
BV HERITAGE HERALD

April 2010

St. Elmo Town Hall and Jail completed

Maybe you can't go home again. Back in 2002, when a fire destroyed the St. Elmo Town Hall and Jail and five other historic buildings on the mining town's main street, it certainly seemed that the town would never be the same again. But thanks to the donations and dreams of many, the talents of a special contractor, and designs that had been drawn prior to the fire, the beloved town hall and jail have risen from the ashes.

Reconstruction of the building began in summer of 2006, by Mike Perschbacher of Older Than Dirt Construction. We received a \$10,000 grant from the El Pomar Foundation and then a \$20,000 grant from the Boettcher Foundation for this project and the depot.

Thanks to a donation from the St. Elmo Property Owners' Association, interpretive signage was installed in 2009. The building is now open to visitors in the summer, just as the St. Elmo Schoolhouse is.



President's Message

We know where we want to be and what we want to do. Over the last three years, our board has engaged in two strategic planning sessions, as well as a valuable yearlong self-study as part of the Museum Assessment Program.

So when the BV Heritage board met at its biennial strategic planning session on February 20, the focus was not on what but on how.

The board recognizes that the chief obstacles to reaching our organizational goals are a lack of consistent funding and a lack of staff. We came up with some clever fundraising ideas that we think you'll enjoy, and we'll tell you all about those as soon as they're ready to be unveiled.

But what I want to focus on in this column is how much WE NEED YOU. Our staff can't do it all, even with the many hours of board support they receive. Once summer starts rolling along, we simply need more bodies to take on some key tasks.

Our volunteers are even more critical this year, as we bid goodbye to Executive Director Cara Russell, who has been with our organization for six years. Cara has taken a position with another local nonprofit, and we wish her well.

At this time, the board is not planning to fill that position with another year-round staff person. We hope that YOU, our friends, donors and volunteers, will rededicate yourselves to BV Heritage by filling the volunteer positions listed to the right.

Please call, write or email today and let us know which of these positions interest you. ❖MMR

- Volunteer Coordinator:** Recruit Volunteers, coordinate Schedules, provide orientation and training to volunteers, track volunteer time – at Museum, personal office or home
- Membership Coordinator:** Member recruitment, board member recruitment, tracking recognition, manage member benefits – at Museum, personal office or home
- Facility Maintenance Coordinator:** General knowledge of plumbing, electrical and landscaping – at all of our properties
- Custodian:** General cleaning of floors, windows, bathrooms and grounds -- at Museum, Depot, Turner Farm
- Facility Rental Coordinator:** Work with Museum Director to coordinate the rental of facilities. Cleaning, set-up, and fees – at Museum and Turner Farm
- Gift Shop Coordinator:** Work with Museum Manager to purchase inventory and take the gift shop to events
- Model RR Docent:** Operate model RR, provide interpretive talks, security – at Museum
- Model RR Maintenance:** Maintain Model RR
- Docent:** Greet visitors, Provide history, security – at Museum, Turner Farm, St. Elmo, Depot
- Graphic Design Specialist:** Design flyers, advertising, and public service announcements, -- at Museum, Personal Office or Home
- Web Manager:** Work with Executive Director to update website with postings and links -- at Museum, Personal Office or Home
- Special Event Coordinators:** Overall coordination of special events, recruitment of additional volunteers for those events

Farmers Market showcases Turner Farm

Okay, so it didn't really take genius to see that people expect to find vegetables at a farm. Even so, we were thrilled that our maiden efforts at a Farmers Market in 2009 at Turner Farm was a huge success, and we look forward to partnering with the Central Colorado Foodshed Alliance again in 2010.

Increased foot traffic did cause some stress to the front lawn of the property, and the BV Heritage board is taking steps to better protect it this summer.

We are actively seeking more vendors for this year, so if you are interested, please contact us at 719-395-8458. Slots are available for anywhere from just one Sunday to the full summer.

Join us Sundays late June through late September from 8:00 to noon at Turner Farm for the Buena Vista Farmers Market. Turner Farm is located at 829 West Main Street.

Between Fences

So what do you say when the Smithsonian Institution offers an exhibit? Why, yes, of course!

Thanks to the sponsorship of Colorado Humanities, in summer 2011 the Buena Vista Heritage Museum will be the final stop on the Museum on Main Street tour of *Between Fences*.

The exhibit encourages visitors to examine the significance of fences as a crucial aspect of their personal and national heritage. Fences, like barns and other structures, are tools that embody a culture and its values. By understanding both historic and contemporary fences, our visitors will gain a better understanding of themselves as Americans.

We're proud to be able to share this exhibit with our members and visitors. For more information, see www.museumonmainstreet.org.

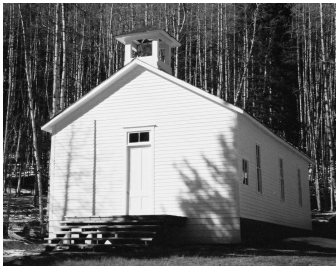
Project Updates

Denver, Leadville and Gunnison Depot



We were awarded a \$108,828 grant from the State Historical Fund for restoration of the interior of the depot. Work on that phase will began last year and is expected to be completed by fall. Mike Perschbacher will give a slideshow presentation on the restoration of this wonderful building at our membership banquet on April 24. See the full story on page 4.

St. Elmo Schoolhouse



No news is good news, where this building is concerned. There have been no maintenance issues or vandalism on the building since its restoration was completed. The schoolhouse is open five days a week in the summer season.

Courthouse Museum



An historic structure assessment is planned for this building, then we will apply for SHF grant funds for restoration. The roof will likely need replacing by 2013, and the widows walk around the cupola needs reinforcing. In addition, the fascia near the roof line shows the effects of continued bird inhabitation.

St. Elmo Town Hall / Jail

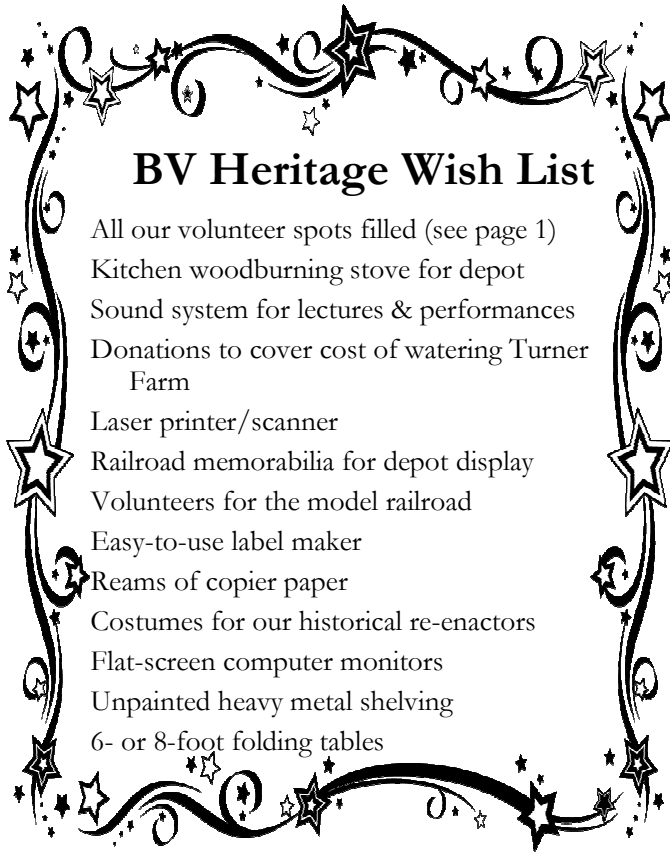
The construction of this building is finished. However, fundraising continues for furnishings and displays.

Turner Farm

Early last summer, the trim on the farmhouse and mother-in-law cabin was repainted where needed. The original chicken coop was restored in 2008, and we even had some chickens in it for Apple Fest in September!

The remainder of the SHF grant-funded final phase of restoration involves the hanging of replication wallpaper in the farmhouse. Our wallpaper supplier has been working for a year now to recreate the original wallpaper, and we are eager to see their work.

Look for hands-on workshops and demonstrations at the farm in 2010. Topics include high-altitude gardening, composting, canning, pickling and needle arts.



BV Heritage Wish List

- All our volunteer spots filled (see page 1)
- Kitchen woodburning stove for depot
- Sound system for lectures & performances
- Donations to cover cost of watering Turner Farm
- Laser printer/scanner
- Railroad memorabilia for depot display
- Volunteers for the model railroad
- Easy-to-use label maker
- Reams of copier paper
- Costumes for our historical re-enactors
- Flat-screen computer monitors
- Unpainted heavy metal shelving
- 6- or 8-foot folding tables

Buena Vista Heritage financial review

Our board has made a commitment to financial stability and transparency. Last March, we underwent a financial review by Taylor Roth and Company, which specializes in nonprofits. The auditor was pleased with our financial stability, as well as the board's dedication to efficiency in all aspects of the organization.

Make your next event special

If you're planning a wedding, reception, meeting, picnic or reunion, consider using our facilities! Both the courtroom gallery and Turner Farm are available -- and they'll make any event just a little more special.

If you're interested, simply call our staff at 719-395-8458 or use the form found on our website: www.buenavistaheritage.org under "Facility Rental."

Grants of Note in 2009

Tri-State Generation Fund: \$500 for collections care
El Pomar Foundation: \$1500 for operating fund
John W. Flory Foundation: \$2,000 for operating fund
Better Homes and Gardens Grant: \$1225 for community garden operations

BV Heritage benefits from Colorado Garden Show Grant

Buena Vista Heritage has been awarded a portion of a grant for the community garden at Turner Farm through its association with Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado.

Colorado Garden Show, Inc., a non-profit corporation that provides funds for horticultural-related grants, scholarships and events for the benefit of the state of Colorado, along with its board of directors, awarded Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado a major grant of \$100,000. This grant will bring additional farmland and community gardens into production in eight counties in southern Colorado.

The grant of \$1225 for BV Heritage was given for needed garden equipment: a walk-behind weed eater, irrigation, perennial food and distribution supplies.

Colorado Garden Show provides grants and scholarships from proceeds generated from the annual Colorado Garden & Home Show to support Colorado's horticulture industry. Since the 1970s, the show has awarded more than \$3.5 million for horticultural projects and scholarships throughout the state. In 2010, the organization awarded a record-breaking amount of more than \$600,000 to 42 Colorado organizations. The grant Care and Share received was developed in direct response to the Colorado community's food support needs due to individuals' economic difficulties.

County Heritage Area receives SHF Grant for survey

The Chaffee County Heritage Area has been awarded \$39,406 by the State Historical Fund to conduct a survey of the county's historic sites. Buena Vista Heritage will partner with this organization on the Chaffee County Historic Resource Survey project, which includes a county-wide reconnaissance survey of approximately 650 historic sites to be conducted by local volunteers.

A professional preservation consultant will complete an intensive survey of 65 high priority sites. Survey data will be compiled into a database to be used by preservation groups and interested citizens and will also be incorporated into the County GIS database for use by county and municipal planners to make better informed land use decisions.

The project will provide a much-needed systematic study of Chaffee County's existing historic sites to promote public awareness of the benefits of historic preservation with the ultimate goal to better protect these significant resources.

We are actively seeking donations to help the CCHA meet its cash match for the project. We've already raised \$300 and hope to get up to \$750. Please contribute today!

Exterior depot restoration finished, interior work begins



The Buena Vista Depot is now well on its way to becoming the community asset her champions have always envisioned.

Interior work on the depot began last fall. We have again hired Older Than Dirt Construction for the work, and the crews set to work removing floor covering where needed, reframing walls and stripping selected areas of wallpaper to determine the condition of the plaster. Much of the plaster has lost its keying and will need to be replaced.

This selective removal led to some interesting discoveries: a different than anticipated paint scheme in the ticket room (two colors) with an unknown trim detail. Further work shows that much of the waiting room below 8' had been re-plastered, possibly due to the first move in 1927.

Another interesting discovery was there was quite likely a wall, either full or partial, in the waiting room. That discovery led to the realization that the second layer of flooring will have to be removed, both for historical accuracy and also to look for clues about the newly discovered wall. Where the original floor is too damaged to be structurally sound, it will be replaced.

The project is funded by the SHF, the Denver, South Park and Pacific Historical Society and the Boettcher Foundation, as well as Collegiate Peaks Bank, Chaffee County and numerous individual donors.

If you have a strong interest in the depot, please join us at the membership banquet on April 24. Mike Perschbacher of Older Than Dirt will present a slideshow of the restoration work done on both the exterior and interior of this building.

Preserving historic outbuildings

Colorado Preservation, Inc. has announced the six sites on Colorado's 2010 Most Endangered Places list. The Colorado State Capitol Dome in Denver tops the list and other sites include Fort Carson's Brown's Sheep Camp, the Elkhorn Lodge in Estes Park, the Rio Grande Western Railroad Depot in Grand Junction, the outbuildings of Lake City and the Willowcroft Manor and Farm in Arapahoe County's city of Columbine Valley.

Buena Vista Heritage recognizes the significance of the Lake City outbuildings on this year's list. The Lake City Historic District is one of the largest, oldest and best preserved historic districts in Colorado. Interestingly, 37 percent of the contributing structures to the historic district are ones that are often overlooked and forgotten: the outbuildings and accessory structures of the brightly painted high style buildings that line the streets.

The outbuildings include a wide array of structures, including outhouses, mule barns, carriage houses, coal sheds, root cellars, chicken coops, and sheds. Though modest in size and style, these buildings help tell the story of a frontier town and how Lake City residents lived in the late 19th century. Many of the outbuildings are obsolete in terms of their original use. As a result, they are not being maintained and have reached a critical point of deterioration. Local preservation ordinances disallow the

active demolition of historically significant buildings that contribute to the district, but to date, measures to prevent demolition by neglect haven't been exercised.

Lake City has a proportionately large percentage of significant accessory structures, but a number of communities across the state share this issue of threatened outbuildings. The story of early life in these towns will be incomplete if only the high style buildings are preserved. Lake City officials are proposing to work with Colorado Preservation, Inc. and willing property owners on an innovative program that would provide funding and technical expertise so that the outbuildings can be stabilized and rehabilitated according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The preservation of these buildings will not only protect Lake City's Historic Landmark District status, but also serve as a model to other Colorado communities facing similar challenges.

The Upper Arkansas Valley, too, has a number of outbuildings that add tremendously to the historic fabric of our community. BV Heritage is eager to help property owners protect these treasures to ensure their longevity. If you have any such outbuildings, or know of someone who does, please contact us at 719-395-8458 or buenavistaheritage@msn.com.

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

check www.buonavistaheritage.org for updated information

APRIL

April 24 – Trains: Timeless Transport, membership banquet at the BV Heritage Museum. Business Meeting at 4 p.m., tour at 5:00, social event and dinner to follow. \$25.

MAY

May 29 – Buena Vista Heritage Museum opens for the season, Mon-Sat 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sun. noon-5.

JUNE

June 2 – St. Elmo Schoolhouse & Town Hall open for the season, Wed.-Sun., 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. through Sept. 26.

June 11 – **Madams of Central Colorado**, 7 p.m. at the Buena Vista Heritage Museum. Tickets are \$15 per person (\$12 for members).

June 18 – **Historic Cemetery Tour** at Mt. Olivet Cemetery on Rodeo Road, 7 p.m. \$8 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-16, \$4 for BVH members, free for kids ages 5 and under

JULY

July 3 – **Madams of Central Colorado**, 7 p.m. at the Buena Vista Heritage Museum. \$15 per person (\$12 members).

July 4 – **Free Day** at the Buena Vista Heritage Museum

July 10 – **Historic Cemetery Tour** at Mt. Olivet Cemetery on Rodeo Road. 7 p.m. \$8 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-16, \$4 for BVH members, free for kids ages 5 and under

AUGUST

Aug. 1 – Free Day at the Buena Vista Heritage Museum in honor of **Colorado Day**.

Aug. 7 – Seventh Annual **St. Elmo Restoration Auction**, 10 a.m.

Aug. 8 – **Historic Cemetery Tour** at at Mt. Olivet Cemetery on Rodeo Road, 7 p.m. \$8 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-16, \$4 for BVH members, free for kids ages 5 and under

Aug. 14 – **Madams of Central Colorado**, 7 p.m. at the Buena Vista Heritage Museum. \$15 per person (\$12 for members).

Aug. 21-22 – **King Boletus Mushroom Festival**

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 11 – Turner Farm **Apple Fest**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sept. 11 – **Historic Cemetery Tour** at Mt. Olivet Cemetery on Rodeo Road, 3 p.m. \$8 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-16, \$4 for BVH members, free for kids ages 5 and under

Sept. 11 – **Madams of Central Colorado**, 7 p.m. at the Buena Vista Heritage Museum. \$15 per person (\$12 for members).

Sept. 26 – Last day of the season for St. Elmo Schoolhouse and Town Hall

BV Heritage Membership Application – It's time to renew!

Membership in Buena Vista Heritage is open to anyone interested in preserving the history of Buena Vista and Chaffee County. Please join today! Your dues entitle you to a number of benefits:

Free admission to BV Heritage Museum ♦ 10% discount in our gift shops ♦ Discounts at many BVH events

Membership levels: Individual (\$20) Family (\$30) Business (\$125)

Corporate (\$500) – includes one free facility usage

Additional donation amount: _____

_____ General Operating Support _____ BVH Endowment Fund

_____ Maxwell School _____ Denver, Leadville & Gunnison Depot _____ Friends of BVH Museum

Dues and contributions are tax-deductible and help pay basic expenses for BVH. Donations in addition to membership dues are gratefully accepted. Please designate how you wish to direct additional funds. Endowment funds are segregated funds that ensure the longevity of BVH and its projects.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

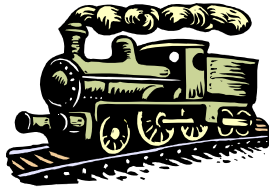
Credit Card info (if you prefer to charge your dues this year):

Card No _____ Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

Mail this form with your payment to: Buena Vista Heritage, P.O. Box 1414, Buena Vista, CO 81211

(719) 395-8458 ♦ www.buonavistaheritage.org ♦ buonavistaheritage@msn.com

Buena Vista Heritage invites you to



Trains: Timeless Transport

BV Heritage Annual Membership Banquet

When: **Saturday, April 24**

Meeting at 4:00, Tour at 5:00, Cocktails & Silent Auction at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30, Program at 7:30

Where: BV Heritage Museum, 506 East Main

Tickets: \$25 each, by mail or online, RSVP by Apr. 22

Music by Miners Creek, Dinner by Kalamatapit Katering

Program: Mike Perschbacher: The BV Depot Restoration

Sponsored by Colorado East Bank and Trust, Collegiate Peaks Bank and Sangre de Cristo Electric Association

Buena Vista Heritage
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