescent moon or a star. The crescent moon, symbol for the Roman moon goddess Luna, indicated a women's outhouse. The star, or occasionally a circle, was symbolic of the Greeks' male sun god, Apollo. For some reason, more female outhouses survived to present day.

BIRTHDAYS AT HERITAGE HILL

2023-2024 Birthday Party Packages



BASIC PACKAGE - \$99

- **4 Hour Reservation** - includes your setup/decorating and cleanup time.
- **Up to 20 Children** (Ages 2-17yrs)
 - Additional Children: \$5/child
- **Up to 4 Adults** (Ages 18+)
 - Additional Adults: \$5/adult
- **Your Choice of Venue Setting**
 - Indoor: Education Center Lower Level, Historic Allouez Town Hall, or Tank Barn
 - Outdoor: Fort Dahlin Interactive Learning Center (The Playground)
- **Tables, chairs, and table coverings**

HOST WITH THE MOST PACKAGE - \$189

- **All the Basic Package options**
- **Personalized 1/2 Sheet cake from Uncle Mike's Bakery**- including cutting and serving
- **Two (2) 12-packs of soda of your choice**
- **Historic Interpreter Experience** - visit with a historic interpreter in one of our 26 historic buildings and do a hands-on-history take home craft. (Experience lasts approximately 20 minutes)

At this time, Heritage Hill does NOT offer food packages. Parties may bring in their own items from any licensed restaurant or catering service.

A LA CART ADD-ONS

Lawn Games - \$40

Cornhole, Connect 4, Giant Jenga, or Various Historical Games

Sound System - \$50

Connects to your phone, tablet, or laptop

20 Minute Interpreter Experience - \$40

With Take Home Craft

Additional 12 Pack of Soda - \$12/Pack

Your Choice of Soda

Outdoor Tent

10 x 10 - \$50

20 x 30 - \$100

To book a birthday party:
email events@heritagehillgb.org
or call (920) 448-5150



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HERITAGE HILL

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platforms below.

Sign up for our e-blasts by visiting
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COMMENTS & SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your comments and
editorial submissions concerning *The
Hilltop Gazette*. Please send any to
Elizabeth Jolly, Senior Marketing
Specialist at liz@heritagehillgb.org



Heritage Hill State Historical Park
 2640 S Webster Ave
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Thank you to our new Members!

New members as of 1-1-2023

EXPLORER

Bill & Barb Wangerin

FAMILY

Denise Adamski
 Bruce Beuttel
 Barbra DeBroux
 Julie Downing
 Trisha Follen
 Corina Gerczak
 Tracy Grasee
 Kari Hagenow
 Alyssa Haynes
 Shayna Horacek
 Haesooklauquet
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 Matthew Brunner
 Debra Krsnich
 Kathryn Lindberg
 Sarah Nelson
 Jim O'Rourke
 Peter Tanz
 Cheryl Wilson



*Amanda Cobb & Dorothy Straubel-Wittig
 planting the first seeds of Heritage Hill*

