

Dear Friends of Wheeling Member,

It's hard to believe that another year has flown by. It must be true that "time flies when you're having fun!" And it's certainly been a fun ... and very full ... year for Friends of Wheeling. It's through your support – whether you can attend all of our events or not – that our preservation work is successful. As we look forward to 2020, let's take a few moments to reflect on events during the past year.

- The annual **Friends of Wheeling Preservation Forum** was held in early February 2019, having been postponed a week due to bad weather. It was great to hear of all of the activities going on – preservation is definitely alive and well in Wheeling!
- May featured the Memorial Day recognition tour of **Greenwood Cemeteries Civil War Veterans**, and in September we held the historic tour of **Stone Church Cemetery**. These events, along with the bi-monthly **Pop-Up History** series and the June **Historic Bicycle Tour** meshed with the year-long Wheeling 250 celebration.
- **Monthly Tours** included the North Wheeling Vigilant Firehouse in February, 2 Cecil Place in March, 19 Main Street Terrace in April, 1107-1109 Main Street and the Alice Apartments on 15<sup>th</sup> Street in July, 9 Burkham Court in August, the Campbell Mansion and Archives in Bethany in October, and the Egerter Building in November.
- In May, we partnered with Wheeling Heritage for the annual **Preservation Dinner** honoring County Clerk Michael Kelly for his work in identifying tax-delinquent properties, Sarah Lydick for her work renovating "Sarah's on Main," and the Victorian Old Town Association for that group's work in North Wheeling.
- Friends also hosted its annual **Holiday Party** in December at the Hazlett House, 921 Main St. Members enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres and interesting conversation.

The **Preservation Loan Guarantee Fund** has reached more than \$260,000 in assets and helped three additional property owners secure low interest loans in 2019. Those projects were: an apartment build-out at 635 Main Street, roof replacement at 115 14<sup>th</sup> Street, and façade and interior work at 2206-2208 Market Street. This program has proven to be very successful, saving property owners thousands of dollars through prime interest rate loans that are guaranteed by the Friends fund.

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**Next Event: Preservation Forum, 6:30 pm, Thursday, January 30, 2020** in the auditorium of the Ohio County Public Library. This program will include updates on projects underway and proposed in Wheeling, along with opportunities for historic property owners and other preservation-related topics. [In case of questionable weather, contact Jeanne Finstein at 304-242-0341 to see if the event is postponed.]

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**Dues: It's time for our annual request for dues for 2020.** This revenue supports our activities and mailings and helps in the maintenance and upkeep of the Hazlett house at 921 Main Street. If you have paid dues within the last month or so, please accept our sincere thanks for your support and ignore this request – perhaps passing the membership card to someone else who might be interested.