

Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation President's Annual Report 2021

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'."

It's been another difficult year for those of us who love to share the amazing history of the Old Stagecoach Stop. Due to the current county health status and our concerns for the health and safety of our volunteers and visitors, we had to limit our activities. We chose to be open by appointment only this season to able to control the numbers and times of the visitors. Our main concern was providing a safe environment for our volunteers and visitors. We were able to share our wonderful history with a large number of people, although not nearly as many as usual.

Again this year, we were not able to provide our huge table of goodies and drinks for the 2021 annual Christmas on the Square, our most popular event of the year. Each year, we have more than 600+ people passing through our doors to enjoy our 1915 kitchen full of Christmas cookies, breads, sandwiches, hot chocolate, hot apple cider, and hot coffee provided by Old Stagecoach Stop board members, coupled with warm fireplaces and dulcimer music by board member, Pam Barnabee. We have served food and drinks at Christmas on the Square since it began in 1997, so we fervently pray that we will again be able to do this in 2022.

In spite of unexpected challenges, we were able to publish and distribute the annual Old Settlers Gazette throughout the community and beyond for the enjoyment of our faithful advertisers and readers. A huge thanks to our able volunteers and to all of our advertisers who themselves were often struggling to keep their small businesses open, but who were still generously supportive of our efforts. Thanks to Jan and Terry Primas's deft typing and layout skills, the Gazette was published and distributed on time!

We were thrilled to be able to host two lovely weddings at the Old Stagecoach Stop this year. On August 25, 2021, Camryn Bickerstaff and Austin Sprenger were united in marriage, officiated by Angel Sundance Serenity, minister of Serenity Country Chapel Weddings. Kim Chenoa and Calvin Johnson were united in marriage on September 20, 2021, officiated by Brandon Swartz.



What a great venue for starting a new life together. As Laura Huffman commented, "I love that this old building is still the site of new beginnings and momentous occasions." If you are looking for an unusual setting for a small wedding, please keep the Old Stagecoach Stop in mind.

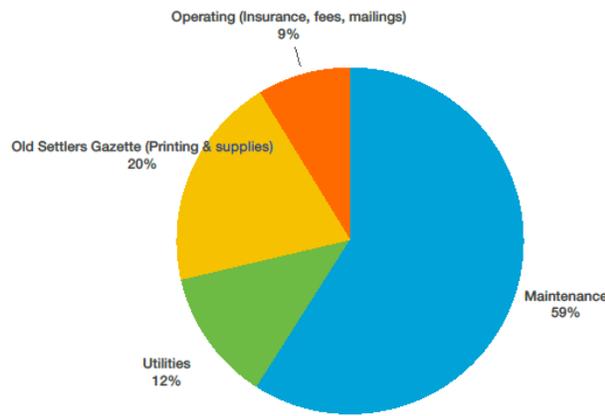
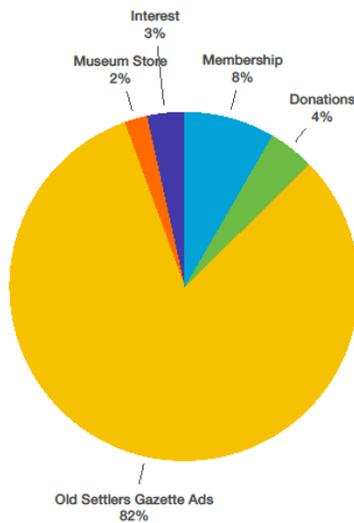
Various activities took place this year in spite of being unable to be open full time for the season. Some of the logs needed replacement chinking, the storage room was enhanced, the first-floor central air conditioning unit was repaired, and the condensation pump was replaced. Additions to the displays inside the Old Stagecoach Stop include a framed print of a 1918 painting of an unnamed Army dentist during World War I which was added to the Dentist Room, a ceramic jug and a sealed wooden bucket in the McDonald Cabin, and a cloth early Civil War-period haversack with samples of hardtack and rifled musket cartridges in the Civil War room. On the outside, the gutters were cleaned in the spring and the fall, the exterior, the sidewalk, and the donation bricks were power washed, and old trees, bushes, and vines adjacent to the McNeese building were removed. The McNeese building is the red brick one-story building in the back of the property. This building needed renovation, so the east room was remodeled, storage items were sorted and cleaned out, and the sagging ceiling was removed.

Thanks to Lowe’s for offering help via their Hero’s community betterment program. In mid-October, volunteers from Lowe’s brought materials, tools, and expertise to put in a new beadboard ceiling, LED lights, ceiling fan, built-in shelving and storage containers, fold-down stairwell into the attic, and a fresh coat of paint. The two remodeled rooms can now be used for our meeting room, as well as other activities. They also provided materials for a three-foot wide border of river rock edged with concrete flagstones around three sides of the OSS. A number of Lowe’s associates, plus a group of young people from the local Scout Troop 202 completed this project. Many thanks to Lowe’s, the Scout Troop, and all the volunteers for this wonderful improvement to our beloved Old Stagecoach Stop.

Annual Treasurer’s Report:

FY 2020 Income	
Membership	\$1095.00
Donations	\$564.26
Old Settlers Gazette Ads	\$10750.00
Museum Store	\$278.05
Special Tours	\$0.00
Interest	\$456.58

FY 2020 Expenditures	
Maintenance	\$7047.56
Utilities	\$1470.77
Old Settlers Gazette (Printing & supplies)	\$2380.00
Operating (Insurance, fees, mailings)	\$1045.86
Museum Store Inventory	\$0.00
Exhibits & Events	\$0.00



Our website, www.oldstagecoachstop.org continues our mission of preserving the history of the Old Stagecoach Stop and the surrounding area. It includes historic pictures, archives of all the *Old Settlers Gazettes*, and podcasts with past residents telling stories from the “old days,” including Dru Pippin, Jaretta Laughlin, Robert Lee Bates, Pearl Brown Wilson, Louise Skaggs, Jiggs & Dorothy Miller, and Irene Mitchell Morgan.

Another popular feature on our website is a virtual tour where visitors can start a guided tour or click on a map of the building and explore each room. Terry Primas spent many hours taking pictures, processing historic images, and laying out and revising the new web pages. With assistance from his wife, Jan, the virtual tour was completed and now provides an enjoyable journey for visitors. The website is a rich source for research of our county.

Also, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OldStagecoachStop where Jan Primas posts many lovely pictures of the Stagecoach Stop as well as short stories or articles from yesteryear.

As we look back on 2021, we reflect on the challenges of this most unusual year and are grateful for the great privilege of continuing to meet the goals established by the founders of this historic site. We are thankful that so many people from our area, from around the country, and from around the world have visited and enjoyed our museum, faithfully preserved for future generations. We are looking forward to 2022 and hope to again open the Old Stagecoach Stop Museum as in past years -- traditionally every Saturday from April through September, plus numerous special events.