

FOHB NEWSLETTER

Letter from the President

Steve Litwiller - President

The 50th Missouri River Festival of the Arts was a spectacular success! A great Art Show, three superb concerts, and a sold out Saturday performance, featuring the Festival Orchestra and renown conductor Leonard Slatkin. Thanks to the Festival Committee, the Friends board members, patrons, and the volunteers that worked so hard to make it possible. Planning begins this month as we look forward to the 51st in 2026.

The Step-Up Capital Campaign to raise funds for the Friends of Historic Boonville Endowment has begun. You should have received mail about this important project to ensure that the buildings stay in excellent condition for years to come.

You will see in this newsletter there is a lot to look forward to in the coming weeks. Sounds of the upcoming holiday season fill Thespian Hall as rehearsals begin at 7:00pm October 27 for the Boonville Community Christmas Choir. You are invited to hear their performance on December 2 in Thespian Hall at 7:30pm. Spend time with friends and family viewing the festive decorations with the Christmas Homes Tour on December 13, Looking into 2026 is the Thespian Hall Gala Event on Feb. 7. You'll be hearing from us as we get closer to the date. Great events to hear, see, and sing!

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of Historic Boonville will be held on November 18, 6:30 pm onstage at Thespian Hall. Appetizers and drinks will be provided. It's a great time to socialize, learn about what we've accomplished this past year and plans for the future. Volunteers, strong support, and enthusiasm have kept the Friends of Historic Boonville and our Festivals a positive force in Central Missouri for over five decades. We look forward to seeing you at our Membership Meeting on November 18.



Executive Director's Letter

- Executive Director

NOTE: As you may know, Rayce Kendrick has resigned as Executive Director of the FOHB. He will remain on staff in a part-time capacity as we begin the candidate search for that position and assist with special projects in the future. Applications are being considered, and interviews will begin soon.

Festival of the Arts 2025 Artist Reception

Marla Stretz - Art show Co-Chair

On Wednesday, August 20, 2025, Gloria Gaus' solo art show opened the celebration of the 50th year of Boonville's Festival of the Arts. A life-time Missouri resident, plein aire artist, traveler and Rocheport gallery owner, Gloria came armed with over 30 landscapes in oil to grace the walls of the annual show's home, the Hain House. A career artist, with a milieu of experience, Gloria shared her knowledge and expertise with Stefani Kronk and me as we staged, hosted, and closed.

Suzanne Drummond headed up the reception garden area with new tables making a debut and seating being surprisingly scarce with our large turnout! Steve Litwiller, Festival Chairman, set the tone as he graciously welcomed everyone, appetizers were served from the back porch area while Susan Lenz and Gerald Kronk poured wine under the gazebo. Marcy Caldwell, from Stella's Flowers & gifts provided lovely fresh flower arrangements and Edward Jones, Financial Advisors in Boonville, sponsored the reception. Arvidson Appliance loaned the screen for our revolving show on the patio. Stefani helped put together a slide show of past artists' work over the years as we celebrated the 50th Missouri River Festival of the Arts.

Gloria's oil landscapes took us near and far, with some painted out West, with most others captured right here in rural Missouri. Her titles told more of the story and any questions about the work brought the image full-circle.

Thank you to all who joined us to view, purchase and visit during this event that continued with studio hours through the last day of the Festival on Saturday. And thank you to all of our community who donated and helped to bring this event together for another successful year!

FOHB Endowment Update

Don Street - Endowment Board President

With the support of the FOHB Endowment, Patrons and the community, we were able to repair rotten wood and paint the exterior of both Thespian Hall and the Hain House this year. Both properties were completed for the 50th Anniversary MRFA! Thank you to Janice Cary who donated funds to bridge the gap between our available funds and the bid for painting the Hain House. We encountered termite infestation at the Hain House, and this has been treated with a bait station system to provide ongoing protection. Brent and Carolyn Bozarth have committed to cover the annual service fee for the termite system. Thank you, Brent and Carolyn. With an anonymous donation following the February 8th Gala, we are proceeding to install a wireless fire detection system in Thespian Hall. A big thank you to Fire Chief Tim Cooper and the Boonville Fire Department who inspected Thespian Hall and helped with the design of the system. Projects on the horizon include replacement of the 50 year old HVAC system in 2027 and the Thespian Hall roof within the next five years. The Committee meets on a regular basis to review ongoing maintenance needs. Property Committee members are Phillip Bechtold, Brent Bozarth, Steve Litwiller, Terry Smith, Don Street and Irl Tessendorf.

Property Update

Don Street - Endowment Board President

After many years serving as the Endowment President, Bob Conway has stepped down from this position. Thank you to Bob for his wise and steady leadership. His vision has resulted in steady growth and development to benefit the Friends' properties - Thespian Hall, the Hain House and the Old Jail. The good news is that Bob will continue to serve on the Endowment Board through the end of his term. With continued favorable market returns and receipt of pledges for the Step-Up Campaign, the Endowment has achieved an account balance of over \$1 Million for the first time! Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Endowment over the years and to the Step-Up Campaign. We continue to receive pledges for the Step-Up Campaign and invite you to join this effort to raise an additional \$600,00 for the Endowment. We are now over the \$400,000 mark in achieving this goal! With the support of the local Edward Jones offices, the Endowment pursues a diversified portfolio with income and growth objectives. Members are: Don Street, President, Robert Horne, Treasurer, Julie Thatcher, Secretary, Bob Conway and Susan Miller.



The Gardens & Some New Additions

Lisa Street – Garden Committee Chair

WEEDING, MULCHING AND MORE

A hot and steamy August didn't deter FOHB board members and Friends' volunteers from spending time in the Hain House Garden preparing it for the Festival's Opening Reception and Art Show. Weeding, mulching and general clean-up was the order of the day.

Another steamy evening found volunteers mulching at Thespian Hall where paint chips from the recent "Painting of the Hall" were in abundance. A shop vac became our friend as we removed the chips and then mulched all the beds where previous shrub/tree trimming and weeding had been completed. Special thanks to Christa Oerly Russel and Don Street for donating truckloads of mulch to accomplish the needed tasks and to Marla Stretz for lirioppe, which has been planted at the Hain House. The Old Jail continues to look its best due to the hard work of Misty and Glenn Langston and Jane Lago. Stay tuned for an early to mid-November date or two to "put the gardens to rest" for the summer.

HAVE YOU NOTICED?

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Missouri River Festival of the Arts, three planters now reside at Thespian Hall. One planter and plantings were given anonymously and going forward this same benefactor will keep the urns planted seasonally. Appreciation goes to Jeff Oberhaus of Vintage Hill who helped in selecting the urns and planted them in time for the August MRFA. The Friends thank the City of Boonville for watering all three pots throughout the summer.



Christmas Homes Tour

Misty Langston – Christmas Homes Tour Committee

With the start of fall, Christmas can't be far behind! Plans are coming together for the third annual Christmas Homes Tour sponsored by the Friends of Historic Boonville. This year's tour will be held on Saturday, December 13 from 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Advanced tickets are \$20. They may be purchased at The Windy Nest and Bloom and Bindings, both located downtown on Main Street. In addition, advanced tickets may also be purchased at the Boonville Tourism Office located in the River, Rails, and Trails Museum on 320 First Street. Tickets may be purchased the day of the tour for \$25 at Hain House, 412 Fourth Street.

Headquarters for this year's tour will again be the Hain House. In addition to purchasing tickets for the tour, visitors can enjoy shopping at the Hain House Christmas Market again this year. Friend's merchandise featuring our three historic properties will be available for purchase, along with items from several other vendors.

The tour will feature six interesting historic properties, including one church and a couple of surprises. Follow our Facebook page to discover what homes will be on the tour as they are announced to the public.

So, grab some friends, and come get into the holiday spirit by touring some beautiful Boonville homes all decked out for Christmas!

Upcoming Events

Sippin' Strollin' Rockin' & Rollin' Concert

October 18, 2025 - 7:00pm @ Hain House

sponsored by the Boonslick Library and Boonville Chamber of Commerce.

FOHB Membership Meeting

November 18, 2025 - 6:30pm @ Thespian Hall

Community Chorus Christmas Concert

Rehearsals begin October 27 @ 7:00pm @ Thespian hall

December 3, 2025 - 7:30pm @ Thespian Hall

Christmas Homes Tours

December 13, 2025 @ 1:00pm

Cool The Hall Fundraising Gala

February 7, 2026 @ Thespian Hall

Big Muddy Folk Festival

April 10-11, 2026 @ Thespian Hall

Membership Renewals

Memberships extend to the end of the current or following year, depending on when the membership was purchased, rather than tracking membership dates on a case-by-case basis.

For example, if your membership was purchased in July, 2025, it will expire December, 2026, because the membership was purchased closer to the end of the current membership cycle than the beginning. However, if your membership was purchased in June, 2025, it will expire December, 2026, because it was purchased closer to the beginning of the membership cycle. Patrons of the 2025 Festival of the Arts are members through December, 2026.

If you're unsure of your membership status, please call, (660)882-7977, or email info@friendsofhistoricboonvillemo.org

Friends of Historic Boonville Membership



Contributions are tax deductible.

Name: _____	\$50.00 Annual Membership Dues
Address: _____	\$ _____ Additional Donation
City/State/Zip: _____	\$ _____ Total Amount Remitted
Phone: () _____	Payment Method: _____ Check _____ Venmo
Email: _____	@friendsofhistoricboonville _____ Credit Card
Signature: _____	*Credit Card # _____
Date: _____	Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Please make checks payable to Friends of Historic Boonville
PO Box 1776 Boonville, Missouri 65233

*To avoid large fees related to credit card transactions please
send your donations by check if at all possible. Thank You!