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401 Morgan Avenue, Harriman



Newsletter

February 2023

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.

CHHCO Annual Meeting & Community Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday, 4:00 March 12 at Gates Hall

The Annual CHHCO meeting has been set for 4:00 on Sunday, March 12 at Gates Hall on the 2nd floor of the Harriman City Offices at 408 N. Roane St. All are welcome, including anyone not currently an active member! However only those who attended the last annual meeting, or who have actively participated in at least one organization activity within the last 12 months, are eligible to vote on motions for Approval.

Items to be discussed include a summary of 2022, the upcoming 2023 Objectives, Priorities and Events, Status of Renovation of Harriman Hall, and a chance for you to provide your feedback and suggestions for CHHCO.

In addition, a Community Pot-Luck Dinner is added to this Annual Event to further enjoy CHHCO fellowship in the wonderful Gates Hall environment! CHHCO will provide drinks, Board Members will bring meat and main entrée items, and other attendees are asked (but not required) to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please plan to join us, and invite your neighbors and friends for this Annual event!



Photo from previous CHHCO Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting includes presentation of the past year's accomplishments as well as goals for new year, and opportunity for public input



**Harriman's
Temperance
Building
Receives
\$300,000
Rehabilitation
Grant from
State**

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD)

announced in February the award of \$8.7 million in Tennessee Historic Development Grants aimed to renovate and preserve historic buildings across the state, including Harriman's Temperance Building. The goal of the grants is to encourage communities and developers to invest in places that have contributed to local history but now sit idle.

On the TNECD Website, Commissioner Stuart McWhorter stated "Tennessee is known for its quality of life, and at TNECD, we have the privilege to take part in community development programs that assist in restoring and preserving some of our state's most unique and historic assets. Through the latest round of the Historic Development Grants program, communities across Tennessee are taking steps to revitalize their historic buildings so that they can continue to serve as catalysts for future economic opportunity."

TNECD also stated the projects approved by the Tennessee General Assembly in April 2021 are investments towards renovating and preserving historic buildings that have contributed to a community's history but now sit idle. These buildings can once again contribute through job creation and commercial opportunities.

To ensure that each proposal would rehabilitate the structures while maintaining historical

integrity, TNECD partnered with the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) to set application requirements and review grant applications. To be qualified for a grant, the property needs to be on the National Register of Historic Places or be part of a National Register of Historic Places historic district.

The City of Harriman has made great strides in the 2020s towards saving the Temperance Building. The sign posted as Phase One Spring 2022 reflects "Our Time ... Is Now," implying to either use



it or lose it. The foundation was stabilized during the 2021-22 fiscal year (city budgets run July through June) and the current 2022-23 fiscal year funds the removal of asbestos and heavy sheetrock previously added in the center skylight. Re-leveling of the foundation may need to be done with the lightened load, however the next steps are to repair/replace historic windows and renovate the interior to allow the Harriman History Museum to return to this iconic building.

As noted in the TN ECD announcement, it was the 2021 General Assembly that approved the Historic Development Grants. Special acknowledgement and thanks are due to former TN House Representative Kent Calfee and continuing State Senator Ken Yager for supporting this critical funding. Thank you for representing Roane County and specifically the City of Harriman in preserving our History!

Is Harriman Hall Eligible for a Historic Development Grant?

Q suspect that the logical question for CHHCO members is why Harriman Hall, formerly the first permanent church structure in Harriman, has not received any grants. A complete answer to grant opportunities and renovation funding options will be the subject of next month's Newsletter, but suffice it to say we've tried. We're relatively new-comers to the hundreds if not thousands of historic properties across the

United States looking for renovation grants. We can be proud of the progress we've made in just over 3 years using our own resources and donations, one year which was overshadowed by a world-wide pandemic, material shortages and social distancing. Note that the City of Harriman also began their renovations by self-funding critical repairs before they received this grant. Next month we'll discuss in greater detail the process for grant applications, what CHHCO has applied for, what CHHCO continues to be ineligible for, and why.

Major Donations Recently Received Towards Harriman Hall Renovation

In any fund raising program, it is important for donors to understand what their money is being used for and to see the benefits and progress. Every CHHCO Newsletter intentionally reflects recent renovation progress, planned activities, and occasionally a look back to remind us where we've been and where we're going. The CHHCO Annual Meeting is another opportunity for presenting the renovation status and summarizing short term and long term goals.

We are pleased to inform you that based on the confidence and credibility of our progress to date, we recently received 3 major donations towards **Harriman Hall** renovation which will be used this year to complete the front meeting rooms, restrooms, storage and office space. The City of Harriman has for the 2nd year donated \$5,000 towards the renovation, as well as a private individual who recently donated \$5,000 for the 2nd year. In addition, Roane County Commission approved a \$4,000 donation to Harriman Hall renovation at their February 13th meeting. County Commissioner Brad Goss, who serves our District, is also a member of the Committee for Non-Profit Funding and fought well for this first-time donation from the County. This has provided CHHCO significant funding to accomplish the 2023 goals set before them. We again thank all our elected officials for this confidence, and their understanding of why preserving Harriman history is important.

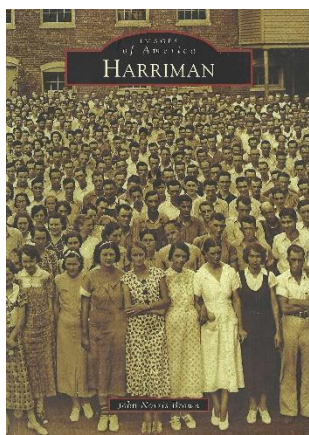
**Welcoming of New Residents and
Community Members**

CHHCO recognizes that new residents into the Nationally Recognized Cornstalk Heights Historic District are not always familiar with our history, activities, and objectives to maintain the Historic character of our community. Communications with new residents is something the CHHCO Board is looking to improve. Would you be interested in helping to organize and implement this coming year? Ideas that were thrown out include focused communications to property owners and renters (if applicable) as well as welcome baskets with important contact and need-to-know information. This is also a positive way to develop a record of the history of the homes for future generations. Should you be interested in working on this initiative, please contact Dick McPherson at (865) 679-1036 or dickmcperson@rocketmail.com.

History of Harriman

**Presentation by RSCC Professor
John Brown 7:00 PM March 31st**

Harriman native and Roane State Professor John Brown is featured at Roane State’s Spring 2023 Arts and Lecture Series at the Princess Theatre at



7 pm Friday, March 31st. This RSCC series is also responsible for the screening of **Carablanca** in February, which was widely acclaimed a success.

John is also author of Images of America **HARRIMAN** and will have his book available for sale. CHHCO is also supporting this

History Presentation by collaborating with RSCC to display documents and artifacts in possession of the Organization. Let’s all support Roane State and John Brown by attending this presentation, and learn more about **WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO!**

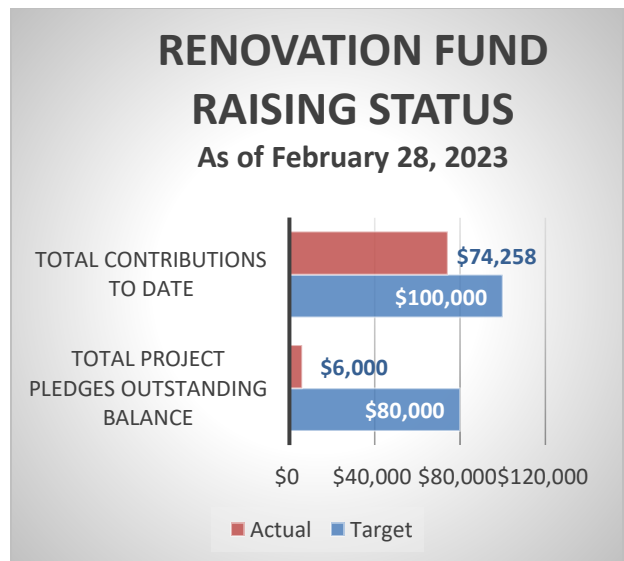
***Historic* Harriman Hall Fundraising**

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:

CHHCO
401 Morgan Ave
Harriman, TN 37748



CHHCO Community Calendar

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11-2 Food Truck next to City Offices (Walden Ave)	2	3	4
5 3:00 Babahatchie Community Band Concert Harriman HS Auditorium	6	7	8 11-2 Food Truck next to City Offices (Walden Ave)	9	10	11
12 4:00 CHHCO Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Dinner Gates Hall	13	14	15 11-2 Food Truck next to City Offices (Walden Ave)	16 7:00 CHHCO Board Meeting 408 Roane, Visitors Welcome	17	18 7:00 KISS TRIBUTE BAND DRESSED TO KILL Princess Theatre
19	20	21	22 11-2 Food Truck next to City Offices (Walden Ave)	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 11-2 Food Truck next to City Offices (Walden Ave)	30	31 7:00 History of Harriman Presented by RSCC Professor John Brown Princess Theatre	