

In this Issue:

Fund Raiser	1
Chairman's Report	1-3
Calendar	2
Library and Archives	4

Historic Fort Wayne Coalition
3660 Columbiaville Rd
Columbiaville, MI
48421

HFWC hours donated to the Fort in 2008 as of October 1, 2008:

• **2,538**

www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com

Fund Raiser Scheduled

Grounds crew member Dale Jones is sponsoring a nine pin doubles bowling tournament to raise funds for the Fort, on Sunday, November 23. Check in begins at 4:00 PM, and bowling begins at 5:00 PM. Bowlers must be 18 years or older. The cost of \$20 per person includes three games and shoe rental. Prizes for

first place (\$200), second place (\$100), and third place (\$50) will be awarded. There will be a 50/50 raffle and more! Join Dale at Parkway Lanes at 2591 Fort Street, Trenton, MI 48183 (734) 675-2372. RSVP to Dale by November 21 at (734) 925-2372 with the bowlers' names, averages, and phone numbers.

Chairman's Report by Tom Berlucchi

It has been a while since we have put a Journal out to the membership. I want to thank Crystal Keller for taking this job on. One thing that has not stopped has been the constant movement on the Fort from all fronts. In addition, a lot has changed in this time. Let's talk about the changes and progress at the Fort.

There is a new mayor in Detroit. That action has not affected us as an organization. One of the Mayor's first actions was to remove the Acting Director of the City Recreation Department, Mr. L. Hemmingway. I will be honest and say I will miss him; he supported our efforts. I held many discussions with him concerning Fort Wayne and our organization's relationship to the City Recreation Department vision on the Fort. I now look forward to engaging in dialog with the new Director of Recreation once that position is filled. Our relationship with the city Recreation Department is sound. We will always be willing to work with our Manager partner Ms. Edie Worthy and her staff. It has been a great relationship and it will become stronger in the future. I do want to state these words of caution to the membership. In building our

relationship, it has taken us years to overcome many obstacles. We have members tell me we should demand funding, get involved in the city politics, and policies on the Fort. If I were to do that as your Chairman today, we would not have the access or opportunities we do. Our Mission Statement is to assist in the City, not tell them what to do or how to do it. Please understand we are not a political group; our 501(c)(3) status prohibits it. We are a group of volunteers that works to preserve, maintain, and assist in restoring Fort Wayne.

We need to offer more educational classes to the membership. An example of these classes is the Historical Window Restoration class that happened last year and is ongoing. We need a wide range of topics from simple carpentry to gardening, recognizing poison ivy, or wood working, just to name a few. Please use the Ideas form on the web site to give us some feedback on what you would like to see. I welcome all ideas on this subject and we as a group have an unbelievable amount of talent to teach any kind of class or find partners who can help us with them.

Calendar



November 1, 2008	HFWC Work Day 9:00 AM HFWC Annual Meeting 1:00 PM
November 5, 2008	Grounds Committee
November 7-9, 2008	Light Infantry Drill Weekend www.fortwaynebattaliondrill.com
November 12, 2008	Grounds Committee
November 19, 2008	Grounds Committee
November 23, 2008	Bowling Fund Raiser 4:00 PM Parkway Bowling Center, Trenton
December 3 and 10, 2008	Grounds Committee
December 13, 2008	HFWC Board Meeting
December 13, 2008	Christmas at the Fort
January 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2009	Grounds Committee
January 10, 2009	HFWC Workday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Membership Meeting 1:00PM
February 7, 2009	HFWC Workday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
March 7, 2009	HFWC Workday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Membership Meeting 1:00PM

Chairman’s Report (continued from p. 1)

There are changes in the future for Fort Wayne and the surrounding area. The one thing I can tell you all is that there is a group above the Coalition level that I am President of and we are fully committed to keeping the Fort as a park setting. With that goal in mind, the Fort must become self-sustainable in the future so that we all can come here for many years to come. The Fort must branch out to other avenues of generating revenue, facility protection and maintenance cost. We are working

on bringing in an educational structure as a possible sustainability plan for the site. The Fort will remain a historical site but we recently learned that there is a possibility that the new bridge plaza will be right outside it. Many questions still need to be asked and answered on that. As I learn more about the bridge, I will forward it to you all immediately.

Grounds and Projects work has been underway all year. These tasks taken on by the two groups have been nothing

Chairman's Report (continued from p. 2)

short of excellent. We have another casemate done, almost completed new porch to the Spanish-American guard house, window team and their restoration efforts on the barracks building are underway with great success. We soon will have working windows installed. The Blacksmith shop is reconditioned and is now functional (which was a request of the City of Detroit and the Friends of Fort Wayne).

The grounds have improved greatly since we started working to control the over growth. Many of you were not around four years ago when the entire site was covered in trees, vines, ground cover, etc. What a difference it is in today! This was not done without giving many hours of our time. The problem I see is it is the same group of us attend workdays, other workdays during the week. These people cannot do this task alone. We all need to help. The first three workdays in 2009 are on the schedule, as well as other work days. If it's been a while since you've come down to the Fort, please consider joining us on one of those days. We have a great time! Working together, the Projects and Grounds Committees have significantly improved the organization of the days and work to make sure all who attend work on an area of work or the Fort that interests them. We'd love to see you!

There is a group of people who did help, although they are not Coalition members. The Boy Scout community has embraced the Fort as a place where they could come and receive merit badges, Service Projects, Historical Trails Award, and Eagle Scout Projects. These Scouts, under the guidance of their scoutmasters, councilors, patrol leaders and the

Coalition Executive Board members, Grounds and Project Committee members have done several projects. They have painted of the curbs and restored the walk way leading into the fort (over 150 hours), removed trees and scrub brush in the east moat area (100+ hours), painted the fence behind the CO House (over 125 hours), restorations and repair of 3 porches on Officers' Row (each over 300 hours). The work done by these Scouts is unbelievable! I am proud to have been involved from the Coalition.

On October 9 a tour stopped to see one Scout working on Building 111 next to the Indian Burial Mound. As we approached many on the tour asked what the Scouts were doing. I explained and they asked me to identify the Eagle Scout candidate. As this young man came over the entire tour of 23 people started giving this young man a loud round of applause. Some of them even came up to him shaking his hand and thanking him. When you are next at the Fort, look at the west side of Officers' Row and look back at the east end. The sight alone says it all. This is what can happen but only with everyone working together for one cause. We need everyone to come and help our projects and grounds to complete what we have started and planned.

In closing, the state of this group is strong, solid and unwavering. The leadership is always committed to working with you to move ahead. I have told many people we are eating an elephant one bite at a time. Today we are off the leg. Thank you all for what you all have done and God Bless.

Tom

Meet the Library and Archives by Will Eichler

Since the beginning of 2007, the Coalition has slowly been working toward the goal of having a research library and archives. The process is a slow one but continues to progress. Many of our members may not even know of this opportunity. Currently, the library and archives are housed in the middle bedroom in the upstairs of Building 112. Be sure to stop by and check it out for yourself!

The Library and Archives are working in tandem toward our goal of making the Fort a place based around historical education. We always welcome donations to make the collections better. Here is the focus of this library and archives:

1. History of Fort Wayne
2. History of any unit or individual who served at or entered service at Fort Wayne
3. General US Military History
4. General History of Detroit and the surrounding area

We are always looking for suggestions and donations. If you have an idea for a book that you think should be in the library, shoot it to me at will@historicfortwaynecoalition.com and we'll consider it. Please feel free to use the library any time the Coalition is at the Fort. Please remember, this is a research library set-up, which means that you are welcome to come in and do all the research and reading you want, but all items stay in the building. This not a lending library. With that simple rule, please use the library to learn more, enjoy yourself and bring your ideas for volumes to improve it with!