



Seymour Historical Society & Museum

Preserving Seymour's Rich History for Future Generations

Dear Friends, Neighbors, and Supporters,

Happy New Year! We hope that your holiday season was filled with light, love and happiness. We at the Seymour Historical Society wanted to take a moment to reflect on the many happenings at the Society during 2024 due to your support and continued generosity.

- We held several well attended programs this year including a program on Reckless, the famous horse from the Korean War, our Board member, Carolyn Ivanoff, provided an enlightening program on Ebenezer Bassett, we enjoyed a visit with former State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni who spoke of historic Connecticut ruins, a presentation on the History of the National Parks, a wonderful afternoon listening to various folk tales of New England and a riveting presentation on a Marine's service during the Vietnam War. Our presentations were crowded with many new and familiar faces, a wonderful sight to see.
- This year we opened our doors once a month for Open House hours outside of our program times. It was wonderful to have visitors come in to just tour the house. We also participated in the State of Connecticut's Open House day.
- Members of the Board of Directors helped to cheer on runners and walkers during the Seymour Pink 5k in October.
- We celebrated our Vice President Frank Haines receiving the Frank and Ann Conroy Outstanding Community Service Award. A well-deserved recognition!
- This past summer was spent by volunteers and board members cleaning the library of Matthies House in order to make it a more user friendly Reference Library.
- We held two immensely successful artisan fairs, the first being the Humphreysville Market, which even though Mother Nature was a bit difficult, had a great turnout of both artisans and guests, and the second being the 4th Annual Holly Day Fair. At the Holly Day Fair we saw our greatest turnout of guests from all over the state.
- Santa visited with over 150 children for the perfect photo opportunity.
- The Historical Society was decorated from top to bottom for the holidays with a different holiday theme in every room. We included some new decorations to the holiday decorations this year, including a giant Nutcracker and we even decorated the side porch with its very own tree!

2024 was truly a year to remember, the Historical Society continues to become a place to learn about new topics. So many of these events and accomplishments could never have happened without the support of your patronage either through renewing your membership with us, monetary donations or your sharing of our activities via social media or word of mouth- all of which I am eternally grateful.

We are in the midst of planning our 2025 which is promising to be an even bigger and better year. The planning committee has been hard at work arranging for a variety of different speakers. The Humphreysville Summer Market, our fourth annual, is already scheduled and has vendors lined up for Sunday, June 29th from 12-4. We will also be hosting some more workshops in our new display area as well. This is just the very beginning of what we are working on for this year, so stay tuned.

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Although there have been a number of accomplishments we have had a few setbacks as a nonprofit organization. This past year we have had to deal with a vermin issue and more importantly and unfortunately, more expensively, we had to replace the water line leading from the street into our basement that helps to feed the water lines to our furnace. We are so grateful to find the leak early and while it was still warm that we could replace the line before needing to turn on the furnace. Believe it or not the line replaced was original to the house, over 80 years old. However, that expense brought accounts down a bit. As you may or may not know, we do not receive any assistance from the Town of Seymour, we pride ourselves on being resourceful by seeking out grants and other funding, however, if you are so inclined as to include a tax deductible donation, to renew your membership in the society, or perhaps both, it would be greatly appreciated. We could always use volunteers, as well, so if you're interested please let us know.

In closing, thank you again for your continued support in helping us to preserve the past for our future. I hope to see you soon at one of our programs.

May 2025 bring you and yours comfort and joy.

Kind regards,

Heather N. Brown
President