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@HarrimanCHHCO

401 Morgan Avenue, Harriman



# Newsletter

August 2022

*Custodians of the Past. Stewards for the Future*

CHHCO IS OPEN TO ALL INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN PRESERVING AND PROTECTING HISTORIC HARRIMAN. MEMBERS NEED NOT BE A RESIDENT IN A HISTORIC DISTRICT TO BE ACTIVE.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Hooray for Harriman, Sept 5

Sundae Concert in Killeffer Park, Sept 25

Harriman Cobbler Festival, Oct 8

Harriman Rotary Luau, Oct 9

Mayor's Masquerade Ball, Oct 9

Hauntings of Harriman Tours, Oct 21 & 22

Christmas Tour of Homes, Dec 10 & 11

## CHHCO Board Meeting Sept 15<sup>th</sup>



*The CHHCO Board Meeting* will be held 7:00 pm, September 15<sup>th</sup>, in the Training Room at the Harriman City Office Complex (408 N. Roane St). All CHHCO Board meetings are open, and visitors are always welcome to bring a concern/issue to the Board, or to simply listen.

## We Need You! – Volunteer Opportunities Coming Up

*Several volunteer opportunities* are now available for serving in CHHCO activities, from hosting the CHHCO information tent at the Hooray for Harriman or Cobbler Festival, serving Ice Cream Sundaes at the Sept 25<sup>th</sup> Babahatchie Band Concert in Killeffer Park, or participating in the Hauntings or Home Tours. **Please feel free to email at [cornstalk\\_heights@yahoo.com](mailto:cornstalk_heights@yahoo.com), or contact Bruce Knobloch at 865-621-1274 for more information on any of these activities.** Students are especially invited in support of their community service requirements as well as becoming part of Harriman's history! **More information is always available at [www.cornstalkheights.org](http://www.cornstalkheights.org) and HarrimanCHHCO on Facebook.**

## Surprise Visit by Descendants of Prominent Prohibitionist & Harriman Land Auction Participant/Investor



501 Roane St, Notably reflecting "SMITH" under the Corner Tower and "1891" in Center of Parapet

*The Grand Re-Opening of Sonya Thomas' expanded Out of the Attic Antiques* on August 26<sup>th</sup> was not only extremely successful, but it was also graced by the surprise presence of descendants of WT Smith, the original owner of the property of Sonya's shop at 501 N. Roane Street. WT was not only a staunch

Prohibitionist and his family a supporter of Women's Suffrage, but he is also noted in the 1892 City Directory as the Treasurer of the Harriman Prohibition Club.



(L-R) Bruce Knobloch, Jane (Smith) McCauley, and Serena (McCauley) Highum

After arriving by plane for a funeral of a distant relative in Sevierville later that weekend, WT's granddaughter Jane (Smith) McCauley and Jane's daughter Serena (McCauley) Highum, both now living out of state, visited the Smith-Lake Building coinciding with Out of the Attic's re-opening celebration. Serena has become the family's ancestry custodian and was able to share photos of WT and his wife which reflects a much more distinguished gentleman than those captured in Walter Pulliam's "Blue Book." Also in her possession was a newspaper clipping from the Knoxville News Sentinel that was sent her in 1991 of the

Knobloch's building renovation and restaurant enterprise.

Bruce & Diana were able to meet with Jane and Serena, and gave them the tour of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the building while explaining some of the history that transpired since WT's ownership. WT sold the 501 Roane Street property to TC Farnham in 1920, where it remained in the Farnham family first as a bicycle shop and Kodak camera distributor (the first in Tennessee), then, including the Lake property at 503 Roane Street, a general hardware store until 1990 when Bruce & Diana Knobloch purchased the complete building.



"Ghost Advertising" on side of 501 Roane reflecting W.T. Smith Investments

Serena noted it was amazing that the building [constructed in 1890-1891] has survived and was still in active use, to which Bruce noted is due to the

combination of our small town environment and historic preservation initiatives. Large cities inherently demolished older buildings due to a combination of increasing land values, population density and urban redevelopment. Only pockets of the past have survived in larger cities such as Knoxville's Old City.

WT Smith was a prominent investment broker that came to the Great Land Sale from Pittsfield, IL, a farming community west of Springfield. WT partnered with WA Lake, a contractor specializing in stonework, to construct the structure at 501/503 Roane Street as a small scale reflection of a Victorian style double townhouse on Third Ave in New York City built by wealthy business magnate/real estate developer John Astor IV. Interesting side story – John Astor IV perished in the sinking of the Titanic on April 15, 1912.

Suggesting Serena obtain a copy of the "Harriman Blue Book" for her genealogy research and family archives, Bruce, Diana, Jane and Serena went down to Superlatives Vintage Antiques where copies were available for

purchase (another copy is still available for anyone interested in purchasing their own copy). Leafing through the name index for WT, Serena turned to Page 106 which was the continuing details of a Merchants Carnival "The Razzle Dazzle of Rich Costumes" held March 15, 1893, which sounds a lot like a New Orleans Mardi Gras Parade and Ball (I'm sure without the alcohol!):

The Merchants and business men of our city, being anxious to entertain their royal [King of Carnival] guest, prepared a brilliant pageant, in which the most beautiful young ladies in Harriman paraded before his majesty in costumes adorned with wares, ornaments and pictures, carrying banners, whereon were inscribed the names and businesses of the firms represented.

Near the very beginning of Page 106, the description read:

W. T. Smith, Real Estate, Miss Vera Smith, dress of orange henrietta trimmed in blue; blue cap; hose and slippers.

at which Serena exclaimed to her mother, Jane, "This is your mom!"

Sometimes we need surprises like this to remind us why we do what we do. Thank you to all our Historic Preservationists and Enthusiasts for being *Custodians of the Past and Stewards for the Future!*

## August 19th Friday Nights Event Features Youth Scavenger Hunt and Snow Cones Served by CHHCO & Business Association



*Merchants in Harriman's Commercial Historic District* collaborated with CHHCO on Friday,

August 19<sup>th</sup> for a fun scavenger hunt at the start of the school year and CHHCO serving up



*free* snow cones for everyone! The Harriman Business Association rented the snow cone machine and CHHCO provided the syrups, paper cones and volunteers to serve the attendees at the combined Rockin on Roane, Crusin' and Merchant's Friday Night on Roane. While acknowledging the snow cones were provided by both the Business Association and CHHCO, it also provided an opportunity for CHHCO to promote both the upcoming Hauntings Tour in October and Home Tours in December to those who were not familiar with these events.

***Rescheduled SUNDAY CONCERT  
IN KILLEFFER PARK  
3:00 pm September 25<sup>th</sup>***



*CHHCO is creating a taste of "Americana" by sponsoring a free Ice Cream Social to all in attendance at a*

Babahatchie Community Band concert in Killeffer Park at 3:00 pm on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. This concert and ice cream social was rescheduled due to excessive heat in June and is highly anticipated as a CHHCO social event. Harriman has a long history of music dating all the way back to Harriman's founding. "Babahatchie" is the original name of the Emory River, and is credited as an Indian name meaning "babbling waters." The above photo is from a past Babahatchie Band concert in Killeffer Park. Be sure to bring your lawn chair or blanket, and enjoy a Sunday Sundae with your friends and neighbors!



**Harriman Hall Exterior**



**Renovations Progress Greatly**

Before & After photos reflecting progress on Cumberland St facade

*Harriman Hall progressed on several fronts in August*, from the installation of most sanctuary windows and basement windows on the Cumberland St façade to new siding at the southwest corner. These are literally and figuratively corner-turning success towards 2022 goals.



August benefited from relatively mild temperatures and



rainfall, which allowed for more

Senior Moments (Retirees working outside of designated Renovation Workdays) and a successful Saturday workday. Many new volunteers showed up for the August 27<sup>th</sup> workday, including Lloyd Hinkle, Bonnie Holly and Randy White. Thanks to all the renovation volunteers this month, which beside those mentioned above, included Bruce Knobloch, Dick McPherson, Ron & Gayle Becker, Andy & Carie Gecelosky, and Pat LaDue.

The painter has been contacted to schedule painting of the façade in September, and we look forward to seeing "color" added to the building in the next month. The following is just a sampling of the punch list of items that were accomplished this month:

- Reinstallation of 3 of 4 Cumberland St Sanctuary Windows
- Removal of plywood over basement along Cumberland St, and installation of 9 new glass panels in the sashes
- Siding installation on Southwest corner (contractor activity)
- Prepped and primed basement brick along Cumberland St façade
- Tree trimming (contractor activity)

## Historic Harriman Hall Fundraising

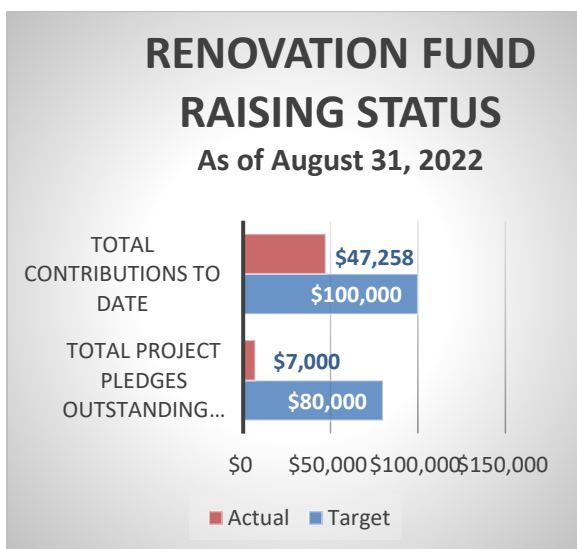
*Please consider giving to what matters most to you* – the exterior renovation, interior improvements, or where there is the most need. *We're moving forward!* Would you please consider responding with your pledge, one time gift, or designated gift now?

Donation Levels	Cumulative Level of Donations
Preservation Leader	\$25,000 or Greater
Preservation Guardian	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Preservation Steward	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Sustaining Donor	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Supporting Donor	\$500 - \$999
Contributing Donor	\$100 - \$499

All donations go directly to the renovation of Harriman Hall, and are not used for any of the organization's operating expenses.

Cornstalk Heights Historical Community Organization is a 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are therefore eligible as a tax-deductible charitable contribution to the full extent of the law. Donations can be sent to:

CHCO  
401 Morgan Ave  
Harriman, TN 37748



# CHHCO Community Calendar

# September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <b>Labor Day</b> 10-4 Hooray for Harriman Street Festival	6	7 11-2 Lunchtime Food Truck @ old Hosp Parking	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 11-2 Lunchtime Food Truck @ old Hosp Parking	15 7:00 CHHCO Board Meeting (Harriman City Training Room 408 N. Roane St)	16	17
18	19	20	21 11-2 Lunchtime Food Truck @ old Hosp Parking	22	23	24 9-1 Harriman Hall Workday
25 3:00 Ice Cream Sundae Social w/ Babahatchie Band in Killeffer Park	26	27	28 11-2 Lunchtime Food Truck @ old Hosp Parking	29	30	

## Events Coming in October

**Oct 8 - Harriman Cobbler Festival**

**Oct 8 - Mayor's Masquerade Ball**

**Oct 9 - Harriman Rotary Luau**

**Oct 21-22 - Hauntings of Harriman**