

Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation President's Annual Report 2018

Our Mission: “to preserve, restore, protect, and maintain the historic structure in Waynesville, Missouri known as the ‘Old Stagecoach Stop’ in order to permit its educational value to be appreciated by future generations; to engage in educational and charitable activities related to the ‘Old Stagecoach Stop’.”

Another blessed year at the Old Stagecoach Stop in downtown Waynesville, MO! Over 1,500 people have enjoyed the unique history we are privileged to share through tours and festivals. Comments like, “Amazing!” “Awesome!” “Great tour!” “Very educational!” and “Great history!” in our Visitors’ Register assure us that our most historic museum continues to delight and amaze people from all over our community, country, and world. We hosted visitors from 36 states and seven countries, including Australia, China, Germany, Japan, Latvia, Peru, and the United Kingdom. Additional tours this year were special groups including the Leadership group from the Waynesville-St. Robert Chamber of Commerce, CPAC of Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, a Girl Scout troop from Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, groups from Columbia, MO, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and an Open House honoring Gary Knehans’ many years of service to the community. In addition to tours, we also participated in Freedom Fest in June, Old Settlers Day in July, Oktoberfest in October, and Christmas on the Square in December.

Old Settlers Day, which was again organized by the Pulaski County Museum, brought a special visit from “General Ulysses S. Grant” and Civil War Re-enactors who provided demonstrations in the city park where they staged several battles throughout the day. These activities, in addition to the regular vendors and booths, brought many visitors to the Old Stagecoach Stop. Special thanks to David Chuber for his very interesting demonstration of Civil War medicine. And special thanks to the Bell Motel for providing a special shuttle to and from the city park activities.

Christmas on the Square, 2017 provided the most visitors to the Old Stagecoach Stop. Counting the cups used as people stream through the Stop for the Christmas cookies, breads, sandwiches, hot coffee, hot chocolate, and hot apple cider provided by Board members, we had over 600 visitors during that one evening alone. The warm fireplaces and the dulcimer music by one of our Board members and her friends helped to make it a memorable evening.

The Old Stagecoach Stop Museum was open every Saturday from April through September in 2018. We will also be open on December 6th for Christmas on the Square in downtown Waynesville from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. There will be hot drinks and lots of food for the many people who pass through to warm up and get a few snacks.

Due to the age of the Old Stagecoach Stop building, various maintenance issues always need attention. Thanks to the tireless efforts of several volunteers, many issues have been resolved. Some of those involve extensive updates including patching and repainting plaster on walls, repairing and repainting doors, jams, and trim, deep cleaning the dentist chair and equipment, installing a new flagpole and holder on the upstairs balcony, cleaning gutters, repairing a leaking condensation drain on upstairs HVAC, and finally getting the malfunctioning gas logs repaired by the fireplace provider.

New items added to enhance display activities and tours include building a period bed key for the rope bed in the cabin room, an oak hanger for the mirror in the cabin room, an oak and plexi-glass donation

box, and hanging a county plat map in the downstairs kitchen. Enhanced features include fake milk, eggs, and period containers in the downstairs ice box along with real blocks of ice, a period kraut cutter, coffee grinder, and ice shaver, cherry pits for the cherry pitter and coffee beans for the coffee grinder all in the downstairs kitchen. Other features include real coal in buckets in the dentist room and upstairs kitchen along with a period coal shovel, a gourd water dipper and gourd bowl with black walnut in the cabin room, and wild turkey feather pens for the visitors register book.

In the Civil War room, a laser pointer was installed highlighting the OSS in a Civil War-era painting of the town, two "canvas" reproductions of Civil War-era renditions of Waynesville were hung, and the Civil War map of Missouri was reframed.

Another area of great concern is the McNeese building behind the Stagecoach Stop. The building has developed several small leaks in the roof. We are trying to stop these before doing some renovation to the building to make it more useful to the Foundation. The World War II building's roof is decked with one-inch boards, rather than sheathed with plywood as is the custom today, which is part of the problem. Work that has already been done on the building includes sealing five leaks in the roof and dormers, replacing rotten windowsills, along with re-caulking all windows and doorframes and silicon sealing all cracks in masonry, two coats of flat white paint to all exterior woodwork, and major cleaning and reorganizing of the interior. We plan on replacing the acoustical tile ceiling, which is water damaged, and upgrading the lighting. Outside the building, bushes and trees have been pruned and trimmed, including a cleared trail to the parking lot behind the bank. Major volunteers for all of this work were Terry Primas and Mark Zurbrick, along with some contributions by several other members of the Board. We are also thankful for the volunteers from the EBOLC Leadership Class led by Shane Howley and his dad, Shawn Howley who cleaned the back yard of the OSS. We are grateful for all the time and energy devoted to improving and maintaining our most historic building. Please stop by next spring to see all of these improvements!

A huge thanks to all of those businesses who supported The Old Stagecoach Stop with ads in the *Old Settlers Gazette*, our annual historical edition of past and present news of Pulaski County. Spring brought out the hardy ad sales team (aka OSS Board members) to contact businesses for ads in the Gazette. After months of intensive writing and editing by Terry and Jan Primas, the free *Gazettes* were delivered to advertisers and locations around the county and also mailed to patrons throughout the U.S. The entire profit from this project goes to the continued restoration and maintenance of our historic building. A special thank-you to all of the other volunteers who make this and all of the Stagecoach Stop activities an on-going preservation of history for this community.

The Old Stagecoach Stop website, oldstagecoachstop.org continues our mission of preserving the history of the Stop and surrounding area. It includes historic pictures, archives of all the *Old Settlers Gazettes*, and a rich source for research of our county. Visit our page at [facebook.com/Old Stagecoach Stop](https://www.facebook.com/OldStagecoachStop).

As we look back on 2018, we reflect on the great privilege of continuing the goals established by the Founders of this most historic Old Stagecoach Stop. We are proud to be situated along Route 66 which is bringing many travelers who are touring the "Mother Road" from Chicago to Santa Monica to revisit this era of American history. We are thankful that so many people from our area, from around the country, and from around the world have visited and enjoyed this history preserved for us and for future generations.