


Friends of the Old Barn Vision for the Future



Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, February 27, 2017

Shelly L. Maharry MPA, CGW
Volunteer and 5th Generation Muscatine County Resident

Thank you, Muscatine County





Friends of the Old Barn Financial Position

- Friends of the Old Barn Charitable Fund - \$755.56
(See Fund Activity Report – 2006 to present)
- Old Barn Maintenance Endowment Fund- \$14,300.06
(See Fund Activity Report – 2009 to present)
- CBI Bank and Trust Checking - \$416.69
(See Statement– as of 12/6/2016)

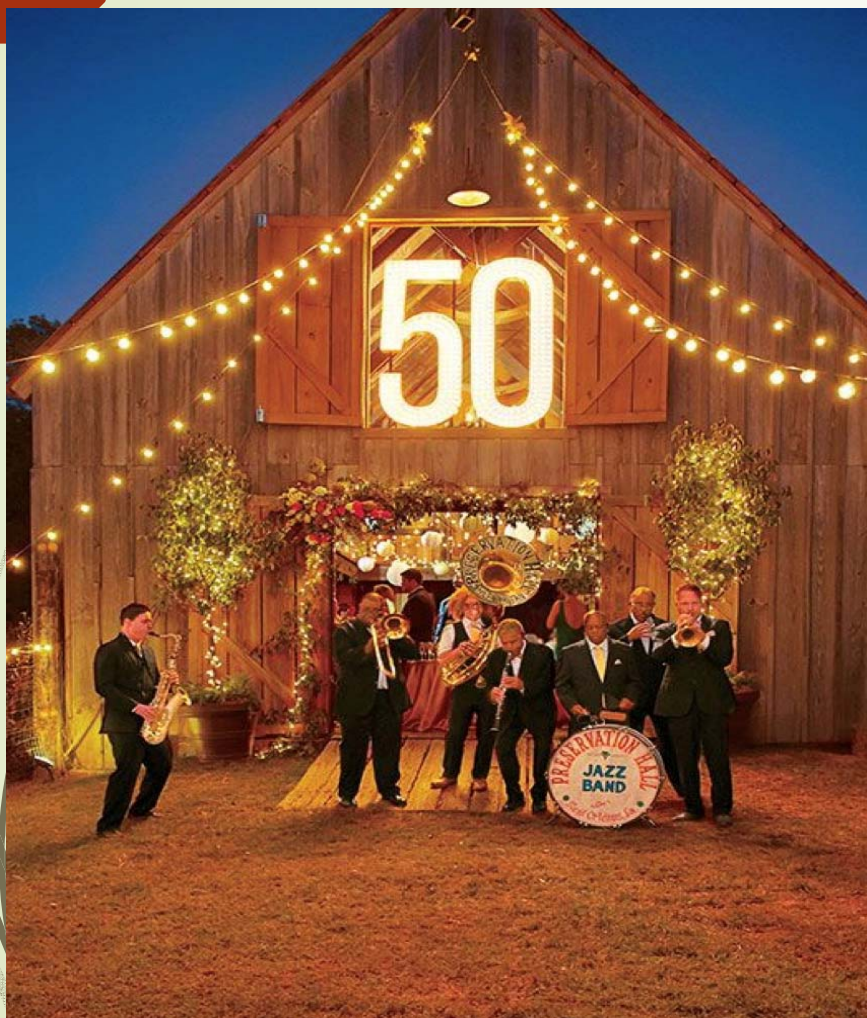


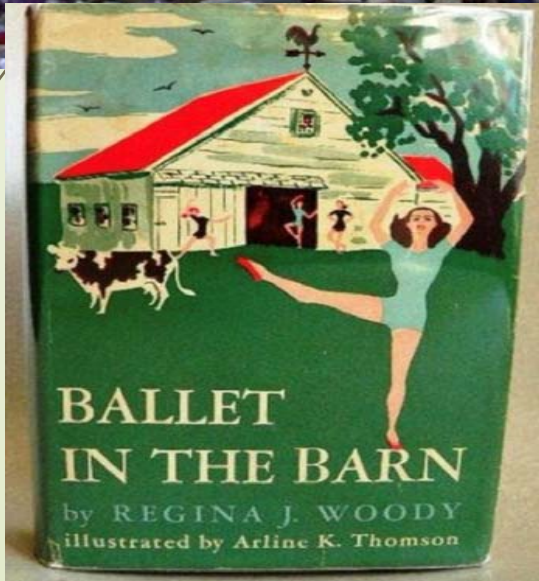
Vision for the future goals

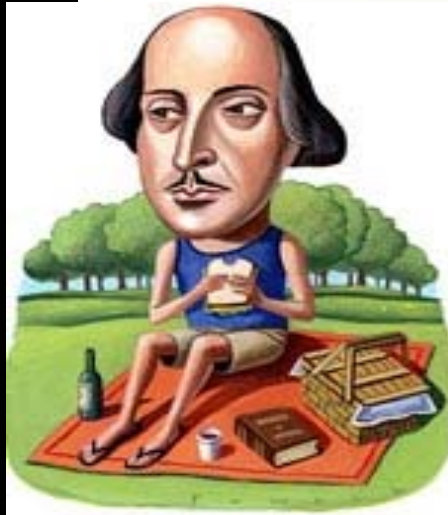
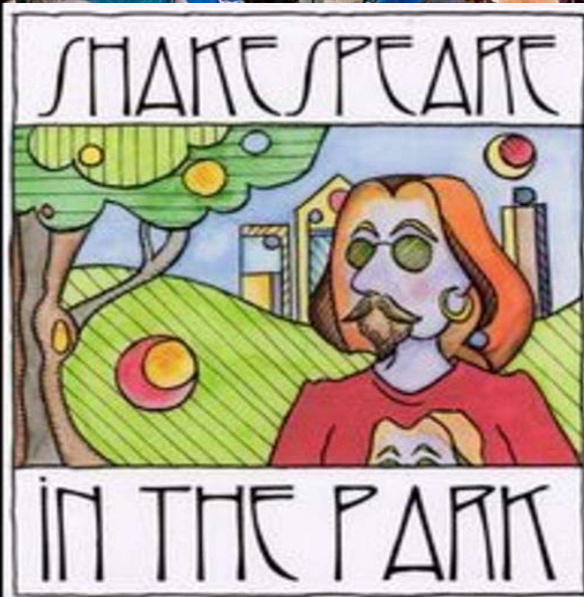
- Celebrate Muscatine County's agricultural heritage and preserve our historic "Poor Farm" icon
- Work collaboratively with multidisciplinary teams to do great work in Muscatine County
- Create New and Unique Attractions and Tourism Opportunities
- Support Muscatine County small businesses
- Strengthen Friends of the Old Barn to support the long-term maintenance and operations of the Old Barn
- Create a legacy for our children and grandchildren to enjoy



Concerts, the Symphony & other performances



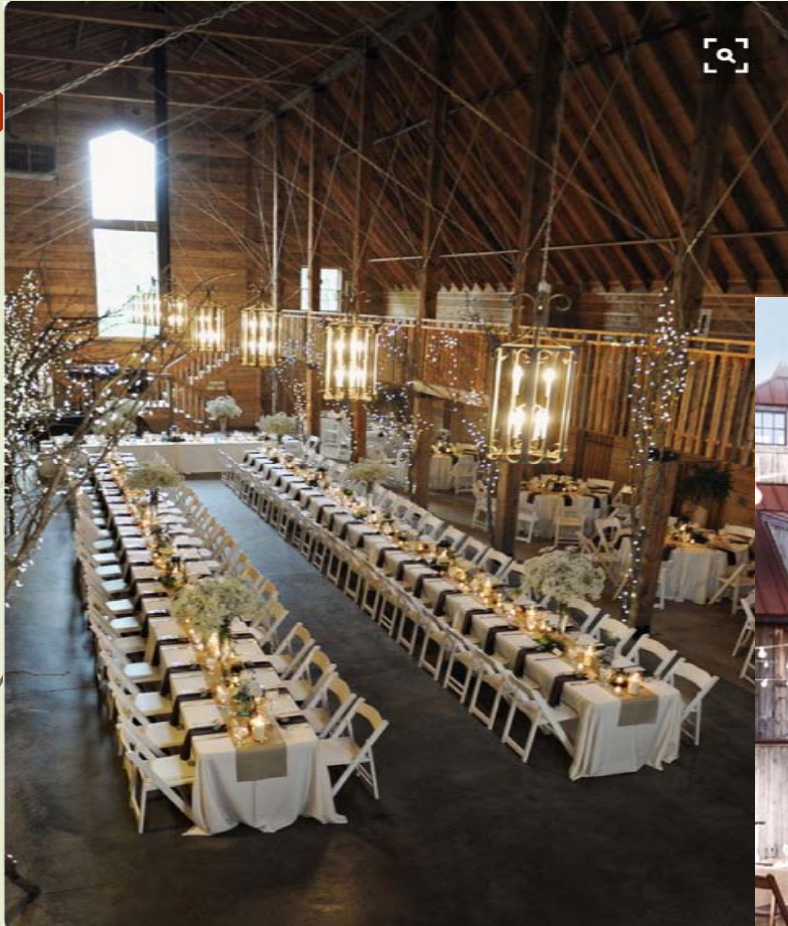




A place for celebration



Weddings
Anniversary Parties
Class Reunions
Corporate Events
Fundraisers



Seating inside

Seating outside

Many opportunities to support small businesses

NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK





The Good Makers' Market

Jessica Meyer & Dawn Schmidt (photos shared with permission)





Photos shared with permission



Barn at Bunker Hill –
Wedding Rental costs \$4,000



A Place for Community – Farm to Table Dinner Events



Photos courtesy of Mrs. Janet Clark





The Old Barn can become the anchor for great things to happen which will benefit Muscatine County residents.

Create opportunities to have a positive economic impact.

Enhance our quality of life through the addition of arts, culture and recreational activities.

Ensure the Old Barn remains an icon of our agricultural past for generations to come.



Working together for Muscatine County

- Positive and helpful communication with Muscatine County Administrative Staff, Sherry Seright.
- Identified opportunities for collaboration with Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (Lisa Wertzbaugher), City of Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission (Michael Maharry) and Friends of Muscatine Historic Preservation
- Phoned Curt Weiss to discuss how the Friends of the Old Barn wishes work together with Muscatine Co. Conservation to enhance the visitor experience at Discovery Park. Mr. Weiss is out of the office until 3/2.



Working together for Muscatine County

- Held discussions with Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Convention & Visitors Bureau Staff to brainstorm usage ideas for the Old Barn
- Meeting with City of Muscatine – 2/24
 - Gregg Mandsager, David Gobin, Andrew Fangman, Michael Stensland and Jody Hansen
- City will assemble a team to help Friends of the Old Barn understand code requirements to ensure insurability and public safety.
- CAT Grant – Community Attraction and Tourism Grant Funding from the State of Iowa. These grants are most successful when the public shows support for the project.

Working together for Muscatine County

- Learned from City Staff about plans to expand the Muscatine Bike Trail System, possibly connecting the Agricultural Learning Center with the Old Barn & Discovery Park area



Photo courtesy of Mrs. Janet Clark



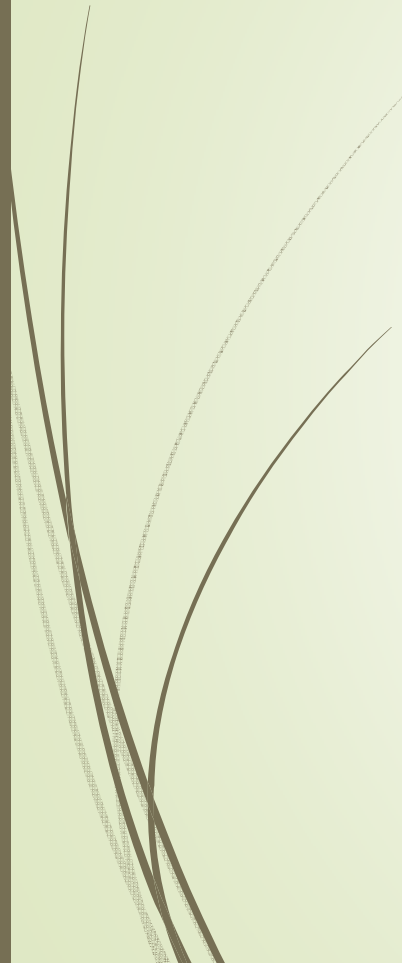
Working together for Muscatine County

- Creating partnerships to be a contributing asset to the Discovery Park conservation area and a good neighbor to residents of Harmony Lane.
- Allow the Muscatine County Board of Supervisor to focus on other important issues impacting our residents.
- Friends of the Old Barn operates under a nonprofit financial model – net income will be reinvested into preserving the barn and general upkeep, investing in programming/services at the barn and maintaining the grounds of the barn to compliment the beauty of Discovery Park.



Working together for Muscatine County

We respectfully ask the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors to consider the following:

- Donate/Transfer ownership of the Old Barn, Cottage and a Metal Outbuilding to Friends of the Old Barn, a 501©3 Not-for-profit organization.
 - The transfer will reassure residents of Muscatine County their barn will be saved from demolition, now and in the future.
 - Removes liability and upkeep concerns for the structures from the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors to the Friends of the Old Barn.
- 



Working together for Muscatine County

- Friends of the Old Barn wishes to establish a new lease agreement for use of the land around the site with Muscatine County with considerations for the expanded usage of the Barn and adjacent structures.
- Transferring ownership to the nonprofit will allow Friends of the Old Barn to apply for Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credits – 25% State and 20% Federal for the cost of improvements to the Barn and Cottage.
 - Fire Escapes, Fire Suppression Systems, Lighting, Structural Supports, and other large-scale maintenance costs.

Why include the Cottage?



Why include the cottage?



Donors to Friends of the Old Barn provided funds for a handicap accessible ramp, bathroom renovation, roof, electrical updates, new carpet and other improvements in 2013/2014.



Cottage maintenance



Cottage Maintenance



Future Vision for the Cottage



The cottage could provide a catering/prep kitchen for events at the Old Barn.

A small scale café serving picnic food items could serve guests of the barn & Discovery Park Pond areas.

A partnership opportunity with an organization serving individuals with special needs.

Why include the Metal Outbuilding?



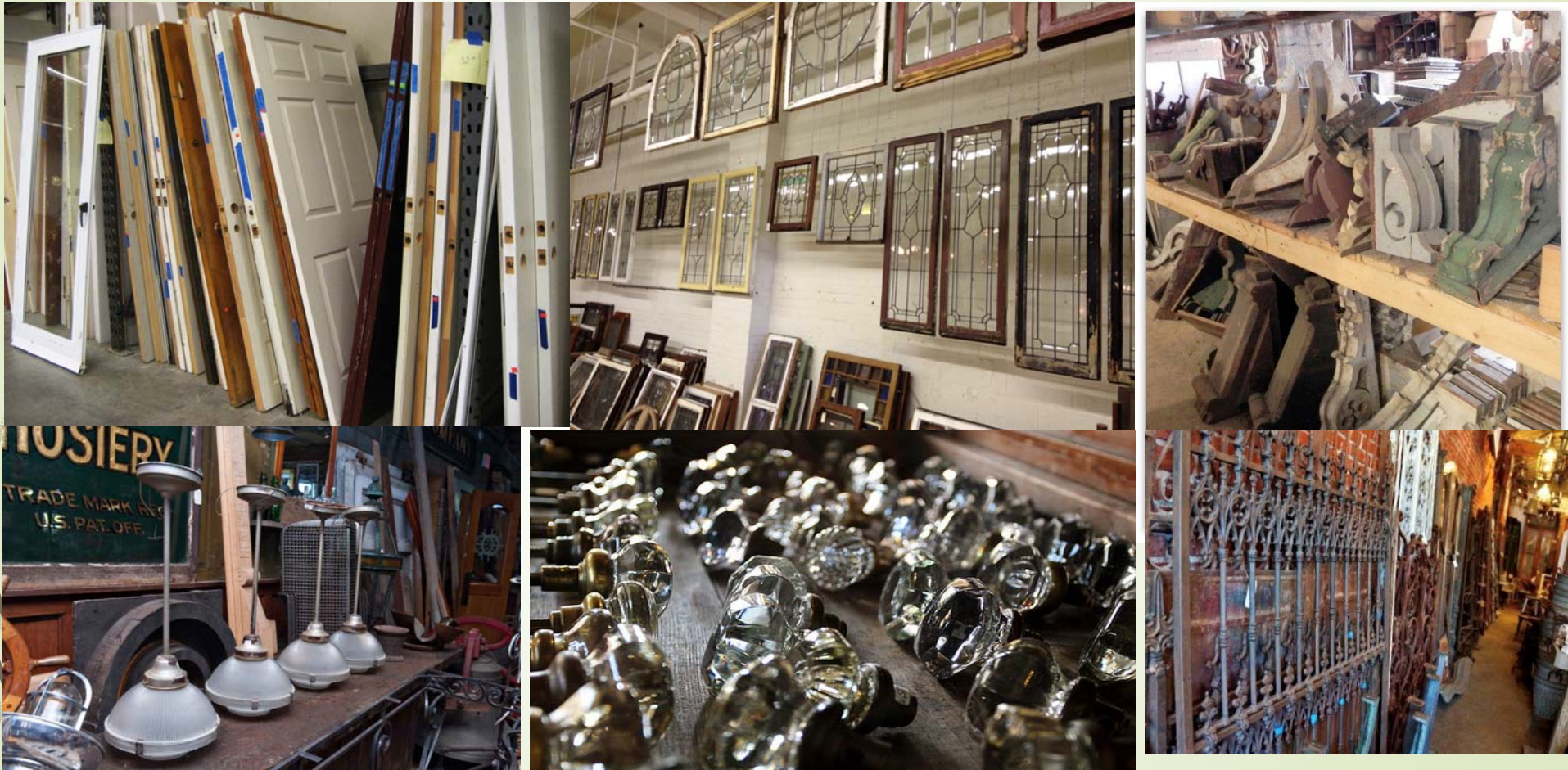
Friends of Muscatine Historic Preservation could operate an architectural salvage barn from the site.

Muscatine County residents would have a place to donate historic doors, windows, light fixtures for resale.

Preserve historic artifacts and keeps them out of our landfills.



Proceeds from sales at the salvage barn will support historic preservation activities in Muscatine County



Historic Fruit Cellar & Community Garden



Much work is still ahead...

- Friends of the Old Barn has been given 30 days to develop a plan for restoring electrical and sewer/water service.
- We are seeing this as an opportunity to create a unique solution and partnership by working together to best benefit the residents of Muscatine County.

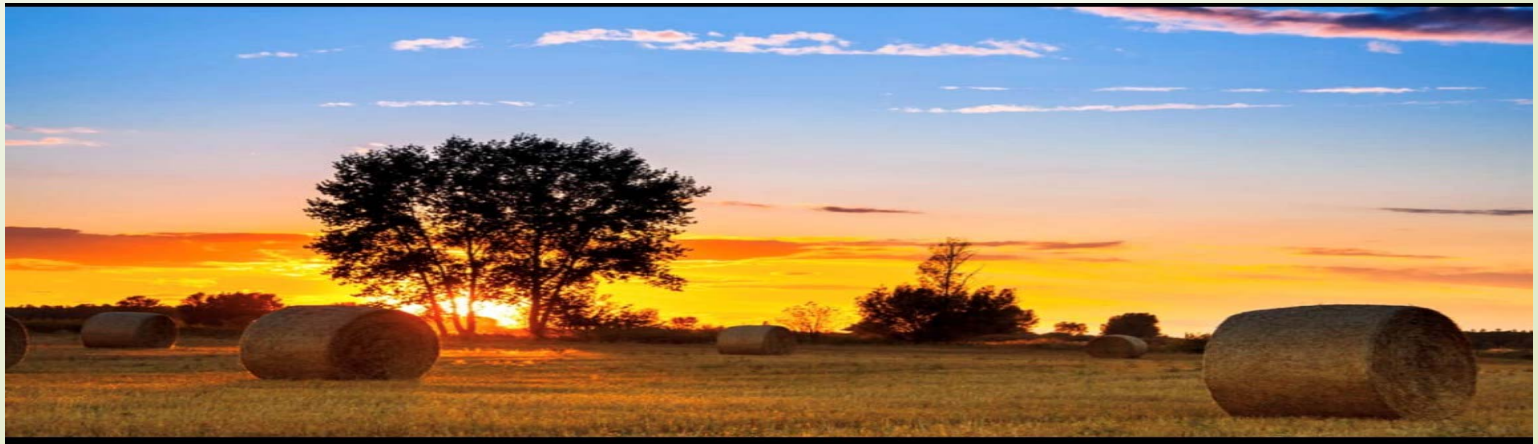
Site is near
Muscatine Power
& Water

Demonstration
site for Clean
Energy Science
Education



Fundraising

- The Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine ensures funds raised by Friends of the Old Barn will be administered under strict gift acceptance policies and procedures. Donors can give with confidence knowing their gifts will be used only as intended by the fund.
- The Community Foundation has the unique ability to accept complex gift donations such as farm land, bequests/estate planning, stock transfers, gifts of grain, and even livestock.



Creating our legacy

We didn't realize the treasure we had until it was gone.



Photo courtesy of Ms. Anne Wieskamp Collier

Our next steps

Shelly Maharry

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Phone: 563-506-3898



- Continue to volunteer and offer guidance to support this important effort
- Serve as primary point of contact and spokesperson on behalf of Friends of the Old Barn
- Support the Friends of the Old Barn Board of Directors – add strategic board positions to support fundraising, event planning, code compliance/safety, public relations, marketing