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401 Morgan Avenue, Harriman



Newsletter

May 2021

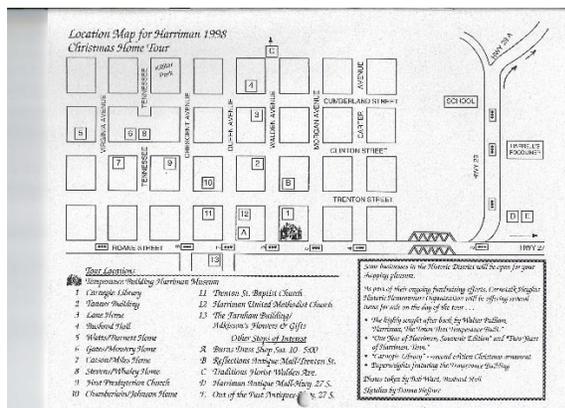
Custodians of the Past. Stewards for the Future



A New Decade, A New Century, or A New Millennium?

This month we feature the BIG ONE! Y2K! The turn of the calendar that was predicted to bring all kinds of mayhem, from computer crashes to Christ's Second Coming!

In reality, New Years Day in 2000 was not much different than New Years Eve in 1999. Calendars turned a page, and depending on your viewpoint, it was either a Millennial Experience, a Century Event, a Decade older, or (yawn) just another New Years Eve. Either way you looked at it, there was something in common – "New."



The tour location map from the 1999 Christmas Tour (ignore "1998" typo in header) featured homes & businesses.

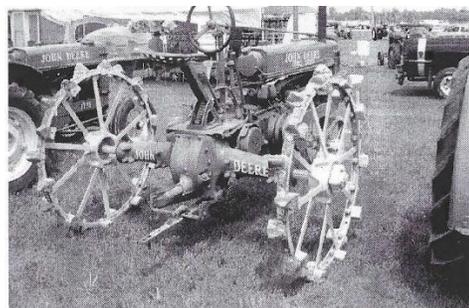
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CHCO Picnic 1:00 Sunday, June 13th

The Cornstalk Heights Historical Community Organization will host a picnic at Killeffer Park from 1-3 Sunday, June 13th. CHCO will provide meats and drinks, and those attending are asked to bring sides (veggies, slaw, chips, etc) or desserts to share. This is an opportunity to meet new friends and share with those we may not have seen for a while. It is open to everyone, and you are encouraged to bring friends to acquaint them with CHCO and our mission.

Antique Tractor & Equipment Show Saturday, June 5th

Brett's Small Engine Repair at 308 Trention Street is sponsoring the Three Rivers Antique Tractor and Equipment Show from 9 to 5 Saturday, June 5th. The event is free and open to the public. Free wagon rides and home made ice cream made using antique equipment will be available. Other food will be available from participating purveyors. In addition, the Brass Lantern Antique Store adjacent to Brett's will be open – come take a peek inside!



Planned as part of the festivities is a mid-afternoon parade of antique tractors through the streets of the Cornstalk Heights Historic District. This display of machinery is similar to our "tour of homes," however our focus in the District is to maintain the style and character of vintage homes while the Three Rivers Antique Tractor Club maintains vintage machinery and equipment of the past. Be sure to stop by to see the displays, and see these antique work horses rumble through the neighborhood!

A New Decade, etc.

To get a sense of the mood in Cornstalk Heights leading up to Y2K, I pulled out the calendar from the 1999 Tour of Homes. It was likely our largest “home” tour, as it included 14 featured tour locations and 5 other “Stops of Interest.” Tour locations included 7 homes, 3 churches, 2 commercial buildings and the Temperance Building/Harriman Museum and Carnegie Library. Note also the number of antique, florist and gift stores operating in Harriman at that time.

Harriman did experience a resurgence of enthusiasm in the 1990s that spilled over into the new millennium. After all, Harriman had initiated a Main Street Program, Hooray for Harriman was an annual Labor Day event, and two National Historic Districts were designated. What would change in Harriman in the New Year/Decade/Century/Millennium?

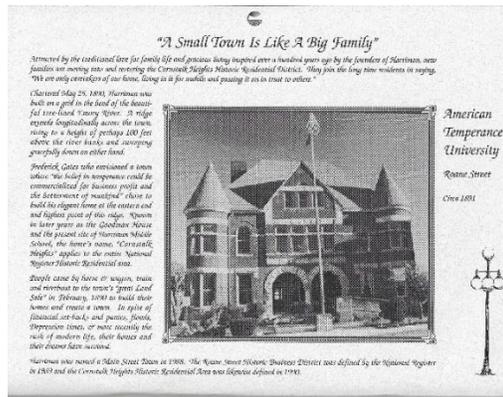
Well, at first things just sort of slowed down. Nearly all the businesses featured in the 1999 Christmas Tour no longer exist. To define a single reason for a decline is hardly ever accurate. However, the Main Street Program, used nationwide to promote downtown revitalization, ceased to exist in Harriman. And while new residents moved in to historic homes with high enthusiasm, there was not the wealth coming in to replace the families that ran large businesses.

Family businesses in rural communities tend to be truly small businesses, and in some cases can be a part time enterprise tied to a personal interest. Small businesses are more commonly impacted by personal events which could cause the business to close. Small businesses are also impacted more by economic downturns, which have influenced Harriman’s history since its inception. Each of us can remember the Great Recession of 2008 and the instability that it caused in both urban and rural environments.

However, the opening decade of 2000 did change the landscape of Harriman, part of which was contentious. Chris Mason won the Mayoral election in June 2007, and was immediately congratulated by Roane Medical Center Administrator Jim Gann with the news that the

hospital (at that time still controlled by the City) would need to sell to Covenant Health or go bankrupt. Nearly simultaneously, the Harriman City Council approved the Harriman Urban Growth Boundary Report in October 2007, while the City Council of Kingston resolved to hold a referendum to annex the same territory which was outside of its urban growth boundary as it existed in their approved Growth Plan. The “territory” of contention – the area commonly known as Midtown near I40, Exit 350. For a while even the residents of Midtown attempted to incorporate themselves, however the municipality was deemed too small by the State. Lawsuits and appeals were traded back and forth for several years until the Harriman annexation ultimately won out in the courts.

This set the scene for development within the Harriman city limits along Hwy 70, including bringing in a Lowes Home Center and the relocation of Kroger to a much larger footprint for its grocery store, pharmacy and more. Soon after Covenant Health obtained control of the Roane Medical Center, it was also announced that the current hospital located in downtown Harriman was to be replaced by a new medical plaza South of the Pinnacle Point Plaza.



Inside flap of 1999 Christmas Tour recognizes “A Small Town Is Like A Big Family”

But Harriman has remained a small town like a big family. Several of us have lived in places where you don’t know your neighbors, you don’t know your business owners and you don’t know your city or school officials and employees. Regardless of the challenges and the occasional changes in direction, Harriman seems to have a vision with expectations for more progress in the future.

Historic Harriman Hall Renovation Work Day 9 AM – 1 PM June 26th

The next Harriman Hall workday has been scheduled from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, June 26th. We got a great jump during the May workday on cleaning the foundation along Cumberland St, opening up some of the lower-level windows, and cleaning out debris from the lower rooms. Final repairs and finishes may be performed in June.

In general, renovation work in 2021 will focus on:

- Exterior Improvements along Cumberland St
- Finish Primary Entrance & Porch
- Interior Cleanout

The June 26th workday will continue along the Cumberland Street façade with primer paint and window repairs. Some individuals are working independently on replacing rotted trim and closing up access points in the siding and trim. Work on the Morgan Ave façade will complete the final coat of paint to the masonry foundation, and cleaning, touch-up painting and placement of protective plexiglass over the stained-glass windows. Interior work will continue to remove debris from the lower-level rooms and front two conference rooms.

Historic Harriman Hall Fundraising

Well, we've done it. But we can't stop now – we're just beginning.

Historic Harriman Hall is now an asset of the Cornstalk Heights Historical Community Organization (CHHCO). **In the Year of the Pandemic**, we replaced the rotted roof decking, installed quality roof shingles, installed a new sign, began cleanout of the interior, and finished the Morgan Avenue façade renovation. People are enthusiastic about the accomplishments.

But more needs to be done. We need renovation funds to fund the next phase of work for exterior improvements along Cumberland Street, to finish the primary entrance and porch, and to continue the interior cleanout.

Please consider giving to what matters most to you – the exterior renovation, interior improvements, or where there is the most need.

We also encourage you to consider sponsoring the renovation of a sanctuary window at the donation level of \$1,500. The windows will have special nameplates to honor or memorialize of the donor's choosing. Would you please consider responding with your pledge, one time gift, or designated gift now? ***We do need your help!***

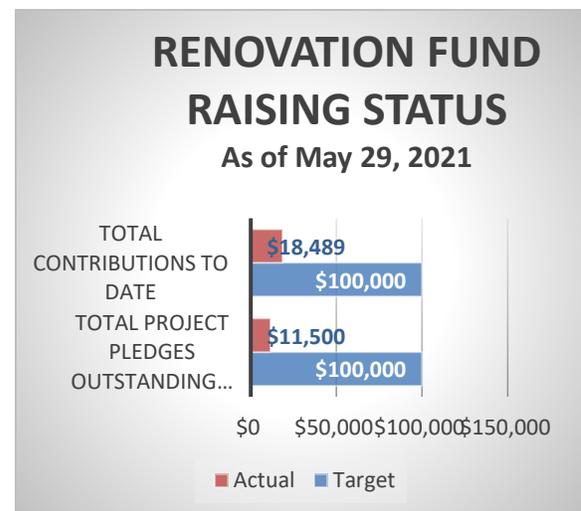
All donors contributing towards the cost of renovation and equipment will be recognized according to their cumulative level of giving noted below, on a permanent plaque to be placed at the completion of renovations.

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

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Memorial Day	1	2	3	4 5:30 Pre-Show Dinner (by Reservation) The Walden 7:00 "Southern Fried Funeral" Princess Theatre	5 9 - 5 Antique Tractor & Equipment Show Brett's, 308 Trenton 2:00 & 7:00 "Southern Fried Funeral" Princess Theatre
6 2:00 "Southern Fried Funeral" Princess Theatre	7	8	9 11-2 Lunchtime Food Truck @ old Hosp Parking	10	11 5 - 8 Merchant's Friday Nights on Roane & Food/Dessert Trucks	12
13 1:00 CHHCO Picnic Killeffer Park	14	15	16 11-2 Lunchtime Food Truck @ old Hosp Parking	17 7:00 CHHCO Board Meeting 501 Roane, 2nd Flr Visitors Welcome	18	19
20 Father's Day	21	22	23 11-2 Lunchtime Food Truck @ old Hosp Parking	24	25 7:00 Yankee Doodle Mayhem (Murder Mystery) The Walden	26 9 - 1 Harriman Hall Workday 7:00 Yankee Doodle Mayhem (Murder Mystery) The Walden
27	28	29	30 11-2 Lunchtime Food Truck @ old Hosp Parking			