



**NORTH WOOD COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

NEWS

MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Spring!



President Brad Allen

Hello everyone and Happy Spring!

My first order of business is to thank our Board of Directors and membership for putting your trust in me for a second term as President of NWCHS. I have been involved here for roughly twelve years and have enjoyed every minute. I have seen remarkable people step up to meet the challenges a non-profit of this nature faces. Our organization is strong, but we must remain diligent, as we are the vital link to this area's past and the preservation of the history we all embrace.

Editor's Note:

I would like to thank Joann Gougeon for her years of assistance with assembling these quarterly newsletters. She has worked tirelessly to get everyone to submit articles and pictures on time, and I now have a great appreciation for those efforts. Joann is still involved, but in a lesser role. I thank her for her continued help and support.

You may notice a different look to this newsletter. Joann was able to use software at the Marshfield Clinic Health System. That software is old, and MCHS has elected not to upgrade that software. Thanks to my wife's experience with Canva, she threw together this template, which I have feverishly been trying to learn in my free time. Since the NWCHS has a free subscription to Canva as a non-profit organization, this is a system we should be able to use for the foreseeable future.

During this term, I want to focus on building a stronger future for NWCHS that lasts for generations. I cannot do this alone. While I am personally grateful for the countless hours our current volunteers provide, we are at a crossroads and need the community's help to ensure a sustainable future.

As you will notice, we have several director positions open on our board. We welcome anyone who wants to volunteer at any level; every contribution helps. I invite you to contact the office if you are interested, so we can discuss if you or someone you know would be a good fit.

There are exciting changes coming this year for Dairy Fest and Hub City Days. Please read further for more information on our planned events and follow our social media for updates. I look forward to seeing everyone throughout the year and hope to see many new faces as well.

Regards,

Tom Witzel



Upham House Museum

NWCHS Board of Directors
 President - Brad Allen
 Vice President - Don Schnitzler
 Secretary - Mike Meyers
 Treasurer - Melissa Sinha
 Past President - Tom Witzel

Directors
 Laura Ptak
 Shelby Weister
 OPEN
 OPEN
 OPEN
 OPEN
 OPEN

Coordinator/Museum Educator
 Kim Krueger

Consulting Rosarian
 Tom Ptak

Tour Hours:
 Wednesdays 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
 Saturdays 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
 Or by appointment

Office Hours:
 Mondays 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 Wednesdays 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Thursdays 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Contact Us:
 715.387.3322
 nwchs@uphammansion.com
 www.uphammansion.com

NWCHS 1st Quarter Community Events

Spring Bulb Planting Class

January 31, 2026



Participants gathered in the Upham House dining room on January 31 to celebrate the promise of spring by planting bulbs. Participants took home a beautiful piece of Spring they could enjoy watching bloom this snowy winter season! Thanks to the generosity of Kris Coleman and Sue Newton, who donated materials and time, participants had access to pots and soil as well as hundreds of crocus, tulip, daffodil, and allium bulbs from which to choose.



After planting, the ladies enjoyed refreshments of tea and assorted treats.



The annual spring bulb class, held in late January or early February, serves as a fundraiser for NWCHS. Proceeds from the event help support the organization's mission to collect, preserve, and share local history for present and future generations.



Marshfield Area Cultural Fair

February 21, 2026

On Saturday, February 21, 2026, the North Wood County Historical Society launched its America 250 celebration during the Marshfield Cultural Fair. Nearly 300 visitors engaged with our festive 'selfie spot' which included an original 1976 Bicentennial flag, a replica of the United States Declaration of Independence, and pages where participants could 'sign' the document. Our society's president, Brad Allen wore a minuteman costume while encouraging and assisting visitors with their selfies.

The NWCHS continues to be a popular stop for many community members as well as other cultural fair presentation participants. The Polish ladies are among those who look forward to getting a picture at our booth each year. All of this publicity helps keep our organization in the minds of people throughout the community



Thank you to Kim Krueger, Don Schnitzer, Brad Allen, Melissa Sinha, Shelby Weister, and Tom Witzel for the help that day.

Thank you to all who stopped by to participate with our booth and congratulations goes to Sue Speth on winning the basket drawing!



Missed the event? You still have a chance to join in. The display, now with a few modifications, is located in the sun room of the historic Upham House Museum. Throughout the year, visitors can stop in to take their photo in front of a backdrop depicting the presentation of the draft of the Declaration of Independence to Congress and "add" their signature to the Declaration. We hope to see you there!

Bring on Spring Preparations

January 31, 2026 and March 9 and 10, 2026



Preparations for the March 28 "Bring on Spring" Egg Hunt & Food Drive began on January 31 in the Upham House library with the sorting of plastic eggs for the annual egg hunt and food drive. With a decorated tree from the Christmas exhibit still standing in the background, four dedicated volunteers gathered to sort and reassemble plastic egg pieces saved from previous years' events.

On March 9 and 10, additional volunteers joined in to fill more than 2,700 eggs with candy and prizes. Thanks to their efforts, the eggs were ready for eager youth to discover at the March 28 event.



Thank you to Mike & Kris Coleman, Don 'Schnitz' Schnitzler, Nan Kohlbeck, Deb Felix, Lynette Pupp, Kris Coleman, Laura Ptak, Kim Krueger, Gail Butler, and Ryan Rohrig for all of the help.

Thank you also to our sponsors: Vandehey Waters, Ameriprise/Lifescape Wealth, Hub City Ice Cream Company, Weber's Farm Store, and Melody Gardens Restaurant & Skateland!

Historic Storm

March 15, 2026



On March 15, 2026, Marshfield saw an incredible, near-record-breaking snow fall. The Marshfield Agricultural Research Station reported that the total snow fall in Marshfield from March 12-16, 2026 was 25 inches, tying the 5-day record set March 7-11, 1956. This included 10 inches on March 14 and 11 inches on March 15. Much of Marshfield, including our own Upham House Museum, took days to dig out from the storm.

We would like to thank Brad Allen for starting the cleanup efforts. After clearing some of the sidewalks near the house, he contacted Schmidke's to assist with snow removal. After Schmidke's completing the cleanup of the house, Brad requested a bill for the efforts, to which Schmidke's refused to charge. A big thank you to Brad for his efforts and to Schmidke's for the help!

Gene-a-Rama 2026

March 27 and 28, 2026



On Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28, the Wisconsin Genealogy Society (WGS) held their annual conference at Hotel Marshfield. The North Wood County Historical Society was asked to be the local host organization for the event, providing assistance with registration and other aspects of the event. In appreciation for the help, the WGS donated their money to the NWCHS. Past President Tom Witzel accepted the gift on behalf of the NWCHS and spoke briefly to those in attendance and on line about the NWCHS and the Upham House Museum.



The NWCHS was also provided a table in the vendor area. We partnered with the Marshfield Historic Preservation Commission and the Marshfield Area Genealogy Group to highlight the community of Marshfield, emphasizing the history of the city. Many people gathered at our table where we highlighted the many activities in which we are involved.

We would like to thank Don Schnitzler, Tom and Jenn Witzel, Noreen Moen, and Mayor Lois TeStrake for their assistance during the event. We would also like to thank Visit Marshfield for supplying the goodie bags and pens as well as Tom and Jenn Witzel for supplying the NWCHS-branded notepads as well as snacks for the bags.

Bring on Spring

March 28, 2026



The Upham House Museum held the 3rd annual "Bring on Spring" Event, where many families came to enjoy what has become an annual tradition for the spring season. In addition to grabbing eggs from the yard, a number of participants were caught being kind and received additional special prizes. The big bunny made an appearance for pictures with attendees, and even Mayor Lois TeStrake joined the activities.



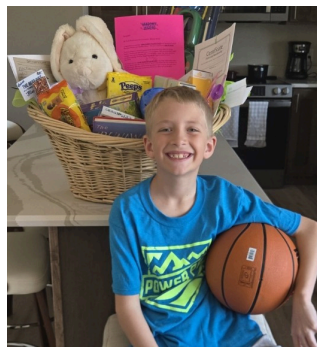
This annual event is an outreach activity in which the NWCHS provides a family event while helping to gather much needed food and donations for area pantries. All 238 food items collected as well as the money donated at this year's event is being split between Soup or Socks, St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, and United Way's NOW Program.



The NWCHS also held a Golden Basket raffle drawing featuring over \$340 of wonderful spring items, including gift cards and a 2026 family pass to Vandehey Waters Outdoor Aquatic Center. Congratulations to the basket winner Easton Hellpap. The event was held in conjunction with a free craft project at the Chestnut Center of the Arts, who reported more participants than the previous two years.



We wish to thank our generous 2026 Bring on Spring sponsors: Vandehey Waters, Lifescape Wealth, Hub City Ice Cream, Weber Farm Store, Melody Gardens Restaurant and Skateland, the Bargender and Coleman families, and all of our fabulous volunteers who helped make this a great community event.



In addition to the egg hunt on the front yard of the house, many visitors enjoyed signing "the Declaration of Independence" in honor of our country's 250th anniversary. People were also welcomed to walk through the house and see the various displays. Don Schnitzler commented that he had not seen so many people looking through the upstairs exhibits at one time before.



NWCHS Upcoming 2nd Quarter Events

Upcoming Events

Many activities are planned at the Upham House Museum for the next few months. The following lists some of the events we are working on for the rest of Spring and Early Summer:

- Fri., April 10 – Junction City, St John's Home School video project
- Sat., April 11 – Central Wisconsin Widow & Widowers Tour
- Wed., April 15 – Merrill ODC Tour
- Wed., April 29 – Papa Murphy's 'Raise Some Dough' Fundraiser (see article below)
- Sat., May 2 – Hosta Sale, in conjunction with the Chestnut Center of the Arts Garden Expo
- May 6 - May 21 – Wisconsin Historic Preservation Month Elementary School activities (see article below)
- Sat., May 30 – Dairyfest and the 47th Annual Pie & Ice Cream Social featuring the Wisconsin Wheelmen (see article below)
- Sat., June 27 – "Light up the Pole" event for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the anniversary of the Marshfield Fire

Papa Murphy's Raise Some Dough Wednesday, April 29, 2026

We have the opportunity to raise money for the North Wood County Historical Society, simply by buying and eating pizza. Papa Murphy's Pizza of Marshfield is providing the NWCHS with a fundraising event.

On Wednesday, April 29, Papa Murphy's pizza of Marshfield will donate **20% of all sales** to the NWCHS. This is a great time to pick up dinner for yourself, your family, or even your friends. Please help support our organization by buying pizzas from **Papa Murphy's of Marshfield** on **Wednesday, April 29**. Also please tell all of your friends!



Historic Preservation Month May 2026

May is Historic Preservation Month and Archaeology Month in Wisconsin. For years this has been the month when we "roll out the red carpet" to our local elementary students, so they can tour the house and learn a little more about Marshfield history. Included in this has also been the Cemetery tours, through which many local individuals take on the persona of an important person in Marshfield's history, allowing the students to learn through an interpretive experience.

This year we are again excited to be hosting many school groups in May. The following identifies the current dates for these important tours:

- Wednesday, May 6 – Immanuel Lutheran student tours
- Monday, May 11 – Grant student tours
- Tuesday, May 12 – Grant student tours
- Thursday, May 14 – Nasonville student tours
- Friday, May 15 – Our Lady of Peace student tours
- Monday, May 18 – Lincoln student tours
- Tuesday, May 19 – Washington student tours
- Wednesday, May 20 – Madison student tours
- Thursday, May 21 – Cemetery tours

As an organization whose mission in part is to preserve the history of the Marshfield area and make it accessible to our youth, we obviously feel these events are very important. We have the unique opportunity to showcase a specific individual who was a Civil War vet, a master of industry, a city mayor, and a governor of Wisconsin. We also have the opportunity to teach these students other aspects of our city's great history. By teaching the youth about a little of the incredible history of our city, it hopefully instills in them some pride in the community and a desire to perhaps call Marshfield their home as adults.

We would encourage those with an interest in assisting with these events to reach out and discover how you can help.

We would also encourage anyone with a connection to our local schools to talk about the importance of these events. We need to keep teaching the youth of our area the importance of our shared community history.

47th Annual Pie and Ice Cream Social

May 30, 2026

On Saturday, May 30, 2026, the North Wood County Historical Society will again be hosting the annual Pie and Ice Cream Social. This year will be a little different from past years in two ways.

First, we are partnering with the craft show to incorporate the two events together. As we bring some of the vendors onto the property, we hope that those attending the craft show will stop for some old-fashioned pie, ice cream, and entertainment.



Second, we are hosting the Wisconsin Wheelmen. At this time, we are planning to have them represent us in the parade. After the parade, they will be setting up on the property to display their old-time bikes.



As usual, we plan to have kid's activities, live music, delicious pie and ice cream, as well as our basket raffle and silent auction. Please mark your calendar to join us. Please tell your friends. If you are interested in helping for part of the day, please contact us to find out how you can be involved.



North Wood County
Historical Society's 47th Annual
PIE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Saturday, May 30th from 10 am to 3 pm
Upham House 212 W 3rd St. Marshfield



Ice cream provided by
**HUB CITY
ICE CREAM COMPANY**

- ★ Music by Will Elmhorst
- ★ Raffle Baskets
- ★ Kids Games
- ★ Silent Auction

Visit the sunroom
inside & "sign" the
Declaration of
Independence



Come & chat with the Wheelmen
featured in the Dairyfest parade

Opportunities to Help

This is the season for spring yard work. We are very fortunate to have a wonderful group of gardeners who work tirelessly to prepare the gardens and the property for the summer, and then maintain them through the summer.

Unfortunately, the volume of work is sometimes a bit much. If you have interest in helping with various spring yard tasks, please contact the North Wood County Historical Society and offer a hand. We will be happy to put you in touch with those wonderful gardeners, so their work can be a little lighter.

Thank you for reading!

SANFORD HEALTH
Marshfield Clinic

Thank you to the Marshfield Clinic Health System Print Shop for graciously printing our quarterly newsletter as a donation to the North Wood County Historical Society



**NORTH WOOD COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Membership and Donation Form for the year 20__

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership includes a quarterly newsletter and monthly event updates. Please indicate if you would prefer

email ____ or

paper ____ copies

INDIVIDUAL \$35

STUDENT \$10 (HIGHSCHOOL/COLLEGE)

FAMILY \$50

BUSINESS \$100

GENERAL GIFT \$ _____

HOUSE RESTORATION \$ _____

MEMORIAL IN MEMORY OF _____

*ALL MEMORIALS WILL COUNT AS GENERAL GIFTS UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED

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<p>www.uphammansion.com</p>	<p>PO Box 142 (Mailing Address) 212 W Third St Marshfield, WI 54449</p>

NORTH WOOD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 142 (MAILING ADDRESS)
212 W. THIRD STREET
MARSHFIELD, WI 54449

MISSION STATEMENT:

THE NORTH WOOD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS DEDICATED TO COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND SHARING AREA HISTORY FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

GOALS:

- COLLECT AREA HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS
- PRESERVE HISTORY THROUGH ARCHIVES & STORIES
- CONNECT PEOPLE TO AREA HISTORY THROUGH RESEARCH & EDUCATION
- CELEBRATE HISTORY AND COMMUNITY THROUGH COLLABORATION, TOURS, & EVENTS
- ENGAGE VOLUNTEERS AND INCREASE SUPPORT OF THE SOCIETY

