

# Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation President's Annual Report 2022

*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'."*

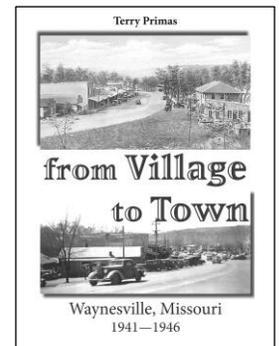
It's been a wonderful year! We were able to open the Old Stagecoach Stop and welcome visitors in our usual manner, sharing our amazing history with all who came through our doors. We had extended weeks this year, being open every Saturday from April through October. The total number of visitors to the OSS in 2022 of 1,611 is the third highest number of visitors for a single year in the museum's 29-year history.

We were thrilled to once again participate in the annual Christmas on the Square, our most popular event of the year. This year, we had 794 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. We have served food and drinks at Christmas on the Square since it began in 1997.

Thanks to community support and our able volunteers, we published and distributed the annual Old Settlers Gazette throughout the community and beyond for the enjoyment of our faithful advertisers and readers. A huge thanks to all of our advertisers who were generously supportive of our efforts. Thanks to Terry Primas's deft writing, typing and layout skills, the Gazette was published and distributed on time! Also, thanks to the board members who pounded the streets to contact advertisers and then delivered the bundles to them.

We were saddened these last two years with the loss of two of our Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation members. John Jarrett who served on the Foundation Board from 1988-2001 and held the office of President from 1990-1993 passed away on Thursday, October 15, 2021. Anna Marie Reigle served on the board from 1998-2009 and volunteered at the Stop for many years until her health declined. She passed away on September 13, 2022 at the age of 93. We miss their smiling faces and their enthusiasm for our historical setting.

from Village to Town, a new book by Terry Primas was introduced this fall and was available at Christmas on the Square. "The construction of Ft. Leonard Wood was tumultuous for Pulaski County and the change it wrought was nothing short of transformative for Waynesville during World War II years of 1941-1945, which is the central time span of this book. Waynesville metamorphosed from a small Ozark village of dirt streets with no names to a town with municipal services and a robust economy. That is the story I have tried to tell," says Primas.



## **Maintenance and Repair**

**Donor Brick "Vandalism"** In March, a number of the donation bricks in front of the OSS were uprooted. The culprit was an overly energetic mole or moles. The bricks were reset after the sand substrate was treated with several products purported to disperse or eliminate these tunneling rodents. While the bricks remained in place during the remainder of the summer, they were again uprooted in the fall after the OSS had closed for the season. Hopefully we will be able to report better success in eliminating this problem next year.

**Storage Room Remodel** The west storage room of the McNeese building was completely emptied of its cluttered contents and the walls and ceiling were patched and repainted. We also installed racks to hold and better organize building supplies, tools, and ladders.

**Leak Repair** Shortly after opening in April, a large puddle of water was discovered in the Civil War Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. It was initially suspected that the water was via a leak in the cedar shingle roof. However, subsequent heavy rainstorms did not result in additional water inside the building, causing a scratching of heads and shrugging of shoulders. The mystery was finally solved during an end of season cleanup, when water again showed back up in the Civil Room. The culprit turned out to be the many-decades-old putty seal in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor kitchen sink... which had not been used since the spring. A new seal was installed that will hopefully last many more decades.

**Ductwork Repairs** During the chilly days at the beginning of the season, volunteers noticed a lack of warm air coming from a number of 1st floor vents. A flashlight visit to the cellar and crawl-space revealed scattered pieces of insulation

and completely severed sections of flexible ductwork. A subsequently deployed game-camera revealed the cause of this destruction to be a groundhog whose tunneling had also collapsed several concrete block columns supporting 1860s log floor joists. The furry vandal succumbed to a cantaloupe-baited live trap and is now living far, far away from the OSS. All potential entrances to the crawlspace were blocked. Many bucket loads of dirt and rock debris that had covered the cellar's concrete floor for decades, was used to fill in the groundhog holes, allowing the concrete supports to be rebuilt. A local HVAC company repaired and replaced the ductwork at a cost of about \$1,200.

**Other Repairs “Down Under”** In addition to fixing the ductwork, the masonry was repaired or replaced at the entrance to the cellar, along with the rebuilding and repainting of the cellar door, which had become increasingly hard to open due to the encroaching roots of the large hackberry tree on the north side of the OSS. Volunteers also installed an electrical outlet in the cellar and replaced and upgraded lighting and switches.

**Insect Control** Long-time supporters of the OSS, Show-Me Pest Control, treated the entire building for termites and other potential creepy-crawlers, FREE of CHARGE.

**Assorted Exterior Maintenance** The gutters were cleaned out in June, and again in November. We also kept the exterior of the OSS facing the square bright and clean with a thorough power washing twice during the season. The sidewalk and donation bricks were also power washed and all weeds in the cracks removed. A section of dry-rotted trim on the balcony was replaced, with other cracks and gaps in the exterior siding caulked and repainted.

**Lighting The Way** Like any home, light bulbs at the OSS occasionally refused to produce light when a switch is flipped, and we had our share of darkened spaces in 2022. We had to replace two broken or worn-out sockets and light bulbs in five rooms, plus the “attic display” in the 1950's Room. We replaced all of these old incandescent bulbs with cheaper to use, and longer-lasting, LED bulbs.

### Displays

**Toothy Signage** The revised display on the north wall of the Dentist Room was completed with the addition of two framed 1920s advertisements for toothpaste featuring a young boy and girl smiling while brushing their teeth. Information regarding a photo and painting, of Dr. James Titterington's while he served an Army oral surgeon, were also developed and placed on the wall.

**New Additions to an “Old” Room** The Archeology Room received a makeover this summer. A set of oak floor cabinets with a butcher-block top, that matched the existing wall display cabinets, was installed. These cabinets now hold past copies of the Old Settlers Gazette and a supply of books for sale. An oak book stand, large enough to display the six books we currently have for sale (including two new books by Terry Primas) was built, along with a wall rack to display free tourism pamphlets and OSS newsletters. A wooden step stool was fabricated to allow smaller visitors to the OSS to have an eye-level view of the historic artifacts. These improvements were made possible by a generous donation of \$600 worth of cabinets and countertops by Lowes Home Improvement in St. Robert along with labor and other materials valued at another \$400 that were provided by an OSS volunteer.

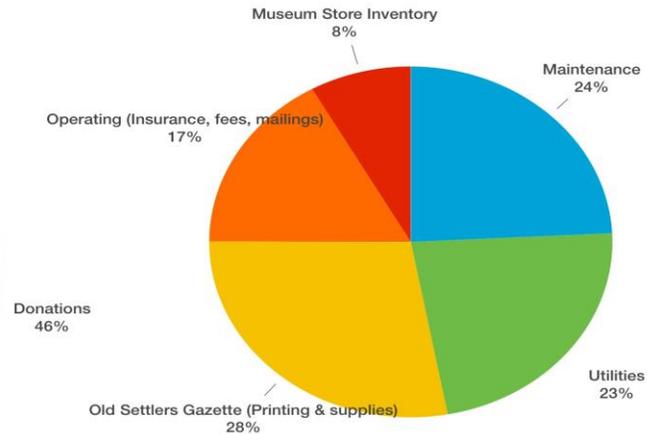
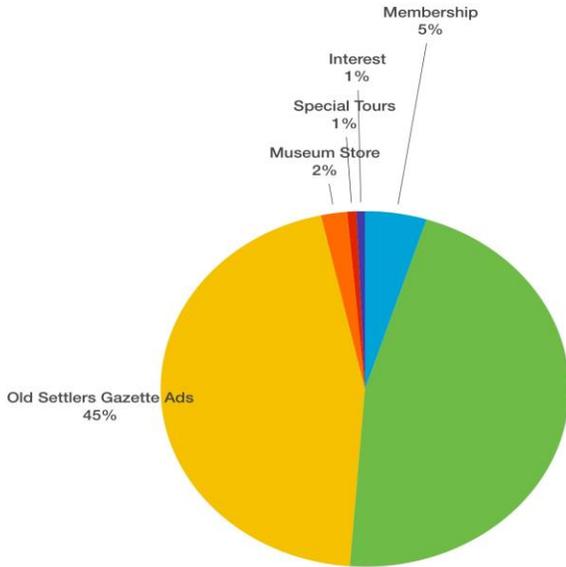
**Civil War Seat** David Chuber, who has presented seminars on medical care during the Civil War during Old Settlers Day for a number of years, left this year's event minus an exact copy of a Union Army Camp Chair. The beautiful bentwood reproduction, patterned from an original chair, was handcrafted by David himself. Thanks to his generous donation, future OSS visitors will see the chair and will be able to imagine Ulysses Grant, cigar in mouth, sitting in his camp chair planning the Union Army's next move.

**Signs of the Times** A number of custom-built signs were fabricated and installed by volunteers this year. These included a heavy-duty “Balcony Closed” sign that we use when the OSS is decorated for the holiday season, along with two custom-printed “Free Admission” coroplast signs that were added to our existing outdoor bi-fold and hanging signs used on Saturdays. We also changed our regular 8<sup>1/2</sup> x 11 signage regarding when we are open, to reflect being open through October, rather than shutting our doors at the end of September. A wooden holder was installed next to each entrance door to display any announcements that we had just taped to the door in the past. And finally, two long over-due signs were placed in the remodeled meeting rooms in the McNeese building. The east room, where we conduct board meetings and archive OSS papers, is now officially called the Farnham Room, while the west room, which will be used for special events and activities, is now the Primas Room.

**Another “Type” of Display** A 1946 Underwood typewriter in near mint condition, was purchased and donated to the OSS for display on the desk in the 1950's room to show our younger visitors what was around before electronic keyboards, monitors and printers. This same model of typewriter was used by Ernest Hemingway.

FY 2021 Income	
Membership	\$1160.00
Donations	\$11030.62
Old Settlers Gazette Ads	\$10800.00
Museum Store	\$493.20
Special Tours	\$171.00
Interest	\$161.79

FY 2021 Expenditures	
Maintenance	\$2115.29
Utilities	\$1997.88
Old Settlers Gazette (Printing & supplies)	\$2445.20
Operating (Insurance, fees, mailings)	\$1470.26
Museum Store Inventory	\$711.89
Exhibits & Events	\$0.00



The Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation is a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

**Memberships, November 2021 - October 2022**

Individual - New-1, Renewal-1; Family – New-0, Renewal-1; Patron – New-1, Renewal -4; Sponsor – New-2, Renewal-2; Life – New-2; Existing - 43

Our website, [www.oldstagecoachstop.org](http://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. The virtual tour 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](https://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 2022, we 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 have visited and enjoyed our museum, faithfully preserved for future generations. We are looking forward to 2023 being open to share our amazing history every Saturday from April through September (October), plus numerous special events.