



Annual Report 2024



A Message from the President of the Chelsea Area Historical Society:

We had a very successful year by many measures on many levels, culminating in celebrating our 50th Anniversary on December 9th.

Membership and attendance at our monthly membership meetings both increased in 2024. And what a year for our membership meetings! Six Chelsea businesses with more than 100 years of service to the community presented throughout the year.

Our Haunted Chelsea Tour offered a new twist—Chelsea Area Players collaborated with CAHS and conducted the tours in costume and with a little flair. Thanks to Vicki James who led all four sold out tours!

The Chelsea Boozy History remained wildly popular as well. Thanks to Jasen King and Mary Keaton for leading the tours once again.

Our donations were up in 2024 which puts us in a healthy position to begin another year. We hope to begin some of the much-needed upkeep at the museum, including replacing the furnace and A/C system and painting the exterior in the new year.

Our museum remained open and we saw a steady number of visitors each week, with Thursday nights through the summer being especially active. We couldn't do it without our museum docent volunteers, so a big thank you to all who took a shift!

We invite your suggestions for monthly programs in 2025! Or, if you're curious about how you might engage further with our efforts, please contact: president@chelseahistory.org

Jan Bernath

President, Chelsea Area Historical Society

Accomplishments

Added the 1950's Decade for temporary display.

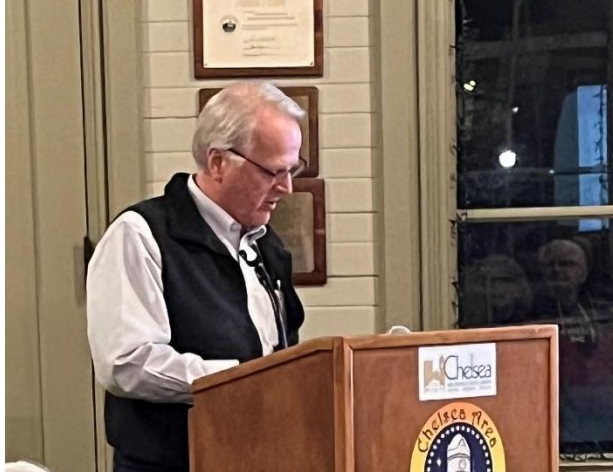
During the period while the museum was closed in January and part of February, we took the opportunity to put up various artifacts for display celebrating the 1950's. Many temporary donations of artifacts came in from members to help tell the stories of that decade.

We also found newspaper articles describing life during those years along with stories from the schools.

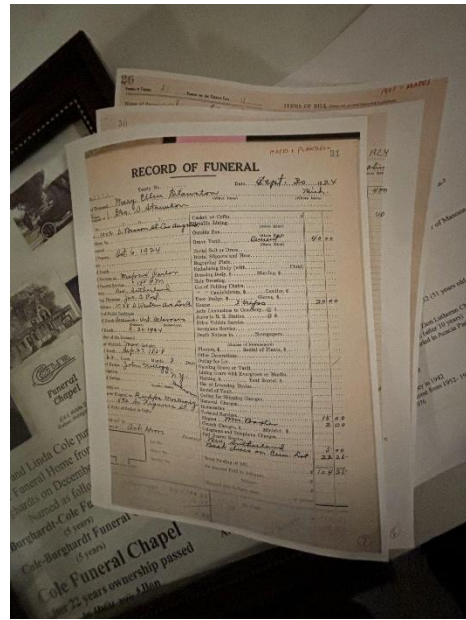


Events and Programming

January 8 – We began our year-long celebration of the businesses in the community that have been around for at least 100 years with Merkel Furniture. Tim Merkel provided a history of the beginnings of the business.



March 4 – Alan Cole presented the history of the Cole Funeral Home



April 29 – Linda Collins Spaghetti dinner



Once again Thompsons' Pizza provided their spaghetti, salad, garlic rolls, for a CAHS fundraiser. The diners enjoyed their spaghetti meal along with CAHS desserts.

May 6 – It was Howdy Holmes' turn to reflect on the development of the Chelsea Milling Company and the creation of the famous "Jiffy" mix.



June — Boozy History of Chelsea – tours presented by Jasen King and Mary Keaton detailing Chelsea’s history of bars and saloons. This walking tour included stories in front of buildings where people imbibed and socialized.



August 5 — The history of Chelsea State Bank was presented by John Mann.



September 9 — John Daniels presented the long history of Chelsea Lumber.



October 7 – Lane Animal Hospital’s long history was presented by Chan Lane, our membership director and descendent of the lane Family.



October 15, 22 and 29 – Vicky James from The Chelsea Area Players provided the tour participants with an energetic vision of the Haunted History of Chelsea.

November 4 – A celebration of the history of the Chelsea Area Historical Society. An event 50 years in the making!



December 9 — After exactly 50 years, the Chelsea Area Historical Society celebrated its founding with an anniversary party. Founded on December 9, 1974, the CAHS has endured many highs and a few lows to be a viable part of the Chelsea Community. Here's to the start of the next 50 years!



Our Archivist and Vice-President, Glenna Jo Christen and our Treasurer, Bob Dancer, along with the help from Laura Damschroder and an on-line consultant in Iowa, began developing a method to assist in cataloging the artifacts in our collection. It is a time-consuming process and additional help with the data entry would be most welcome. If you have any experience with entering data into a computer system, please consider joining us with the task of updating our artifacts.



Lots of items to catalog!

Financial Report

2024 Summary

Income

Beginning Checking Account	\$ 27,713
In Honor of Donations	\$ 50
Direct Public Support	\$ 4,495
Gift Shop Sales	\$ 275
Interest	\$ 62
Membership Dues	\$ 1,757
Fundraising Events	\$ 4,205
Building Legacy Fund	\$ 13,267

TOTAL INCOME: **\$ 51,824**

Expenses

Business Expenses	\$ 569
Contract Services	\$ 1,134
Facilities and Equipment	\$ 6,488
Operations	\$ 2,215
Special Events and Projects	\$ 2,039

TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$ 12,445**

NET INCOME: **\$ 39,379**

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

Support from members, donors, and individuals like you allow the Chelsea Area Historical Society to fulfill its mission. And your gifts also allow the Museum to make the history of the Chelsea Area more accessible, providing education to an increasingly diverse public.

Your contributions allow us to conserve our permanent collection, maintain our historic building, present spectacular exhibitions and public programs, and provide educational outreach to local school children each year.

Thank you for your support!