

STATE OF THE GJ UNION DEPOT

EDITION #4

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF GJ UNION DEPOT

FALL 2025

Wow, summer really zipped by!

We kicked things off with National Train Day in May, enjoyed catching up at our exclusive members-only meeting in June, and we had a ball hosting our Second Annual Charity Golf Tournament on September 13th at Redlands Mesa Golf Course.

Here's a recap of what we've been up to this summer and some fun events coming your way!

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Friends of GJ Union Depot
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friendsofgjuniondepot.org



Westbound Art by Train

First Friday, October 3, 5 PM–9 PM

Art Show at Grand Junction Union Depot

Meet us at the Historic GJ Union Depot for a one-of-a-kind First Friday art show!

Westbound: Art by Train is a collaborative exhibition designed to connect regional artists across the state through a shared, place-based creative journey!

Beginning in eastern Colorado, artists will board the historic California-Zephyr train line as it heads west towards Grand Junction. One regional artist will board the train at each stop in Colorado (Fort Morgan, Denver, Fraser/Winter Park, Granby, Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction), creating artwork during the journey and connecting with fellow creatives along the way. The trip culminates in a pop-up art exhibition at the historic depot, featuring work created in motion throughout the train ride.

The event at GJ Union Depot will also feature local Grand Junction artists. Plus, 505 Fix Food Truck, drinks from Carlson Vineyards and music by Jon Rizzo.

Explore the depot and check out new renderings of the future development and support the Friends of the Union Depot group with a donation!

This project is supported by the State of Colorado – Colorado Creative Industries, GJ Creates, and the GJ Union Depot.

The residency kicks off the Downtown Art Festival, October 3–5, 2025. ▲



Celebrating National Train Day with the Community

A certain reverence fills the air when entering Grand Junction Union Depot...

The historic gem with its arched stained-glass windows, crafted woodwork, vintage bricks, and echoes



of travelers' past, stands as a monument to an era when railroads connected the country.

National Train Day, observed each May, offers the perfect occasion to honor this heritage. For the third consecutive year, the Friends of GJ Depot partnered with the Depot's owners and hosted an event that did more than open doors—it rekindled memories and fostered community engagement.

Historic photographs chronicling the evolution of the Depot were exhibited, offering visitors insight into its storied past. Additionally, guests had the opportunity to view the original D&RG safe, which had been in the Depot since the day it was opened. A previous owner had used the safe as a form of payment for work done on the Depot.



Original D&RG safe back home in the Depot.



Landy Eng - Village Hospitality.

The safe was donated back to the Depot by Dan Barber from Palisade. Artifacts discovered during Americorp's demolition efforts were also made available for viewing.

New to this year's event was the high-energy acoustic music performed by local band Stray Grass on the trackside patio. Refreshing beverages were provided in partnership by Village Hospitality, Carlson Vineyards and Melrose Spirit Co.



Thank you to all the participants who contributed to the day's success:

Peer 180 – provided burgers on the patio.
Grand Valley Model Railroad Club
Museum of the West
Grand Junction Historic Preservation Board
Mesa County Historical Society
Mesa County Genealogical Society
Grand Junction Mobility Division
Operation Lifesaver

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Owners UPDATE

It's been a fruitful summer for the progress of GJ Union Depot.

Work is underway with the architect and engineer teams, with a targeted date of mid-November for construction documents.

Part of the process included a 3D scan of the entire building, completed by Knott Laboratories, which allowed us to capture and document a high level of detail of architecturally significant features like the moldings, trim and the coffered ceiling.

In addition, work has begun on the trackside canopies, and it has been a total team effort. It started with our volunteers, Keith Williams and Scott Kepner helping to disassemble the canopy of the rotted boards and shingles that held 119 years of soot and debris.

Tim Navin from Sparks Fly Studio Ltd provided welding for areas of need. And then Ryan Nelson and team from Pro Powder Coatings donated their sandblasting services.

Stripping 10 coats of paint to uncover the beams are stamped "Carnegie", indicating the steel was produced by Carnegie Steel. Jeremy and Brandon put in serious work from the scissors lift, cleaning the beams to a white steel appearance.



To complete this phase of canopy work, the Engineers Without Borders club from Colorado Mesa University volunteered their time to apply rust-preventing paint to the newly exposed beams. This is just the first phase of the canopy restoration.

The Friends of GJ Union Depot were able to offer a tax credit to Pro Powder Coatings for their in-kind donation as part of the Colorado Enterprise Zone designation. Thank you, Ryan & team, we appreciate your generous support of this historic preservation effort! A special thanks as well to Engineers Without Borders at Colorado Mesa University for donating their time and energy – your volunteer spirit is truly valued! ▲

– **Veronica & Dustin, Owners**



A Day to Remember! Second Annual Friends of GJ Union Depot Charity Golf Tournament

The Second Annual Friends of GJ Union Depot Charity Golf Tournament was truly a day to remember. With over 100 passionate golfers coming together, we exceeded our goals and built new friendships, all while supporting a cherished local landmark.

This year's increased attendance reflects the strong commitment of our community and its dedication to help restore GJ Union Depot.

We extend our sincere appreciation to **Ambassador Blind and Shutter, our presenting sponsor**, as well as to every supporter whose contributions were instrumental in making this event possible.



The Williams family.



Second Place Winners Bill Wade and Dan Bettinger.



Friends Board Members Mary Brinton and Dave Woodward.

The efforts of our volunteers deserve special recognition; their commitment and professionalism are essential to the continued success of this tradition.

Keith & Sandy Williams
Doug & Kimberly Killerud
Lauree & Jeff Sierra
Kylie Williams
John & Michelle Wolcott
Marissa Batista

Janet Huff
Jan Brooks
Gregg Tapp
Brenda Fhuere
Nikki Doran
Becky Fox



Ashley Watkins -
Closest to the Pin Winner!

REDLANDS MESA
GOLF COURSE

**We invite you
to join us next year
as a golfer, sponsor,
or volunteer.
Let's make the next
tournament our
best yet.**

► Email us: Friends@friendsofgjuniondepot.org

Help Us Restore GJ Union Depot One Brick at a Time!



We launched our Brick Paver Sponsorship Program at National Train Day to help restore the station platform to its original herringbone brick pattern.

Our goal is to sponsor 250 pavers by October 31, which will allow us to conclude planning, complete final engineering and architectural documents, and match the existing \$50,000 History Colorado planning grant.

Each sponsorship includes a one-year membership. Please encourage friends and family to support the depot by sponsoring a paver or donating.

1. Engraved Paver \$200

Engraved paver to be installed on the trackside patio. You can customize it with up to 18 characters per line, for a maximum of 3 lines. This



option also includes a one-year membership to the Friends of GJ Union Depot.

2. Commemorative Fire Brick \$50

You will receive an authentic fire brick recovered from the freight room of Grand Junction's Union Depot, (pictured at top).

3. Paver + Brick Combo \$225

This package includes an engraved brick paver, a commemorative fire brick, and a one-year membership to the Friends of GJ Union Depot.

Thunderbird

presents Yoga

YOGA AT THE DEPOT



Vinyasa & Breakfast

Public Open House to Follow!

Mtn. Berry Bowls
Coffee Service
Sparkling Water

@thunderbirdyoga



60 Minute Flow
All Ages & Abilities
Mats Available

tbirdyoga.com

Saturday October 18th, 2025

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

\$35 - Scan QR code to register

Join us for Yoga and Breakfast in the historic Grand Junction Union Depot
119 Pitkin Ave, Grand Junction, CO 81501

8:30 AM Doors open/Check in
9:00 AM Vinyasa Flow
10:00 AM Breakfast & Depot Tours

100% of proceeds will aid in the restoration of Grand Junction's Union Depot.

- **Option 1 & 3 receive a 25% Colorado State tax credit for a qualified Enterprise Zone Contribution.**
- **Pavers & Bricks may be purchased at: friendsofgjuniondepot.org/pavers ▲**

Celebrating National Train Day

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We'd also like to thank our newest window sponsors:

Kevin & Sue Ann Tinsley
Mary McCutchan
Bill Rash
Ron & Joy Kukuk
Flo Henris & Jim Witmer
(Second Window Sponsorship)
Jack & Linda Widstrand
(Second Window Sponsorship)



Mary McCutchan Window Sponsor.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the day was the glimpse into what the GJ Union Depot will soon become. The building's owners, recognizing both its historic significance and untapped potential, shared renderings of the planned interior renovations. These visuals, exhibited in the former ladies' room of the Depot, sparked animated conversations and drew excitement and support from the community.

If you were not able to view the renderings at the Train Day, you can find them on display at our upcoming events in October. ▲



Original GJ Union Depot Baggage Scale.



Artifacts on display Train Day 2025.

AmeriCorps awards Second Federal Grant to the Friends of GJ Union Depot

We are pleased to announce that nine new AmeriCorps volunteers will join our initiative to restore GJ Union Depot beginning October 31.

Building on our previous success with last year's volunteers, we look forward to welcoming this new team.

The GJ Union staff, in coordination with Keith Williams, the volunteer coordinator, is currently organizing the six-week program for the AmeriCorps participants.

Our goal is to create a structured environment that supports learning, promotes involvement in off-site activities, and enhances community connections.

Special thanks to Kokopelli Farms for their generosity, once again offering housing accommodations to the AmeriCorps team.

Progress updates will be provided regularly.

For those interested in supporting the AmeriCorps volunteers, please contact:



friendsofgjuniondepot.org to learn more about sponsoring a meal. ▲

Friends Annual Meeting Celebrates Progress, Community and a Bright Future

On June 7, 2025, we hosted 70 members for our second annual meeting and members appreciation luncheon in the Union Depot. During the meeting, board officers reported on progress and recent milestones and offered an outlook for the year ahead. Matthew Brooks cooked and served a delicious Mediterranean meal, with beverages provided by Elizabeth Liberty. Members participated in the meeting and shared personal stories about their deep connections to the depot.

We thank the 19 individuals, families, and organizations who have sponsored windows and supported the project in its early stages. We continue to leverage our Colorado Enterprise Zone designation to encourage donations and in kind professional services. This allows us to recognize donors with additional tax credits and encourages local businesses to donate services, reducing project costs and deepening community

involvement. Through this program, we secured donations of housing for our AmeriCorps workers at Kokopelli Farms and sandblasting services from Pro Powder Coating during the restoration of the depot's historic canopies.

The future is looking bright. Momentum is building and visible progress is being made. The Union Depot is well on its way to becoming a shining jewel in the west end of downtown. Thank you for your support, time, and enthusiasm. You give us confidence and inspiration, serve as a valuable source of ideas and feedback, and demonstrate that this is a dream with true community backing. Your time, advocacy, and generosity are invaluable.

Together, we can return the Union Depot to its rightful place as a jewel of Grand Junction and a welcoming front door to our community. We look forward to even more success in the years ahead.▲



Friends of GJ Union Depot Mission Statement:

To support the restoration and preservation of Grand Junction's Historic Union Depot.

Board of Directors:

Bill Wade – Chair
Michael Nuttall–Vice-Chair
Art Chase – Treasurer

JoAnn Sauvage – Secretary
Samuel Baseler - Director
Mary Brinton – Director

Cynthia Duff - Director
Suzannah Paker - Director
Dave Woodward – Director

Stay in Touch! Follow us on:

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