

ROWLESBURG RIVER LINES



P.O. Box 135
Rowlesburg, WV 26425



Rowlesburg Revitalization Committee, Inc.

Website: <http://www.rowlesburg.org>

Newsletter # 4 - June, 2005

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Greetings to Friends, Near and Far

We are so encouraged by your response to the newsletter and your generosity in buying bricks for the Pathway to Renewal in Main Street Garden and by your donations toward the re-awakening process in the valley. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

An Invitation to Enjoy Labor Day Weekend Festivities:

Railroad Reunion Day:

The Town of Rowlesburg wants to recapture the excitement of railroading by hosting railroaders, their families, model train enthusiasts, young and old, and just plain kids and families who are interested in trains. Rowlesburg still is a great place to watch trains.

RAHS Train Depot Museum dedication will take place on Saturday, September 3, 2005 at 11:30 A.M. and the model train exhibits will be open to the public at noon. The Train Depot Museum also houses B&O memorabilia and many priceless old photos.

Model trains will be set up in the Train Depot

Museum and the new Ambulance Function Hall near the railroad crossing on Route 72. The Mon Valley Model Railroad Club will be bringing its large 24 foot mobile layout. The Northern Virginia Model Railroad Club is bringing its mobile layout which is also 24 feet in length. On Saturday, Sunday and Monday, all of the model trains will be on display from 10:00 am to 4:00 P.M.

For the kids, a Toy Train Contest for ages 4 to 12 will be held on Saturday, September 3rd from 2:00-6:00. All kids are invited to join in and bring their favorites - from wooden Thomas trains to trains kids can ride on. The toy trains do not have to be powered to enter the contest. The trains will be set up in the pavilions in the Rowlesburg Park.

In addition, the Rowlesburg Revitalization Committee and the Area Historical Society will sponsor rides to the top of Cannon Hill so that folks can get a bird's eye view of the town and the railroad that built it.

Food and music will be offered in the Rowlesburg Park from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M all weekend.

Alumni Tent:

RRC will have a welcome tent located next to the park on the river side across from the high school. Please stop by and say "hello" to old friends. Sign-up sheets for Cannon Hill trips will be available here.

Pedal and Paddle Day:

Big Rowlesburg Labor Day River and Bicycling Festival on Sunday, September 4, 2005!

Rowlesburg is in the heart of excellent white water country. We are inviting bicycle clubs and paddling clubs to an old fashioned mountain and river festival in Rowlesburg, scheduled Sunday, September 4, 2005.

The Narrows from Rowlesburg to Pringle Run is nine miles of challenging Class II and III water. The scenery is beautiful and pristine. The Rowlesburg Park is ideal for putting in and staging the pickups at Pringle Run. For the more advanced paddlers, there is the run through the Canyon starting at Albright.



Your Name engraved
on a Brick

Join RRC - \$10 per year
\$200 Lifetime

For bicyclists, several challenging routes begin and end at the Rowlesburg Park. 40 mile rides: (1) Starting at the Rowlesburg Park, follow Rt. 72 to St. George. Take Location Road up steep hill coming out on Rt. 50 at Aurora. Follow Rt. 50 West to Cheat Mountain, back down to Cheat River and then taking Rt. 72 back to Rowlesburg Park. (2) Starting at the Rowlesburg Park, cross the river and take Salt Lick Road to Terra Alta. From Terra Alta, follow Limestone Road to Aurora and follow Rt. 50 west down Cheat Mountain and back to Rowlesburg on Rt. 72. For backbreaker rides, take Rt. 72 south to Johnathan Run Road just before St. George. The trip comes out on Rt. 38 at the top of the mountain and back down to St. George. Return to Rowlesburg on Rt. 72.

The bicycling and boating events will start in the morning with a hearty breakfast of eggs, bacon, biscuits, sausage gravy and plenty of coffee served up by the Rowlesburg Volunteer Firemen! The day includes carnival rides, model train displays, rides up to the top of Cannon Hill. Things will be capped off by a dinner served in the Rowlesburg Park. Be ready for plenty of barbecued chicken, beans, cornbread, salads and desserts.

Carving Raffle

Two Chances for the Price of One to
Win a Chain Saw Carving by Our Own
Walter "Bud" Shaver.

Win a Handsome Bald Eagle or a Pelican!

Ticket Price:
\$1 each
6 for \$5
30 for \$20

First Name Drawn gets First Choice;
Second Name Drawn wins
Remaining Carving
Winning Ticket
will be drawn on
Labor Day Weekend
2005

Fill out the stubs and mail back with
your check to:

RRC, Inc.
PO Box 135
Rowlesburg, WV 26425

Annual OX Roast:

This is Rowlesburg's modern day Claim to Fame and visitors come from all corners of the USA to partake in a gastronomic treat found only in the Cheat River Valley. The Park/Ambulance/Fire crew lights the barbecue pit fire on Sunday night so that the ox roasts slowly to a moist, melt-in-your mouth tenderness. The fire is tended all night to make sure your portion is of the high quality you expect. (I've heard rumors that the meat is really roast beef, not ox)

In addition to great food, there will be a carnival, rubber duck race, music and other entertainment, plus a finale of fireworks from Cannon Hill over the river.

Main Street Garden :

Work began this week on the brick walkway in the garden. Volunteers donated a bobcat to dig out the trench, a dump truck to haul away soil, and a load of gravel to form the base of the path. We will begin laying the bricks in the next several days and when that is complete we will begin landscaping. We have two concrete lions named "Bud and Belle" to grace the entrance to the garden. Five wrought iron benches with name tags have been donated and one more is available to purchase.

Go to our website <http://www.rowlesburg.org> for a complete list of "brick buyers".

There will be a garden dedication sometime over Labor Day Weekend. Check the website for date and time.

Class Picture Book:

Mayor Barbara Banister did a super job of putting together, in one book, all of the RHS class pictures from 1928 through 1988. The pictures are printed on photo paper and bound very nicely with a spiral spine. Only 1934 is missing because no yearbook was printed for whatever reason.

The book will be on display in the RRC tent and if enough people show an interest, we will take orders and publish copies.

Historic District:

The North Side Historic District has been designated and a future extension will include Riverview Cemetery, The Bricks, South Side, Tray Run Bridge, Railroad Shops and Manheim. Chairperson Anna Nassif is requesting any historic information you may have on historic homes in any of the above areas, including photos, dates, builders, owners, family backgrounds and anecdotes. We hope to have the historic district complete in time for Rowlesburg's 150th birthday in 2008. (See questionnaire) Six wrought iron benches and seven large planters (all with name plates) have been placed along east Main Street.

Website: rowlesburg.org:

We changed the domain name of the RRC website to make it easier to remember and have added pages for the Town of Rowlesburg, Park/Ambulance/Fire Department, Greater Downtown Rowlesburg, and Rowlesburg Area Historical Society. There is lots of information up there so please go take a look. While you're there email the webmaster (me) to say "hi", report broken links , or make suggestions to make the site better.

Donations are Welcome:

Engraved bricks and engraved 8 x 8 tiles are still available for purchase. (See enclosed form)

We are accepting donations for trees, shrubs and gazebo for Main Street Garden. A good size tree will cost \$75-\$100; shrubs can be \$10-\$50; and the gazebo is estimated to cost around \$2,400 for building materials plus labor. A list of donors will be placed in the garden.

One bench for the garden is available at \$200.

Four large planters with Alberta Spruce trees are available to purchase for Main Street at \$311.50, including name plate.

We are also accepting donations for street lamps, waste containers and other items for future placement in the historic district.

Unrestricted gifts are certainly welcome.

RRC, Inc. is a tax-exempt non-profit corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code so your contributions are deductible on your tax returns.

RHS Community Center::

We will acquire and transform the old school into a community center which will be the life hub of Rowlesburg. The 25,000 sq ft building will offer space for activities to every member of the community, providing education, training, social and services to all.

The owner of the building is willing to sell to a non-profit organization with tax-exempt status for considerably less than market value of \$175,000. We will negotiate a reasonable sale price which we will raise through donations, grants, and fund-raisers. Income from present occupants (whitewater rafting and a church), gift shop, cafe, WV craft shop, bike shop, etc. will help cover operating expenses.

A gymnasium complete with basketball hoops and a stage for performing arts plus several classrooms are located on the lower level. This area will be used by the community youth for sports activities, exercise, games, socializing, and education. They will be free to use the facility during specified hours after school, weekends and summers with adult supervision and instruction. This will be accomplished through

cooperation with the school system, the town park commission, state and local agencies, and funding from grant providers.

The gymnasium will also be used for holding benefit concerts, other fund raising activities and as an indoor walking arena during cold, winter months.

We believe this effort will bring together all segments of the community into one community center and the old school will, once again, be the hub of activity for young and old.

We welcome your input since this will be a major project so please contact someone on the committee if you can help in any way.

Those Who Have Ordered Engraved Bricks or Tiles since

Last Newsletter:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| RHS Class of 1951 | Walter M. Grimm, Jr. |
| Richard and Helen Witt Cathell | Howard E. Pyles |
| Jack Fretwell | Carolyn Fields and Harold Cones, Jr. |
| Lee Waybright | Darwin and Marie Straley James |
| Sharon Fretwell Hammond | |
| Clarence and Genevieve Loughry Burns | |
| Lucille Miner Grimm | Everett W. Hart, Jr. |
| Fred "Sonny" Peddicord | Jan L. Cook |
| Paula Peaslee Grimm | RHS Class of 1963 |
| The William and Phoebe Wiles family | |
| Linda and Thomas W. Sanders | |
| Charlotte Gibson | Francis W. Gibson, Jr. |
| Jim and Betty DeWitt Cannon | |
| Harlan and Mary Sypolt Castle | |
| Vivian Phares Marshall | Kathleen Bolyard Frank |
| Donna M. Murray | Margaret Felton Schollar |
| Glenda Hathaway Gray | Doris Wolfe Rooks |
| Kathleen Wolfe Orescanin | Beverly Lantz Volk |
| Walter and Catherine Burke | |
| Dale and Catheline Cathell Martin | |
| Harry and Margot Peaslee Kidwell | |
| RHS Class of 1952 | Leon McCreary |
| Joann Sisler | James E. Weaver, Jr. |
| Twila Fretwell Doegen | Norma Blair Dowling |
| George and Wilda Ridenour Davis | |
| J. Michael Gillette | Don A. Emerson |
| Jerry and Lou Poling | RHS Class of 1954 |
| Rowlesburg Area Historical Society | |
| Joycelyn A. Ayersman | |
| Rowlesburg Lions Club | |

Many of these ordered more than one brick - 63 bricks and 3 tiles.

Honeysuckle Rose?

Rowlesburg is truly a fun place to live. Here you have the small town ambiance where you know your neighbors and you can walk from one end of town to the other in a matter of fifteen minutes, unless you stop to chat with friends along the way.

This lovely new house is ready and waiting for some special owner to call it home.

The home has over 1300 sq. ft. of living space with three bedrooms and two full baths. The master bedroom features a large walk-in closet and private bath. There is a big kitchen/dining area, spacious living room and full basement. An added attraction is the nice covered porch to enjoy lovely summer evenings overlooking the lush, green WV hills and the beautiful Cheat River. The house is located on a gently sloping lot with a walk-out lower level designed for you to finish inside to double your living space. The house is complete with central heat/air and all appliances except washer and dryer.

Interested buyers should contact Doug DeMoss at 816 737-0744 or email him at dvd8@comcast.net.



**Listen to the Call
of the Hills**

Cheers,
Katie Wolfe Orescanin and
George Nassif

Coming Soon!!!
Allegheny Chestnut Festival to celebrate the history and
popularity of the American Chestnut Tree.

Questionnaire

RRC, Inc. is seeking information to supplement the deep and rich history and culture of Rowlesburg from present and former town residents. Gaining such information will eventually lead to having each of the various neighborhoods within the town placed on the national register of historic places. That includes the North End, South End, The Bricks and Manheim.

Information gathered will help Rowlesburg celebrate her 150th birthday in 2008. We hope to compile a historic district walking brochure with a view to making Rowlesburg a destination for cultural tourism.

If you have information to share please answer the following questions:

Name: _____ Address: _____

email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone #: _____

Location of house: _____ Owner/Builder: _____ Year built: _____

Additions/remodels? _____ Year _____

Ancestor: _____ Country of origin: _____

Occupation/Trade: _____

Comments/Anecdotes/HistoricalFacts (attach additional sheet, if needed) _____

Mail to: Ms. Anna Nassif, PO Box 112, Rowlesburg, WV 26425 email: annarnas@aol.com