



Roundhouse Rumblings

August 2010 Kay Clampitt editor

Dear Friends,

There are so many good things happening in New Providence that are not necessarily related to the Roundhouse, that I have decided to take some newsletter space to share with you. The New Providence Community Club gave five \$500 scholarships to high school graduates this spring. All 5 of these young adults are from New Providence, and will be attending college this fall.

The Monday morning breakfasts at the Soda Fountain on Main are still going strong. It's a great place to fill your tummy and visit with friends. The workers are all volunteer and the cost of breakfast is by donation. Each week \$25 is given to the NP Community Club scholarship fund. The breakfast donations have also helped fund the Drama Day Camp and the Roundhouse roof project.

The HCCEF awards night this spring awarded \$98,000 to projects in Hardin County. Renewal received \$3000 for the roof project. To learn more about HCCEF visit: www.donateiowa.org/hardin.

Tom & Marlene McDonald celebrated 35 years in the New Providence Hardware this summer. Next year the Hardware Store will be 100 years old.

Two ice cream social/story telling events were held at the Soda Fountain this summer. The first event featured stories about early NP business owners. Stories about basketball tournaments and school memories were shared at the second event. Both events experienced a full house.

It is great to have so many positive things happening in our small rural community.

THE ROOF PROJECT - we received a \$1500 donation from Pioneer Hi-bred for the Roundhouse roof project. This brings our total funding to \$6013.47. The total estimate is around \$20,000. Please help us with this much needed project. We are looking at installing a steel roof with a 50-year life, and nearly indestructible.

The Roundhouse continues to be busy - with the Roundhouse Players Radio Show, the Hardin County Home Educators activities, reunions, Drama Day Camp, basketball scrimmages. Busy is good. This is why we work at keeping this building in good repair.

We had another successful Drama Day Camp for kids in July. Thirty kids joined the actors from Old Creamery Theatre in learning the songs and choreography and speaking parts for the production of "Little Red Riding Hood". It was a delightful week topped off by an excellent performance! Many thanks to Marlene Reece for being the force behind this wonderful event.

Not long ago we purchased 100 new blue folding chairs to be stored and used on the upper level of the Roundhouse. It was SO VERY NICE to be able to set up those chairs for the Day Camp performance and not have the struggle of carrying chairs upstairs and back down for the refreshments following the performance. And they look very attractive too. Many thanks to those who helped fund the cost of the chairs.



Class of 1960 Reunion
Front: Donna Vigers, Judy Beane, Judy Kilzer, Sandy Prins
Back: Carolyn Hubbard, Glen Mitchell, George Cummins, Lance Minear (hidden), Paul Taber.

Class of 1965 reunion
Front: Linda Frazier Stark, Marcia Runner Hernandez, Mary Willia, Hal Minear.
Back: Coach White, Dave Elerding, David Wood, Dennis Fuller, Glenda Wallace Wooten, Betty Sharpshair Kunc, John Rains, Doug Williams.



2010/06/26

Renewal Community, Inc.
New Providence, IA 50206

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RENEWAL COMMUNITY, INC.
OFFICERS
President - Alan Staples
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Secretary - Les Clampitt
Treasurer - Andrea Brown

Renewal Community, Inc. is a non-profit community betterment organization. Regular meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at the Roundhouse. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Roundhouse is available to rent for special functions. Contact Judy Staples 641-497-5799 for rental rates and availability.

COMING EVENTS

Omelet Breakfast - Monday, Sept. 6 (Labor Day) 7 to 10 a.m.
Roundhouse Carnival - Saturday, October 30, 6:30 P.M.

OUR SCHOOL BUILDING

The first NP Academy building was built in 1869. This brick structure was replaced by a wooden structure in 1900. The formation of the New Providence Consolidated school district was voted on on May 31, 1913.

The new classroom building was completed in 1914.

The one room country school buildings were sold for other purposes.

The last graduating class from NP was 1980. - last used as a school facility - 1993.

Just as the usefulness of the Academy buildings came to an end, I am sorry to say, dear alumni, it is time to say goodbye to the classroom building. It was our desire when we assumed the responsibility of the school grounds & buildings that this building not fall into ruins and become an eyesore. Our initial goal was to find a use for this very solidly built structure. First, it became the home of the InLine skate business, followed by Electronic Resources, Inc. After that business left we were unsuccessful in finding someone to use the building, and as a money saving measure, it was decided to turn off the heat and electricity to the building. Over the years, the integrity of the structure has declined, time has taken its toll - the roof leaks, the soffitts are in disrepair and birds have taken over the top floor. The ceiling on the third floor is falling in. The lower level is mildewed and moldy. It is in sad shape. We have taken a few steps toward readying the building for demolition by having the scrap metal removed, and will continue the process. No date has been set yet, but expect it to happen in the near future. This has been a most difficult decision, but we trust you will understand. Once again, we ask for your assistance in covering the cost of the demolition project. It is estimated to cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000. There is a lot of concrete in the building as well as bricks.

Even though the structure will be gone, the memories and the influence of the New Providence education system will remain for many generations. This quote from a speech by Emmett Morris at the dedication of the classroom building is as meaningful now as it was in 1914. "The pioneers of our area who founded the New Providence Academy bequeathed to their children a heritage, the value of which can not be calculated, and while the institution is now a thing of the past, its influence for good will reach to generations yet unborn."

Please, please, please, keep your wonderful school memories in your hearts & minds. Those special memories & your excellent education will last forever. And once again, please send a donation to help with this project. We cannot let this building collapse into an unsightly pile of rubble.



Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ for _____.
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make check to: Renewal Community, Inc., c/o Andrea Brown, 28746 O Ave.,
New Providence, IA 50206