

montana heritage commission

Spring/Summer 2007



Finding Color

10th Anniversary Celebration set for July 28th

Celebrate Montana's past. Celebrate Montana's present. Celebrate Montana's Future. There is a lot to Celebrate on Saturday, July 28th in Virginia City. This celebration will commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission.

In 1997, Montana set out to rescue, restore and preserve one of Montana's most valuable treasures - Virginia City and Nevada City! Montana's heritage is alive and well thanks to the Montana Heritage Commission. It's purpose: To acquire and manage, on behalf of the State of Montana and its citizenry, properties that possess outstanding historical value, display exceptional qualities worth preserving and are genuinely representative of the state's culture and history. There have been great strides made toward that effort over the last 10 years. ***We want to celebrate the past with you!***

Managing the past is a genuine passion for the Montana Heritage Commission. Where history is always present is in the everyday in Virginia and Nevada City. MHC works tirelessly to bring to life Montana's heritage for today's generations. MHC continues presently each day to save, educate and display Montana's treasures. ***We want to celebrate the present with you!***

Efforts today promise future generations will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Montana's heritage. Preservation and restoration efforts along with living history adventures help guarantee Montana's heritage is not forgotten. The future is bright and history will continue to thrive with the Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission. ***We want to celebrate the future with you!***

Informative tours, a treasure hunt and living history activities will be on tap. Wallace street will be closed from Content Corner to the Opera House for the Street Fair/Flea Market. Starting at 5:00pm good grub will be served up along with live entertainment featuring the [Helena Blues Project](#) for a reasonable fee with all proceeds going toward the continued preservation and promotion of Virginia and Nevada Cities. Join us in celebrating 10 years of commitment to Montana's heritage. Come to Virginia City ***Saturday, July 28th*** for a street fair and anniversary party. Fun guaranteed.

For more information contact Tenlee Atchison at 406-449-6688 or TAtchison@mt.gov.
You can also visit our website at www.montanaheritagecommission.com.

Limited Vendor Space Available

Booth space available for the 10th Anniversary Celebration Street Fair on Saturday, July 28, 2007 in Virginia City on a first come, first serve basis.

Space available on Wallace Street from Content Corner to the Opera House
Cost is \$25.00

Reserve your spot today!

Please Contact:

Tenlee Atchison, MHC Program Coordinator

406-449-6688 TAtchison@mt.gov



Legislative Summary

By Paul Reichert, Interim Director

This year was a critical legislative year because our “base” funding for the MT Heritage Commission was set to expire. We had two requests that were included in the Governors’ budget: 1) to continue our base funding and 2) provide one-time funding to assist with preservation work. The following are some brief highlights from the session.

Continued Base Funding

When the MHC was formed in 1997 it received a small portion of the motel bed tax for a limited amount of time. SB 88 proposed to continue this funding for an additional four years. During the hearing process it was proposed to make this funding permanent. This change was successful and the Governor signed it into law in April. This secures funding for our most basic operations.

Building Preservation - Long Range Building Funds

Our original funding request for \$3 million was reduced to \$2 million during budget negotiations in the special session. HB 4 passed both houses and has been transmitted to the Governor for signature. This state funding is earmarked to keep our building preservation projects moving forward in Nevada and Virginia Cities.

Construction Authority

Unlike most state agencies, the MHC has a professional construction crew. SB 184 clarifies that the MHC

has its own authority to manage construction projects at our historic sites. This bill had strong bipartisan support and was signed into law in April.

Tourism Partners – New Funding

A diverse group of tourism partners proposed a bill to reallocate a portion of the bed and car rental taxes to a diverse list of cultural and heritage groups. SB 284 would create a new funding source for MHC. The bill passed both houses with strong bipartisan support; however, the governor vetoed the bill. The Travel Industry Association of Montana is attempting now to gather enough votes to override the veto which requires a 2/3 vote of the elected members.

I want to thank those who stepped forward to support the MT Heritage Commission and Virginia City during the legislative session.

MT Preservation Alliance

MT Innkeepers Association

MT History Foundation

Many MHC Board Members

Commission and Staff Changes

The Montana Heritage Commission will be saying goodbye to a number of Commissioners whose terms expire this spring. Many thanks to Sen. Bob Hawks, Anne Cossitt and Judy McNally for their dedication, hard work and commitment to this project. You will be missed! Terms are also expiring for Rosana Skelton and Patrick Keim, and we are pleased that they have both reapplied for another term. We are awaiting word from the Governor’s office on new appointments for these five positions. To apply for positions on the Commission or any other state boards, visit <http://governor.mt.gov/>, click on Boards and Councils.

The Helena office is pleased to welcome Tenlee Atchison as our new program coordinator and property manager at Reeder’s Alley. Tenlee has been in the Helena area for about one year as owner/manager of a custom embroidery business. Prior to that, Tenlee was the event coordinator and supervisor at Four Seasons Arena in Great Falls. We have already put Tenlee to work on organizing our office and planning special events. We look forward to many positive changes. Tenlee replaces Linda McClure who accepted a position with Travel Montana in December. Thanks Linda--we wish you the best of luck in your new job.

visit our website at www.montanaheritagecommission.com

Rules Will Help with Deaccession Policy

The MHC has a monumental responsibility to care for and protect the historic assets of Virginia and Nevada Cities. In the mix is nearly 1 million items in our collections, some of which are redundant or of no historic value. MHC does have a deaccession policy but it has not developed a formal administrative process to implement it.

This year we will be proposing new administrative rules to establish a public review process so that selling real or personal property will be allowed. This is an important management tool that most museums and historic agencies have for preserving and protecting the best items in their collections. State law sets some parameters already on how funds raised in this process are to be used, so this is not a public policy for careless action.

If you would like more information about deaccession or the upcoming administrative rules contact Paul Reichert at 406-443-2081, or email preichert2@mt.gov.



The Future of History in VC NC

There are some growing pains in Virginia City. Property is selling and several new housing starts dot the landscape. The summer season continues to attract 1000s of visitors from all over the world. Change in any small town can be unsettling, but we have the added challenge of preserving the historic fabric of the place as well as developing sustainable business models for its use. Our sites also straddle city and county jurisdictions. That's why this year MHC is launching a historic site development plan.

The planning process will detail the projects, infrastructure and program priorities for the sustainable development of Virginia City and Nevada City, and is a joint collaboration with the Town of Virginia City, and Madison County. While progress has been made to stabilize and preserve buildings, care for artifacts, and attract visitors, we do not have a "master plan" that will guide development and future decision-making.

One of our goals with this planning project is to identify services needed to support expanded activity, encouraging transition from a 1-season to a 3-season visitor destination. This development plan will identify specific improvement projects in the study area. It will identify how and where our agencies can expand visitor services, grow existing MHC programs, and offer more educational attractions. This is a fragile historic area and is geographically limited in how much development it can handle. A key objective of this plan will be to create a realistic vision to accommodate growth and change—within careful limits that the residents and local governments can accept.

For more information about this plan contact Paul Reichert at 406-443-2081, or email preichert2@mt.gov.

*In Memory of
Allan Hamilton*

*I wanted to share a few
thoughts about Allan.*

Allan was a true gentleman, a genuine Montanan, full of love for others and his birthplace. He had a great respect for the past, and a seasoned perspective on the future. When he spoke at meetings, my ears perked up, because I knew that I would hear thoughts that I could take to the bank.

Once, while visited his home, he took me into the study to show the mounted elk head high on the wall. I heard the entire story of the hunt, with details about his father, and I felt privileged to be confided in. Allan showed his kindness once again when he invited us to tour the round barn in Sheridan, and hear the history of the building and his efforts to make it last well into the future.

Allan's keen advice led Amy Sullivan and me to Chicago one year, to meet with a potential donor. Allan provided wonderful hospitality, strategic thinking, and practical thoughts as we strived to help Virginia City. He had a fondness for both Nevada City and Virginia City, most recently helping to fix the floors in the Nevada City Music Hall.

In another act of kindness and giving, Allan donated a van (still in use) to the Virginia City project. It was no problem that the van was in Chicago - Allan offered to fly us there to pick up the van. One of the greatest pictures that I never thought that I would see included John Ellingsen in the cockpit of the airplane with Allan. John lives in 1863 and airplanes have not yet been invented. Allan brought John Ellingsen into the new era with that flight and that kind act.

The great smile that greeted all, the sparkling eyes, the kind acts, and the sage words will all be missed, and will be missed by all. Allan dwells in the past now, along with other famous names that helped to make Montana a better place. May God rest his soul.

Washington State University Field School is launched

Jeff MacDonald, Jeff Cleverly, Donny Steeley and Mike Ciani have put the final touches on the Daemes and Corbett homes in preparation for the arrival of graduate Students from Washington State University in Pullman. Virginia City was treated to an open house of the completed project on May 9th.

Heritage Commission staff have been working all winter in preparation for this monumental educational event. Graduate students in the Field of Public History arrive on site on May 14th and will experience a total immersion in aspects involved in running a site such as this. While in Virginia and Nevada Cities students will spend time working with MHC staff on projects as well as on individual research. Results of their research and discoveries will be shared.

The Daemes and Corbett homes will serve as lodging for the students and will also contribute to their experience as many period correct furnishings have given the house a real Victorian flair.

WSU, Professors of History Dr. Orlan Svingen and Robert McCoy will be accompanying their students to site. Both have experience working with National Parks in utilizing graduate students for assessment projects.

Bill Peterson, Curator of Interpretation

Heritage Garden

It's Spring, and time to till the soil and sow seed in the Heritage Garden. Located in a small fenced-in plot next to the Adobetown Schoolhouse in Virginia City, it serves as a local example of a late 19th century garden. Herb, flower and vegetable seeds are carefully chosen from open-pollinated heirloom varieties (the seeds for many of these varieties were saved by hand for generations), as opposed to modern hybrids which produce sterile or unreliable seeds.



By mid-summer, the lush garden adds to Virginia City's "Living History", as volunteer Bobbie Dirks continues to devote many hours to its care. Borage, Sweet Annie, Sunflowers, Orach, Green Zebra Tomatoes, and Bright Lights Swiss Chard are some of this year's plants. Wooden stakes identify each plant's name and its year of origin. The addition of a new interpretive sign is being planned to augment the garden's educational value.

Visitors to the garden are encouraged to learn about heirloom gardening, preserving heritage seed for the future, and foster interest in our agricultural and culinary heritage.



After sitting idle during the winter, the arrastra exhibit at McFarland Curatorial center was completed in April. Interpretive signage will complete the project in early summer.

The Montana Heritage Commission is seeking a permanent Executive Director to oversee historic properties for the State of Montana. For more information visit:

www.montanaheritagecommission.com/Employment.asp

Work with Future Educators at Western Continues

For the past academic year the Montana Heritage Commission and the University of Montana Western's (UMW) education department have worked to bring Montana history to students in a different way. In this innovative collaboration, the staff of the Montana Heritage Commission works with Professor Linda Reiten and other UMW faculty to bring Virginia and Nevada Cities educational message to future teachers in their classroom. In March, Archaeologist, Cecile Gevock, Curator of Collections Janna Norby, and Curator of Interpretation, Bill Peterson spent two days with these students helping them understand how they can utilize sites like ours in their future work. Students also spent a day exploring Virginia and Nevada Cities.

Often museums are required to all of the work in educational outreach. Many of Montana's smaller museums simply do not have the staff and the budget for this kind of educational activity. As a result, students often miss a rich, interdisciplinary educational experience. This program is designed to capture teachers early in their educational careers and teach them how to utilize these museums and heritage sites as they develop their lesson plans. By teaching teachers how to incorporate our rich heritage collections in their professional development we will benefit all of Montana's museums.

Join Historic Virginia City Today! visit virginiacitymt.com for details

National Center for Preservation Training and Technology Sends Representative

The National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) sent Heritage Education Coordinator, Christine Faith to Alder Gulch in March. The center is dedicated to advancing the application of science and technology to historic preservation. Working in the fields of archeology, architecture, landscape architecture and materials conservation, the Center accomplishes

its mission through training, education, research, technology transfer and partnerships.

The NCPTT is always interested in seeing examples of heritage and preservation education at work. Ms. Faith's visit coincided with Heritage Commission staff's classroom time and site visit with Dr. Linda Reiten's education students at the University of Montana Western. There was not enough time to take it all in, and six inches of fresh snow during Ms. Faith's visit didn't help, however she was impressed with the quality of

the State's resource and its potential value as a key part of the American West's educational infrastructure.

NCPTT is an important part of our nation's preservation and conservation community—which, in turn, is a vital part of our nation's cultural life. NCPTT serves the community that fostered its creation—and, in turn, serves the nation and the world. Montana and the nation will certainly benefit by a strong professional relationship between the Montana Heritage Commission and the Center.

MHC to award 48 Presidential Volunteer Service Awards

The Montana Heritage Commission's Volunteers donated over 20,000 hours of service during the 2006 field season. Our volunteers have worked hard to meet the needs of the Virginia City and Nevada City site investing many hours to meet the many challenges that surfaced during the year. Projects included; Living History; Alder Gulch Shortline train crew, Americorps, maintenance, Reeders Alley, Soporomist, Youth Challenge, Elderhostel, curatorial, and preservation projects. In recognition of the accomplishments of our volunteers the MHC is proud to announce that 48 individuals will be receiving the PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, a prestigious national honor offered in recognition of volunteer commitment. Established in 2003, this award is given by the President of the United States and honors individuals, families and groups who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to volunteer service over the course of 12 months. Children, adults, families and groups can receive the AWARD and, given their ongoing service activity, many of our volunteers already meet the requirements. To qualify for the PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, volunteer hours are registered nationally and must be completed within the 12 month period prior to the award cutoff date, volunteers can qualify for a new award each year.

The PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation – created by President George W. Bush to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers make to our nation.

This years award recipients are:

Amanda Westbroek
Carson Scott
Dave Sweet
Bryan Loveland
Dale Johnson
Jason Kirby
Lander Scott
Musette Butler
Rick Butler
Ann Goldthwaite
James Maxwell
Shelly Theimer
Toni James

Barbara J. Dirks
Duel Thyer
J. P. Johnson
Cindy Westbroek
Donna MacNamara
Jeanette Lewis
Laura Baus
Niki Mackensen
Ted Lewis
Carol Lea Bushnell
Joe Bushnell
Sherry LeNeve

Brenda Thyer
Edna Mae Leonard
Roger Williams
Scott Westbroek
Electa Loveland
John Salas
Marissa Butler
Penny McNeel
Terry Drought
Cindy Drought
Joel King
Sue Leferink

Wayland Ray Clark
Dave Calendine
Sterling Schmidt
Coby Johnson
Jason Loveland
Joleen Salas
Megan Loveland
Richard Hoppe
Glenn Goldthwaite
Eric Edelman
Karl Theimer
Tom Owens



Montana History Education Trunk Now Available for School Use

Education intern Megan Doornbos has spent the winter developing a trunk of traveling history to supplement our school tour program. This trunk gives teachers the opportunity to bring a little bit of Alder Gulch into their classrooms whether or not they can make a visit to the site or not. Through the objects in this trunk students can explore change in everyday goods over time.

If you are interested in obtaining the trunk for your classroom please call Bill Peterson at 406-843-5347 ext 208 or email him at billpeterson@mt.gov.

Pioneer Cabin at
Reeders Alley Now Open



Tours will be offered soon. For information and schedules. Please call 406-449-6688

Backyard Garden now available for your special event. Please call 406-449-6848 to book your date!

**Living history
at Nevada City**

<i>Old Fashioned 4th of July</i>	<i>June 30 - July 4</i>
<i>Life in the Gold Camps</i>	<i>July 6-8</i>
<i>Capture of Steve Marshland</i>	<i>July 13-15</i>
<i>Alder Gulch Legends</i>	<i>July 20-22</i>
<i>Social Life in victorian Montana</i>	<i>July 27-29</i>
<i>Placer Gold</i>	<i>August 3-5</i>
<i>New Innovations in the West</i>	<i>August 10-12</i>
<i>Transportation & Supplies to Alder Gulch</i>	<i>August 17-19</i>
<i>The Road to Statehood</i>	<i>August 24-26</i>
<i>The End of the Innocents and Jack Slade</i>	<i>Aug 31- Sept 3</i>
<i>All Hallows Eve</i>	<i>October 27</i>
<i>Christmas Past</i>	<i>December 1</i>

Montana SHRAB Announces Funding for Scholarships, Assistance June 2007

The Montana State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) is pleased to announce the continued availability of scholarships of up to \$1,000 to paid and volunteer staff of Montana's cultural heritage institutions to attend training, educational workshops, or courses on topics related to the management and/or preservation of historical records. An application for these funds is available at the SHRAB website, http://www.his.state.mt.us/research/library/rc_brdscoms.asp, or by contacting State Archivist Jodie Foley at jofoley@mt.gov or (406) 444-7482.

Thank You

A special thank you to Betty Bubany for generously donating the microwave oven to the Kissling House.

Greetings from the
Montana Heritage Commission
and staff at
Virginia City, Nevada City and Reeders Alley

101 Reeders Alley, Helena, MT 59602

